Students learn through record label

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University of Louisiana at Lafayette students interested in various aspects of the music industry will be provided with opportunities to gain experience outside of the classroom through the student organization Ragin’ Records.

According to Chris Munson, assistant professor in the school of music and Coordinator of Music Media, the focus of Ragin’ Records is to provide real world experience and opportunities for students who intend to pursue a music-related career after graduation.

“This can be getting recorded (and) produced to be on an EP, working in the production aspects of those recordings, promoting (and) licensing the recordings, working with venues to put on concerts for those artists, working with other colleges within the university to provide entertainment for events or music for things such as videos and animations,” Munson said.

Ragin’ Records is the brainchild of students majoring in both music media and music business, who were interested in finding a way to collaborate on projects that allowed them to utilize the tools they were learning in the classroom.

“They wanted to find more opportunities to record, promote and distribute music, perform in various live settings and found things like annual concerts and festivals, radio programs and recording competitions that can be continually fostered and developed by future students in those programs,” Munson said.

Three years later, Ragin’ Records just put on their first large scale live event.

Shrugs, an artist on Ragin’ Records first EP, performed with Royal Teeth on Nov. 4 for an all-ages concert at Angelle Hall.

“This event gave our members opportunities to deal with hospitality, ticket sales, merchandise and live sound production,” Munson said. “It also allowed us to engage with the UL Lafayette student body and local high school students by providing an Indie-Rock show on campus.”

“Ragin Records has helped me with many aspects of my future career,” said Lauryn Lawson, a senior music business major and vice president of Ragin’ Records. “It has helped my marketing and promotion skills, and even planning skills, social skills and leadership skills.”

“I was able to apply all that I’ve been learning in my classes and that has helped what I’ve learned to really stick,” she said.

Munson said Shrugs is working on a second EP/LP release and they will begin soliciting demo recordings from prospective artists and start moving forward with production in the spring.

There has also been multiple Ragin’ Records nights at Blue Moon Saloon that have allowed Ragin’ Records artists to perform off campus.

Though Ragin’ Records is primarily composed of music business and music media majors, Munson said it is open to students in any discipline.

“Anyone can be a part of this organization,” he said. “We have had English, art and moving image arts majors, among many others, involved in the group.”

The leaders of the organization along with Lawson are President Devin Minix and Treasurer Jordan Gray. Along with Munson, Scott Durbin, instructor and coordinator for the music business program, serves as a faculty adviser.