The University of Louisiana at Lafayette is cited in U.S. News and World Report’s latest “Best Colleges” ranking, as well as Forbes magazine’s latest “America’s Best Colleges.”

The University’s MBA program is included in the 2011 edition of the Princeton Review’s Best 300 Business Schools.

The University is included in the 2011 edition of the Princeton Review’s Best 373 Colleges.

The Carnegie Foundation has designated UL Lafayette as a “Research University with High Research Activity.” That puts UL Lafayette in the same category as Clemson, Auburn and Baylor universities.

The global accrediting body for business schools reaccredited the B. I. Moody III College of Business Administration in January. The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business granted the status. According to the AACSB, accreditation is the hallmark of excellence in business education and has been earned by less than 5 percent of the world’s business schools.

Some UL Lafayette researchers recently combined their expertise in math and physics to form an interdisciplinary team that is looking for possible population shifts among some the Gulf of Mexico’s mammals. They used underwater recording equipment to listen to whales and dolphins. Now the scientists are comparing the new data with data collected prior to the BP Oil Spill in April 2010.

The National Science Foundation has awarded the University over half a million dollars to help minority college students better prepare for graduate studies in mathematics and related fields, including science, engineering and technology. The three-year project is supported by a $548,880 grant. Starting this summer, 15 students will attend an eight-week program at the University. It has three components: intense courses in selected areas, guided research and professional development.

The University attracted the third highest amount of National Science Foundation research funding among Louisiana’s 16 public, four-year universities in 2009.

HydroViz is a virtual hydrologic observatory. It was developed by researchers in UL Lafayette’s Civil Engineering Department and the university’s Center for Innovative Learning and Assessment Technologies. Because HydroViz is web-based and web-accessible, it doesn’t require a particular software package. It was developed with the help of a $150,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. Other institutions that are giving it a try include the University of Texas – San Antonio, the University of Connecticut, Tennessee Tech University and Southern University.

The University was the first university in Louisiana to have students who designed, built and launched a working satellite. CAPE-1—a picosatellite that weighs 2.2 pounds or less—was sent into orbit from a site in the Republic of Kazakhstan in 2007. Another group of UL Lafayette students is building a second satellite with a completely new design and a different technical and educational mission. This time, the project includes an educational component intended to engage K-12 students and inspire them to pursue education in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

A new research facility in Acadia Parish will enable UL Lafayette students and faculty to learn how to convert renewable resources into alternative energy. Its biomass gasifier, for instance, will transform materials such as woodchips, rice chaff and sugar cane byproducts into synthesis gas. That gas, in turn, can be used as fuel to generate electricity. The center is expected to open in 2011.

In 2010, the Discovery Channel featured some University engineering students’ work. The future engineers constructed small versions of ancient buildings, such as the Roman aqueducts and an Egyptian pyramid. The structures were used to explain how engineering and architectural feats were performed centuries ago.
• Dr. Mark F. DeWitt is the first professor to hold the University’s Endowed Chair in Traditional Music. He is an ethnomusicologist who specializes in Cajun and Creole music. The chair honors the late Dr. Tommy Comeaux, a Lafayette physician who was an accomplished musician. Long-range goals include the creation of a research center for traditional music and the development of a degree program.

• Beausoleil avec Michael Doucet, a multi-Grammy award-winning band, was artist-in-residence at the University for a week in March. Band members worked with student musicians on campus individually, in master classes and with ensembles. The band also worked with dance students and music media students. Beausoleil members were interviewed in the KRVS studio for future radio broadcast and for archival purposes.

• In 2010, the Ernest J. Gaines Center opened in Edith Garland Dupré Library on campus. It houses the only complete collection of the writer’s scholarship in the world. Gaines, one of the most significant American authors of the 20th century, is the University’s writer-in-residence emeritus. He is most widely known for three novels, *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, *A Lesson Before Dying* and *A Gathering of Old Men*.

• The University and Tabasco® announced a “Two Hot” partnership in 2010. Two co-branded logos express this alliance. One features Tabasco’s iconic pepper sauce bottle tipping over, enabling the red peppery mix to form the words “Ragin’ Cajuns®.” The other features the words “Two Hot,” along with Tabasco and Ragin Cajuns marks.

• About 41 percent of the University’s freshman class in Fall 2010 were among the top 25 percent of their high school graduating classes.

• Fifteen of 16 Ragin’ Cajun athletic teams scored above the NCAA-mandated Academic Progress Rate score of 925 in 2010. The APR is based on the eligibility and retention of scholarship student-athletes. Men’s golf, men’s tennis, women’s cross country and volleyball made perfect APR scores of 1,000. Only men’s cross country missed the 925 APR target but not by much. Its score: 921. By earning such high marks, the University’s teams avoided any scholarship or practice time penalties. The NCAA calculates an annual and a four-year average APR. The University’s softball team has the best multi-year APR score – 977 – in the SunBelt Conference.