UL hosts opening weekend events

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette will host an opening weekend next month to show off some campus improvements and encourage fans to attend its first home football game of the season. Here's a look at the events on tap.

Open house, Sept. 11

The first event on tap is an open house at the new student union on Sept. 11 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and from 4 to 6 p.m., according to a press release from UL. At 11 a.m., there will be a ribbon-cutting underneath the former student union porch in front of Cypress Lake — guests will then be able to walk through the newly renovated Bayou Bijou Theater, Atchafalaya Ballroom and numerous meeting and event rooms. A dedication of the Helina B. Constantine Forum, on the second floor, will be held at 5 p.m.

In the afternoon, teas from around the world will be available from the Office of International Affairs, and desserts and coffees will be served in the new University Bookstore.

If you plan on attending, you must RSVP at louisiana.edu/opening by Aug. 31.

reUnion at the U

This dinner reception will begin at 6 p.m. Sept. 11, with cocktails offered near Cypress Lake.

John Morgan, a professional comedian and former Student Government Association president, will be on hand to recognize former student leaders, former student union staff members and others who gathered on the porch of the old student union after it opened in 1971.

A strolling buffet will begin at 7 p.m. in the ballroom.

Tickets are $30 per person and covers dinner, wine and beer.

A ticket to attend the reUnion at the U is $30 per person and covers dinner, wine, and beer. Tickets should be purchased online at louisiana.edu/opening by Aug. 31. Some tickets will be available at the door on the night of the event.

Anyone who purchases a ticket to the reUnion at the U is eligible to buy a ticket at a special price for Saturday's football game.

This option is available online only at louisiana.edu/opening through Aug. 31. The Louisiana Ragin' Cajuns will tangle with the Northwestern Demon at Cajun Field, beginning at 6 p.m. on Saturday.

Quad dedication, Welcome Wall unveiling

Dedication of the recently revamped Quadrangle will kick off the second day of activities Sept. 12. The unveiling of a plaque for the new Louisiana Welcome Wall will follow.

There will be a ribbon cutting at 9 a.m. Quadrangle improvements, designed by UL students, include a central fountain and plaza, as well as new walkways and landscaping. The fountain features a large metal fleur-de-lis sculpture that weighs about 3,000 pounds and is about 14 feet tall.

Immediately after that ceremony, university officials will unveil a plaque on the new Louisiana Welcome Wall in front of Martin Hall. The curved, red brick wall stands about 6 feet at its center. The name of the University, and its founding year of 1898, are shown in large, backlit aluminum letters.

The projects were paid for by student self-assessed fees and senior class gift fees from the Classes of 2012, 2013 and 2014.

The Quad dedication and Welcome Wall plaque unveiling are free and open to the public. An online RSVP at louisiana.edu/opening by Aug. 31 is requested.

Zydeco brunch

An all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet will be offered from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 12. Diners can choose to eat in the student union's Cypress Lake Dining Hall or in front of the student union by Cypress Lake. They can take a free shuttle to and from Cajun Field for the football game.

Breakfast tickets are $12.99 per adult and $6.99 for children between the ages of 8 and 4. Children 3 and under eat for free with the purchase of an adult ticket.

Tickets may be purchased online at louisiana.edu/opening by Aug. 31. Some tickets will be available at the door.