UL-Lafayette to add green space after demolition of 3 halls

BY MARSHA SILLS | msills@theadvocate.com

Work to demolish three buildings on the University of Louisiana at Lafayette's campus will make way for new green space adjacent to the new Student Union and Cypress Lake. The Student Union reopened in January following a $40 million expansion and renovation funded by student fees. Services offered at the buildings set for demolition—Guillory, Lafayette and Vermilion halls—were relocated into the much larger union or elsewhere on campus.

ABOVE: Scrap metal and other material taken from inside Guillory Hall, left, Lafayette Hall, in the background, and Vermilion Hall, not pictured, is piled high as demolition continues Thursday on the three buildings on the University of Louisiana at Lafayette campus.

LEFT: Furniture and other interior material taken from Lafayette and Vermilion halls is crushed and piled as demolition continues.
The trees surrounding Cypress Lake can be seen Thursday through holes in the walls of Guillory Hall, which formerly housed the student cafeteria, as demolition of Guillory, Lafayette and Vermilion halls continues on the University of Louisiana at Lafayette campus.

SPACE
Continued from page 1B

The demolitions will open up the view of the union from Hebard Boulevard to the lake.

"It's an opportunity to create some additional green space and a vantage point to the lake," said Wayne Domingue, of Architects Southwest. The architectural firm planned and designed the Student Union re-vamp and will assist the university with the green space project, which is in the early design phase.

Domingue said the plan is to create a gathering space for students while enhancing the view of the Student Union and the lake.

Guillory Hall was once used as the campus bowling alley and later as a study hall before it was transformed into a temporary cafeteria during the Student Union construction. The building had a large outdoor area that overlooked Cypress Lake, which holds alligators and other wildlife.

"We hope to maintain the integrity of that overlook and also to create some type of area that would border the lake and still continue to preserve the natural habitat while allowing people to walk around the lake area. We want to open up that entire area and create an opportunity for a vantage point and visibility from Hebard Boulevard that doesn't exist right now," Domingue said.

Work crews are on campus this week, and the demolition is expected to take several days to complete.

Follow Marsha Sills on Twitter, @Marsha_Sills.