

LA PAROLE
Newsletter of the Acadian Museum
By: Chairman Warren A. Perrin
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February 10, 2017

- You are on the museum's email list to receive *La Parole*. If you know of anyone who would like to receive it, please forward their name and email address to my secretary Darylin at: darylinb@plddo.com. If you no longer want to receive future issues, please advise at the email noted above.
- Some bad news: A rat ate through the PVC pipe (see right) causing a big water leak into the museum back office, doing some damage to the Queen's Royal Proclamation. We owe a debt of gratitude to Sonny Moss who discovered the leak and Tommy LeBlanc who repaired it. We spent a day cleaning up the mess with many volunteers and trying to get three dehumidifiers going. All of the ceiling tile and insulation will be replaced. I am having the Royal Proclamation dried and re-framed, but there will be a little water stain damage to the document. Donations to help with repairs may be made to the Acadian Museum—and are tax deductible—and may be sent to Acadian Museum at PO Box 53597 Lafayette, Louisiana 70505.
- The Living Legends program is usually held at 4:00 PM at the Museum Café located at 102 E. Edwards St. in Erath. If you wish to nominate an individual into the Order of Living Legends, please send your request either by U.S. Mail to Acadian Museum, P.O. Box 53597 or by email to perrin@plddo.com along with the contact information for the nominee (email, mailing address and phone number). John A. Broussard will be inducted on March 18.
- *Acadie Then and Now* was named the 2015 winner of the prestigious *Prix France-Acadie*. In Canada, the books in French or English editions may be ordered from Jacques Ouellet of *La Grande Marée* at email: jouellet@nbnet.nb.ca, or



on the web at www.amazon.ca. In the U. S., call (337) 233-5832, or email perrin@plddo.com

- ***Acadie Then and Now: A People's History* Upcoming Book Events**

February 16 - Lafayette Parish Library, southside on Johnston Street, 6:30 p.m.

- Let Acadian Museum Editing Services polish up your written word. We provide proofreading and editing services for all forms of written documents, from brochures to school papers to full-length book manuscripts. We work for international students and faculty, business and government



officials, high school and college students, or anyone who needs a perfect written document. All profits go to the Acadian Museum. Call 337-501-3053 and ask for Mary for more information.

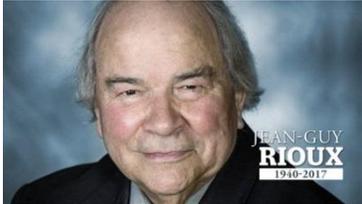
- Pelican Publishing Company will soon release a wonderful children's *Mardi Gras* book called *Mumbo Jumbo, Stay Out Of The Gumbo*. With her trademark lyricism, celebrated Louisiana musician and author Johnette Downing draws readers through an Acadian landscape filled with Cajun dialect and French-Cajun words. This brand-new tale introduces a cagey rooster who vows not to be in the communal gumbo pot this *Courir de Mardi Gras*.
- A Celebration of Life for Merlin Fontenot, a treasured Cajun musician who recently died at the age of 93, was held at Randol's Restaurant in Lafayette. Merlin, as he was affectionately called, began playing fiddle when he was only seven years old. He never learned to read music, but by the age of 15 he was playing regularly at Cajun dance halls. His mastery of the fiddle won him fiddle championships and performances on stage at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville. Merlin was a fixture at Vermilionville for more than 20 years, entertaining and educating visitors about Cajun music, history and culture.
- The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities (LEH) annually awards individuals and organizations that have made significant and enduring contributions to the humanities. The 2017 awards selection committee has chosen *Hard Scrabble to Hallelujah: Legacies of Terrebonne Parish as the Humanities* "Book of the Year" by Dr. Christopher Cenac of Houma. The awards presentation will be on April 13, at the Shaw Center in Baton

Rouge. For event updates, please visit www.leh.org. For a list of past winners, visit www.leh.org/humanities-awards/

- The 2017 Zydeco/Cajun Bash will be held at Vermilionville on Tuesday, April 25th. Tickets are \$15 for an evening of music, dancing, and food. Local Grammy Award winners, Chubby Carrier, Roddie Romero, and others donate their time for an annual fundraiser for the Shining Light Foundation, a local non-profit organization. All profits benefit students in Lafayette Parish public schools in response to requests from teachers and counselors. Tickets are available from PayPal on website www.shininglightfoundation.org.
- A history brief from Jeremy Alford's *Tuesday Tracker*: "It was on January 17, 1823 that the Louisiana Legislature approved the creation of a new parish that was to be called Lafayette. It had become a thriving church-settlement in the preceding years and was carved out of a large piece of land in St. Martin Parish. The first sheriff was Gregoire Villejouis, an immigrant of modern-day Haiti."
- Lafourche Parish has rolled out its new tourism brand name with hopes that the whole world will soon know it as "Louisiana's Cajun Bayou" and flock to come check it out. "I think the new campaign really defines Lafourche Parish," said Marguerite Knight-Erwin, chairwoman of the Bayou Lafourche Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. "It's about what makes us so unique and why people would want to visit."
- Here is a short history about University of Louisiana's mascot Ragin' Cajun that appeared in the student newsletter *The Vermilion*: "In 1963, we became the University of Southwest Louisiana. Director Bob Henderson and football coach Russ Faulkinberry then coined the term 'Raging Cajuns' as the name for UL Lafayette's football team. In 1967, the 'g' was dropped; thus, we gained our current nickname, the Ragin' Cajuns. The moniker was adopted honor of the Cajun heritage of some 95 percent of the team. This shift also caused the bulldog mascot to be questioned, and in 1983, 'Cajun Man,' a caucasian man clad in a vermilion-and-white suit, a large, black belt buckle and white cowboy hat, was introduced. 'Cajun Man,' however, would only last a handful of years. He was popular for a short time, but many began to see an issue in his depiction as a white man who represents an ethnically and racially diverse school and people."
- Phil Comeau of Montreal was in Lafayette to premiere in the U. S. of two of his films at Pat Mire's 12th annual film festival—Cinema on the Bayou Film Festival, from Jan. 25 -

Feb. *Cajun Heart* won the award for best film in the festival: Director's Award. On the 27th was the presentation of his short Acadian film *Belle-Ile-En-Mer, a Breton and Acadian Island*. Many of the Acadians were featured in the film, including remarkable Maryvonne Le Gac, president of the *Ass. Belle-ile-Acadie*. We loved the film. There were two mentions of the *Cadiens* of Louisiana. Also important, but not in the film, is the fact that Senator Dudley J. LeBlanc Sr. was among the first group of North America Acadians to visit Belle-Ile 50 years ago. Anyone who is interested in the world Acadian diaspora may get more information at the links to both films below.

http://cinemaonthebayou.com/index.php?option=com_fabrik&view=details&listid=3&formid=3&rowid=444&Itemid=145.

- Sadly, Acadian activist, educator Jean-Guy Rioux recently died. With a passion for French language and culture, Rioux served his country and province through many positions in French-Acadian leadership roles. "He [fought] for linguistic rights, for equality, between both official languages," said Tracadie-Sheila MLA Serge Rousselle. A portrait of Jean-Guy Rioux, an older man with grey hair, wearing a dark suit and tie. A small graphic in the bottom right corner of the image reads "JEAN-GUY RIOUX 1940-2017".
- E. Gerald "T-Boy" Hebert, a Kenner resident, was appointed by the governor of Louisiana to the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System in 2008. Hebert represented the 1st Congressional District, and his term of service expired on December 31, 2016. He is founder and president of Patriot Services Corporation and president of Destin Properties Corporation. Mr. Hebert has been a loyal financial supporter of the Acadian Museum. We thank him for his service to Louisiana and his support of the museum. A portrait of E. Gerald Hebert, a man with short grey hair, wearing a light-colored suit jacket, a white shirt, and a blue patterned tie. The background is a blue wall with some text.
- Acadians have always been known for their natural strength. Louis Cyr, an Acadian who lived in later part of the 19th and early 20th century, was known as the strongest man who ever lived. It is reported that he could lift 500 pounds with one finger! During a 12-year period in the late 1950's and 1960s, the University of Louisiana Weightlifting Team won eight national collegiate weightlifting championships, and two second place finishes. Nic Campbell is working to do a sports documentary on the team's exploits called "Twelve Years of Excellence." A now old fashioned arm wrestling is making a comeback in the Maritimes of Canada. Here is an excerpt from a recent news piece from CBC

News: “Michel (Butch Reed) Theriault is the reigning left-hand champion in the over-200 pounds division of the *Bras de Fer Acadian* — or Acadian Arms of Iron, loosely translated. Competitors, 24 in all, came from across the Acadian Peninsula, from Tracadie to Allardville.”

- Here is an article that appeared in *The Daily Advertiser*, January 20: “Glenn Fields admits that friends recently had to help him with an unfamiliar task: a job resume. Fields didn’t need a resume when he traveled the world as a drummer for the *Red Stick Ramblers* and the *Revelers*, 2016 Grammy nominees. No one asked for references when he taught and performed at roots music camps around the country and co-founded the South Louisiana Blackpot Festival and Cookoff. The 11-year-old celebration of live music, cooking and camping annually draws thousands to Lafayette. But Fields had to put that experience and more on paper when he applied to be the leader at Louisiana Folk Roots. Fields’ resume now includes executive director of La. Folk Roots, a Lafayette-based nonprofit that promotes and preserves Cajun and Creole culture.” 
- This appeared in *The News Port Arthur*: “Though Harry Henry Choates was buried in a pauper’s grave when he died, he still made a huge impact on the Cajun music scene during his life, according to Sam Monroe, president of the Port Arthur Historical Society. Choates is now buried at Calvary Cemetery at the corner of Ninth Avenue and 25th Street in Port Arthur where there is also a Texas State Historical marker in honor of him. Amos Hebert, a former band mate, and his wife Jean drove from their home in Kaplan, Louisiana for the unveiling of the marker in 2007. Hebert joined up with Choates for a nine-month stint when Choates’ famous rendition of *Jole Blon* was recorded.”
- Ted Campbell, a native of Henry, Louisiana, is shown in front of his airplane in Arkansas—where he now lives. He has been a pilot and "crop duster" all of his life. His father was Walter "Hobo" Campbell Jr., a native of Forked Island. He was a Cajun musician who loved to play his accordion, sing French songs and tell stories while he operated the ferry (*traverse*) in Bancker, Louisiana. Always interested in his history and culture, Ted Campbell is presently writing his family history. Mary and I will help with the researching and editing of his book. Anyone who has information on the Campbell family should forward the information to me and I will forward it on to him. 

- Nicolas Lambert, a law professor at the University of Moncton School of Law in New Brunswick, Canada, attended and was introduced to the delegates in attendance by President Darryl Papillion at the mid-winter bar board meeting in Baton Rouge on Saturday, January 21. Lambert was in Louisiana as the guest of the Francophone Section of the bar helping to develop a new program for Louisiana students to study law in Canada—in French. The Francophone Section will be helping to launch an effort to help to raise funds to underwrite some of the expenses of the law scholarship. On his visit, Lambert visited with representatives of all



Warren A. Perrin,
Francophone Section,
Darryl Papillion,
president of the La.
Bar Association and
Professor Nicolas
Lambert of the
University of
Moncton School of
Law.

- four of our Louisiana law schools. He was also hosted by the Counsel General of France Gregor Trumel in New Orleans and LSU Law Professor Olivier Moreteau in Baton Rouge. We would appreciate everyone helping us to promote this innovative new international educational and cultural program. An article in the *Louisiana Bar Journal* will provide more details. UL graduate from Point Coupée Parish Ian Labatu has been nominated for the 2017 Fall class.
- Join Bayou Vermilion District’s Vermilionville on Sunday, February 12 as the *Basile Mardi Gras Association* (BMGA) brings a traditional country *Mardi Gras* run to the city for their annual *Courir de Mardi Gras* event. The village will open at 10 a.m. with children’s capuchon-making workshops which will go throughout the day. The *courir* begins at 11:30 a.m. with an overview of this *Mardi Gras* tradition by Russell Rider of the BMGA. From there, guests will stop at seven of the homes located inside Vermilionville’s historic village where they will watch the BMGA beg for all the ingredients for the community gumbo and perform some rituals along the way.
- The University of Louisiana at Lafayette has added a new item to its line of promotional food and beverages: the Ragin’ Cajuns French Roast Coffee. The dark roast was created through a partnership between UL-Lafayette and Mello Joy, which three years ago released the Ragin’ Cajun Strong Championship Coffee, a temporary blend to commemorate the university’s athletic achievement. The blend is available exclusively at Rouse’s grocery stores in Lafayette, Youngsville and Morgan City and at the Ragin’ Cajun Store on campus.

- Doug Kershaw brought Cajun music to the American mainstream when he appeared on the debut of *The Johnny Cash Show* in 1969. He sang *Louisiana Man*, his song about the swamps, his papa, mama and little brother Ned. The national audience was mesmerized by this raw, earthy, wild-eyed fiddler putting his life story in his song. So much so, he upstaged another guest on that opening show, Bob Dylan. To most of those catching Kershaw for the first time, it was as if he sprung out of whole cloth, spun in the mangrove forests of the Louisiana bayous
- We received this email from Christina Melton: “I am exploring the possibility of doing a documentary film on Acadian lace makers and seamstresses who handmake traditional baby clothes. I was wondering if you could help put me in touch with some of the ladies. Thanks very much, Christina Melton, Producer for Louisiana Public Broadcasting 225-921-025.”
- In an article entitled “Nova Scotia Acadians win key court battle over French-speaking ridings,” by Michael MacDonald, *The Canadian Press*, the court ruling in favor of Acadians’ rights is discussed: “Halifax – the Nova Scotia government says it is eager to speak to the province’s Acadians about appointing an independent commission to redraw the province’s electoral boundaries, a move that could off the French-speaking minority better representation in the legislature.” 
- A largely abandoned island eight miles from Chatham, once used for New Brunswick's first leper colony, will be the subject of an upcoming art project. "Leprosy was a problem in the Acadian Peninsula going back to the late 18th century," said Concordia University history professor Ronald Rudin. "By the 1840s, the decision was made to effectively round up known cases of leprosy in Tracadie and areas south of that and send them to Shelldrake Island."
- Barry Ancelet and Sam Broussard have been friends since Lucille Mouton’s first-grade class at Mt. Carmel School. Six decades later, Ancelet, the retired professor, and Broussard, a musician’s musician, pass the time in a home studio, making Cajun music that’s not the usual dancehall two-steps and waltzes. The talk has resulted in *Broken Promised Land*, a 10-song CD nominated for the Best Regional Roots Album Grammy. The Ancelet-Broussard collaboration is one of three local nominees in the category, which also includes *Gulfstream* by Roddie Romero and the Hub City All Stars and *I*

Wanna Sing Right: Rediscovering Lomax in the Evangeline Country, produced by Joe Savoy and Joshua Caffery.” The winners will be announced on Sunday, February 12 in Los Angeles, CA.

- The FACC-GC Annual Dinner is Thursday, March 16 at the Old U. S. Mint, 400 Esplanade Avenue, New Orleans, La. Special admission to museum exhibits, 4:30 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Keynote speaker is Stephen Perry, President and CEO, New Orleans Convention & Visitors Bureau. Remarks by Mark Romig, President and CEO, New Orleans Tourism and Marketing Corporation.
- On March 18, Acadian Memorial Festival and Wooden Boat Congrès will again take place in historic St. Martinville, Louisiana on Bayou Teche. Honoring *les familles Bourgeois et Duhon* and reenacting the Arrival of the Acadians to the Bayou Teche country. There will be a parade of the Wooden Boats, crowning of *Monsieur ou Madame Bateau du Bois VI* celebrating the bicentennial of the incorporation of St. Martinville 1817 – 2017. There is a raffle drawing for cash prizes, good food, good music and good fun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. For more information, 337/394-2258 or Email: amfboard@gmail.com no admittance charge.
- Here is the upcoming schedule for the fabulous Cajun musician Waylon Thibodeaux who will be performing for *Mardi Gras* in Florida bringing our heritage to the rest of our country. He will be in Panama City, Dunedin, and Orlando at the House of Blues and he will also be at the Houston rodeo cook off. This is a big *Mardi Gras* celebration in Texas.
- Next year, Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys celebrate their 30th anniversary. Those three decades include 15 CDs, Grammy nominations, tours of exotic countries and a rock-hard reputation as Cajun music icons.” Riley and two members of the Mamou Playboys shared memories and music recently at Acadiana Roots in The Daily Advertiser’s Community Room. Fiddler Kevin Wimmer and guitarist Sam Broussard joined Riley and reminisced about the band’s early days and their own musical roots.
- Join the Bayou Krewe - Now seeking ambassadors. The state is looking for people who are passionate about Louisiana and are active on social media to help us show the world why they should come visit Sportsman's Paradise. Do you love Louisiana? Become a member of our Bayou Krewe and share your passion for our food, history, culture and



Shown, L to R: Kevin Wimmer, Steve Riley and Sam Broussard

great outdoors. Come and see it, taste it, experience it; snap your view of Louisiana and spread the *joie de vivre* with the hashtag #OnlyLouisiana. Visit: <http://www.louisianatravel.com/social-hub> to sign up to get official program details and take part in monthly challenges for a chance to win #OnlyLouisiana prizes.

- The Lafayette Parish Master Gardeners Association in partnership with the Vermilionville Living History Museum and Folklife Park invites the community to join their free series, Healing Traditions in Acadiana, continuing on Saturday, February 18th at 11:00 a.m. in Vermilionville’s Performance Center. The speaker will be Mandy Waggoner: “When Old Ways Meet New Ideas.” Admission to Healing Traditions in Acadiana is free, but a \$5 donation to the Lafayette Master Gardeners is recommended. For more information about the series visit Vermilionville.org, call (337) 233-4077 or email Vville@BayouVermilionDistrict.org.
- Following the recent historical signing of the France-Louisiana Accords supporting French immersion education in Louisiana, Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser, along with a Louisiana delegation of 26 tourism leaders including three legislators, is on a mission to France to promote international travel to Louisiana. The mission is also an opportunity to promote the Bi-Centennial of Baton Rouge this year, and the Tri-Centennial of New Orleans next year. “France is one of Louisiana’s most important overseas markets. When looking at international visitors signing guest books at our Welcome Centers, French visitors top the list,” said Assistant Secretary Kyle Edmiston. “The French culture is a big part of the history of our state. Many people in France dream of being able to visit Louisiana.” During the mission, the Louisiana delegation will also meet with members of the media, Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, and Lyon Mayor Gerard Collomb
- Abbeville attorney Gary Theall: For those who missed the last meeting of the Vermilion Historical Society, the presentation was a video of the World War II experiences of Revis Sirmon. He took part in 50 combat missions in Europe, flying a P38 Lightning airplane. The video consists of Sirmon’s verbal narration accompanied by relevant film footage from World War II. Those of you who knew Revis as a mild-mannered businessman will be amazed at what a war hero he was. To view the video, click this link: http://www.vermilionhistorical.com/features/presentations/revis_sirmon/revis_sirmon.html

- A Life of Seduction: Venice in the 1700s conjures one of Italy's most fabled destinations: a gloriously theatrical setting for festivals, balls, processions and Carnival revelry. Opening February 17, just eleven days before *Mardi Gras*, the NOMA exhibition is especially timely for New Orleans art



lovers and pleasure seekers with a taste for dramatic cultural displays. Carnival revelers are invited to a festive *Mardi Gras Mambo Ball* on February 17 hosted by *Cervantes Fundación Hispanoamericana de Arte*, a nonprofit organization that promotes modern and classical Hispanic cultural traditions. For more information and to purchase tickets, call Brenda Melara at 504.615.9070 or email brenda@cervantesfoundation.org.

- Letter from Joanna Brown published in *The Daily Advertiser*: “The state of Louisiana has a long history of welcoming migrants from every corner of the world. This swampland has become home to Spanish, French, Irish, German, Vietnamese, Lebanese—just to name a few—all bringing their cultures, their faith, and most importantly, their recipes. As Cajuns, it’s in our blood to welcome and accept others. After all, we know better than anyone what it is to lose everything, live in exile, undertake dangerous journeys and eventually make a new home among the other dispossessed of the world, in the beautiful melting pot of Louisiana. My family’s story is the same as many of yours. They were French Acadian refugees exiled from Nova Scotia in the 18th century and made the journey to settle in what was then the Spanish colony of Louisiana. My grandmother, Vivian Cecile Lejeune, spoke Cajun French.”



- In follow up to Joanna Brown’s article, I wrote a “Letter to the Editor” of the *Daily Advertiser* and they published this article: “Perrin: The parallels between Acadians and today’s refugees.” For the full article, visit:

<http://www.theadvertiser.com/story/opinion/2017/02/02/perrin-parallels-between-acadians-and-todays-refugees/97390284/>.

- The Louisiana Travel Promotion Association (LTPA) introduced McIlhenny Company, the maker of TABASCO® brand Pepper Sauce, as the winner of the Attraction of the Year Award during its Annual Membership Meeting on Jan.



26, 2017 in Natchitoches, La. This year, LTPA presented 17 "Louey Awards" to honor and showcase individuals and organizations who have made outstanding contributions to the Louisiana tourism industry.

- The Krewe of Denham Springs held its 37th annual *Mardi Gras Ball* on Feb. 4 at North Park Recreational Center in Denham Springs. This year's theme, "Pirates of the Cajun Navy," paid tribute to the heroes that helped the community during the devastating flood of 2016 and its aftermath.
- Please mark your calendar for Monday, February 13, 2017, for another exciting session of Acadiana Memories, an interactive history program where we reminisce about people, places, and events of long ago. The program is held on the second Monday of each month. This month, we will talk about the vast virgin cypress forest that once stretched from the rich bottomlands of North Louisiana to our gulf coast. Unfortunately, there exists only sprinkling remnants of the once magnificent cypress that was said to be inexhaustible. What is the lifespan of a cypress tree? Two-hundred years? Four-hundred years? We once had cypress trees that were over 2,500 years of age. We also had one that was said to be the fifth oldest living thing on earth. The program is from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the conference room at Hospice of Acadiana located at 2600 Johnston Street, Lafayette.
- Shown in 1966 at the Broussard cattle ranch in southern Vermilion Parish are (left to right): Richard Broussard, Yvonne Broussard, Alphé A. Broussard (in the Stetson), Leonard Forest, Bona Arsenault and unknown Canadian (standing on the right) who was the cameraman. The two with their backs to the camera are, Odile Cade Broussard and Charles E. Broussard. The photo was taken by Alan Broussard. Arsenault, Canadian historian, author and politician, was in Louisiana to shoot the first-ever Acadian film featuring Cajuns, a documentary film *Les Acadiens De La Dispersion* (released in 1968). 
- Internationally renowned muralist Robert Dafford is slowly transforming the walls of Lafayette City Hall into a mélange of swooping oak trees, surreal swamps and sentimental scenes from the Acadians' past. Dafford, whose work graces downtown Lafayette with such murals as "Escape from the 

Postcards” on Marley’s Sports Bar, “Ex-Garage” on Jefferson Towers and “Stereo Prairie” on the Children’s Museum, has turned his brush to the old Sears department store on University Avenue that now houses the main offices of city-parish government.

- The *Jeux de l’Acadie* 50+ games will be held on P.E.I. for the first time in 2018. The official memorandum of understanding to host the 6th edition of the games in P.E.I.’s Evangeline region was signed Thursday. This will be the first time the event is hosted outside of New Brunswick. The games are for francophones aged 50 or older, and include a wide variety of events. The 2016 games included sports such as badminton, golf and pickleball, as well as activities such as card games and scrabble. More than 300 participants are expected in the Evangeline region over the four days of games, which run from Sept. 13-18, 2018.
- On February 4, 2017, this charcoal portrait of Living Legend D. L. Menard, twice-Grammy nominated Cajun musician, by Diana Gail Trim of New Iberia was recently donated to Menard. Trim did this portrait in 1997 to show her appreciation for sharing a jam session with Menard. 
- NAP—New Acadia Project—will apply to USA Today for an ACT (a Community Thrives) grant. The application requires the submission of a three minute video, and Connie Castille has agreed to work with us to produce it; she and President Alan Broussard met on Monday and outlined a draft: NAP President Alan Broussard will briefly describe NAP, then he will introduce the stake holders: Mayor Brad Clifton who introduces Loreauville, the nearest town to the most likely site of the lost Acadian settlement and the importance of the project to their future; Dr. Mark Rees who discusses the 1765 diaspora Acadien and early settlement on Bayou Teche; Dr. Ray Brassieur who explores the project’s impact for ULL students and why time is of the essence; Fran Thibodeaux and Larry Richard who emphasize the long-term implications of tourism expansion to Loreauville, Iberia Parish, Acadiana and Louisiana; and Warren Perrin who explains how NAP has partnered with the Acadian Heritage and Cultural Foundation Inc. (which operates the Acadian Museum) and serves as a 501c(3) to distribute donations to the university through the stewardship of the New Acadia Project Steering Committee. Finally, if our NAP submission gets selected as a finalist for a popular vote on the USA Today web site, we will need mass solicitation for people to log in and vote for the grant.

- Please join the Center for Louisiana Studies in welcoming historian and author Shane Bernard for a discussion of his new book "Teche: A History of Louisiana's Most Famous Bayou" at Bayou State Book Talks on Tuesday, February 14, beginning at 6:30 pm at the Downtown branch of the Lafayette Public Library (301 W. Congress St.)
- ALCFES organizers hosted the 37th annual convention in Lafayette during the weekend of February 3-5, 2017. The organization welcomed 290 Louisianan high school students who are studying French at their respective high schools, their teachers, and honored. Four schools who were present for the first time include Avoyelles Public Charter, Baton Rouge International School, Hathaway High School, and Lee High School. Kirby Jambon, the keynote speaker, spoke of growing up with his French-speaking family, his path to becoming a French Immersion teacher in Lafayette, and his recent prestigious award from the Académie Française in Paris. Corey Porche, a Louisianan representative of the Université Sainte-Anne, gave a presentation on the Courir du Mardi Gras in Louisiana. Charles Larroque, Executive Director of CODOFIL, spoke about CODOFIL and its current and upcoming projects and events.