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Press Release

# **ACADIANA HISTORICAL: ULOCKING THE PAST WITH A SMARTPHONE**

UL Lafayette Public History Program Presents New Community History Project

New Iberia, LA, November 5, 2013: The UL Lafayette Public History Program invites the community of New Iberia to attend a public forum at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 14 at the Iberia Parish Library- Main Branch. Graduate students will present the program’s latest project, Acadiana Historical, and invite suggestions for future historical content.

Launched in spring 2013, Acadiana Historical is an initiative of the program that provides the community with access to the region’s diverse and unique history. Current Acadiana Historical stories cover topics ranging from Lafayette sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places to the Michel Prudhomme House in Opelousas. New virtual tours to be launched in December include Plantations of Acadiana, Historic Cemeteries of Lafayette Parish, the Solomon Northup Trail, and Public Art in Lafayette.

The project can be accessed through www.acadianahistorical.org and the free Acadiana Historical app for smartphones. The app is available for both Androids and iPhones. The Acadiana Historical app allows users to discover the region’s history as they explore Acadiana. While walking through downtown Lafayette, Shannon Martin used the app to delve beyond the walls of the Old City Hall and into the building’s past. “If it wasn’t for Acadiana Historical, I never would have known about the imprint of the coin from 1889 in one of the bricks,” said Martin. “Connecting with our community’s history gives me a great sense of time and place. It shows the past is always present.” Visitors to the website can tour the historic sites of Acadiana from the comfort of their home.

Be sure to attend the Acadiana Historical meeting to see a demonstration of the project and a change to suggest future content!