Campus organization works to protect any, all forms of human life

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Board members of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's Pro-Life Cajuns organization weighed in on this year’s outlook for the group, including their continued protection of anti-abortion rights.

The Pro-Life Cajuns Facebook lists the organization's mission: “Through peaceful activism, sharing of informative literature, discussions, speeches and community service outreach, Pro-Life Cajuns promote a culture of life on campus and beyond.”

“We don’t want people to see it and write it off as an abortion-only issue,” said Kaleb Moore, junior pre-law major and public relations chair of the organization. “We tackle things like suicide prevention, human trafficking and anything that shows you how valuable human life is.”

Moore explained meetings for the Pro-Life Cajuns are typically centered around topics, abortion being the first this semester. One of the largest planned seminars, Moore said, will be on the issue of human trafficking.

During initial meetings this semester for Pro-Life Cajuns, Moore said the board members had each conducted sufficient research on individual pro-life interests, enough to assign a member to each topic they wished to present at seminars.

“We feel like we’re equipped to actually show people,” Moore said. “We actually have the knowledge and the skill to bring that to the people in the seminars.”

Anne-Marie Fruge, junior industrial design major and president of Pro-Life Cajuns, discussed one of her interests: student families.

“I think a lot of students know that there are students trying to raise a family, trying to go to class and trying to have a job all at the same time,” Fruge said. “We really saw a need there and have been trying to do everything that we can do to be a resource for them.”

Fruge said the organization is planning a service project to aid student families.

Besides seminars, Fruge, who has been involved since her freshman year, expressed the organization's desire to increase its presence on campus. She said the group was originally called Students for Life, and the reinstatement occurred a year ago.

“What I really would love is for us to maintain a friendly, welcoming and diverse environment,” Fruge said. “Just because other people have different beliefs than us, it doesn’t mean we can’t be welcoming or friendly.”

“I’m perfectly fine with the group being on campus,” said Chris Willcox, sophomore mechanical engineering major. “However, having women not being able to choose what happens to their body is something I don’t agree with.”

“I’d be interested to see what their meetings are like, but it’s not something I’d fully commit to,” Willcox added.

Kenya Jenerette, freshman business major, said school work has kept her from having free time, so she hasn’t had a chance to consider attending meetings.

She did, however express her opinion on anti-abortion rights.

“I, myself, have a pro-life stance, because I was raised in a Christian household. Everyone deserves a chance to live.”

“The board has spent a lot of effort in putting out a lot of publicity, getting people to know that we exist,” said Patricia Jimenez, senior speech pathology major and Pro-Life Cajuns secretary.

The organization meets every other week — typically on Wednesdays — with the next meeting slated for Sept. 27. Some weeks, Jimenez said, the anti-abortion rights group also has tables on Rex Street, so students can learn more about it.

Jimenez said there are no processes or fees for attending meetings.

“We welcome everyone to come,” she said. “Even if you think you aren’t pro-life or if you’re on the fence, definitely come and see what we are about and see what our presentations are about.”