



How did our Pilots
and Lady Pilots
fare on the court?
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New director
for LSUS
Foundation

Iris MacLean
STAFF WRITER

The LSUS Foundation recently welcomed Laura Perdue as its new executive director. Perdue was chosen as the best fit for the foundation due to her extensive background in fundraising campaign creation and management, finding new sources of support and connecting public messaging with development. Perdue hails from Harrisonville, Mo. In 1994 she graduated from the University of Central Missouri with a Bachelor of Science in education with an emphasis in secondary English education and social sciences. After graduating, she was an independent consultant in nonprofit grant writing and management across the country for four years. After moving to Shreveport in 2006 Perdue became the director of development for the Robinson Film Center. Following this position she became the director of development for the Providence House. “With both those organizations what I discovered was that the solution to most all of our community issues, being it breaking the cycle of homelessness or bringing the film industry to the community, it all comes back to education,” Per-

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Vassar appointed Interim Provost

Erika Merritt
STAFF WRITER

Dr. John Vassar has been named the Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at LSU Shreveport. Vassar will assume responsibility over the development and approval process for new academic programs, and supervision over the curricular aspects on campus. “It was an exciting opportunity when Dr. Sisson approached me about it. I really thought a lot about it and am very excited about the possibilities this office has,” Vassar said. Vassar made the transition from his previous role as Chair of the Department of Fine Arts, Foreign Languages, and Humanities to his new role as Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor. “Frankly I wasn’t really aware of the things beyond that department. And so, what I’ve gotten to do right off the bat is get to

know faculty and staff outside of my little cubby hole and see a lot of the amazing things we’re doing on this campus,” Vassar said. Along with his new role, Vassar will continue to teach classes at LSUS. “Teaching is what I love to do more than anything else. In fact, the one thing I clearly communicated from the beginning is that I wanted to continue to teach,” Vassar said. Vassar is working on the collaborative programs offered by the LSU System such as petroleum engineering, construction management, and sports administration. “These are things that the community has been asking for and so has been in response to that demand,” Vassar said. Vassar has made further progress on a letter of intent for a master’s in history, a master’s in criminal justice, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in digital media. The master’s in criminal justice went to the Board of Regents. The two other degree

programs have been sent to the Board of Supervisors for the first level of approval. In addition to these new academic programs, LSUS is pursuing approval for two doctoral programs, a Doctorate of Education in leadership and a Doctorate of Psychology. The Doctorate of Education in leadership is in the last stages of the approval process. “John has a real devotion to the campus and a real interest in developing degree programs and some good experience in doing that. Developing those new degree programs is one very key activity that we’re engaged in right now,” said Dr. Paul Sisson, Interim Chancellor. Sisson said he is impressed with the work Vassar has done thus far and is looking forward to see what he will accomplish in the future. “He really did hit the ground running. He has definitely proven that he has the dedication and the work ethic to take on all of those tasks and do really well,” Sisson said.



Photo by Erika Merritt
Dr. John Vassar has been appointed Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Vassar will also continue to teach classes at LSUS.

LSU Shreveport faces more budget cuts

Montana Davis
STAFF WRITER

July 1 marks the beginning of the new fiscal year which means more budget cuts to minimize the national debt. LSU Shreveport’s state funding will be cut for the fifth year in a row since the economic downturn. The last fiscal year turned out to be brutal towards higher education. Funds declined 7.5 percent. Since 2008, LSUS’s funding has dropped from 70 percent, to 30 percent, and is now less than 30 percent. The previous cuts toward LSUS’s funding, as well as other Louisiana colleges, have been more than 50 percent. This leaves majority of the schools to “fund” for themselves. “We’ve gotten to the point it almost doesn’t mat-

ter, the amount of money we get from the state is so small compared to what it used to be,” said Dr. Paul Sisson, interim chancellor. “Five years ago, the prospect of not having any state funding woke me up and gave me terrible nightmares. Now it doesn’t bother me a whole lot.” The situation of reduced state funding is nothing new to LSUS. The current plan, as with previous years, is to return untouched scholarships. Sisson has stated that although he is glad the university has that option, it is “painful” to use it and he would much rather see the money go towards the scholarships instead. Although LSUS hasn’t cut anything specific yet, previous funding issues have reduced the university’s faculty by 20 percent. This forces the higher faculty

members, such as chancellors, to teach courses themselves due to the shortage of professors. “We’ve had challenging years as an institution, but we’ve had challenging years before. When I was an undergraduate here many years ago there was so much talk that the institution was going to be sold off that some students began putting ‘For Sale’ signs on campus” said Dr. John Vassar, Interim Provost. Sisson predicts that the cuts probably will not end for another three years. By that time LSUS will be in its seventh year dealing with the state funding financial crisis. LSUS will keep trying to come up with money saving plans and long term strategies in order to help students.

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Letters to the editor are encouraged. However, the staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, and content. Any letter submitted by a club or organization must be signed by all members of the group or by the group's president. Letters should be e-mailed or submitted to the *Almagest* office, BH 344, by 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Please type the letter and include your classification and major. *The Almagest* reserves the right not to publish submitted materials. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed.

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A few resolutions for the new semester



Crystal Vandegriff

From the Editor's Desk

Whenever a professor assigns something to their students, it's not hard to guess that somewhere within the pearls of wisdom and advice given to their students will fall the words "do not wait until the last minute to do this." In high school, I took this as a personal challenge; in high school, that worked for me. College was, for me and many others, a rude awakening, though not to the fire-and-brimstone degree my teachers had warned me about.

I found that deadlines were absolute, instructions were concrete and the responsibility to be aware of these two things was mine. To attend or not to attend, that was the

choice that was finally up to me. Like many students it took me a while to adjust to this newly-found freedom.

Instead of waiting for scheduled breaks, I took my own. I forgot to regularly check my email. Moodle fell to the bottom of the list of websites I frequented.

Finally, when my freshman seminar professor announced that our term paper was due the next class period, I panicked. I had not yet even begun to work on it. I made the deadline by the skin of my teeth and, more importantly, the event served as a wake-up call for me.

Just like ringing in the New Year, new semesters often bring new resolutions from students. This semester I will keep everything organized, this semester I will study and not cram, this semester I will not procrastinate. Just like the cliched New Year's resolutions, these resolutions often go unheeded or forgotten by week two, even if holding to these resolutions would be in your best interest.

If it helps, you don't have to hold to these resolutions alone. The Student Development and Counseling Center can be of

great help. The student volunteers and workers, as well as the faculty counselors will listen to your problems and difficulties and work to help you find the solution that will work best for you.

If you feel awkward about asking for assistance, you can always attend one of their seminars designed to help students deal with the stresses and anxieties that come with college life.

Throughout February, the Student Development and Counseling Center will be offering weekly seminars to educate students about academic success strategies. The seminars will be held each Wednesday both during Common Hour in the Administration building, room 215, and at 5 p.m. in the University Center Red River Room.

A few other tips include buying a small weekly planner and, in addition to noting deadlines, scheduling when you will be working on each assignment or studying for each exam. You could also try flash cards to help you study vocabulary, forming a study group with your fellow classmates, or even hiring a tutor to help you through.

NEWS

LSU Shreveport Faculty Member Tulin Melancon awarded 2012 Professional Trainer of the Year

Ebonie Nelson
STAFF WRITER

LSU Shreveport Director of Online Learning and Faculty Development Tulin Melancon was awarded the 2012 Professional Trainer of Year honors. The award was given by the North Louisiana chapter of the American Society



I teach both platforms [online and face-to-face]. I prefer teaching online courses.

— Tulin Melancon



of Training and Development.

One main component that she teaches is the learning management system, Moodle. She schedules one-on-one or small group trainings to train new online instructors. Some topics being taught are effective feedback, classroom

management and facilitating skills, copyright, intellectual property and open educational resources.

"I teach both platforms [online and face-to-face]. I prefer teaching online courses," Melancon said.

A new component now available, is mobile learning. Learners expect access to their online course anywhere, anytime with their mobile devices. At LSUS, the Moodle upgrade is more user friendly for all mobile users. Campus-wide wireless connectivity and high speed connection is available.

Although there is still some resistance, most of the faculty at LSUS is more open to the idea of teaching online courses.

"Most of this resistance comes from private online universities. Online learning is not new," Melancon said. "We have to catch up with the time and meet the needs of our students."

In recent years the percentage of traditional college students has fallen. In response, LSUS is attempting to grow the offered online courses and degree programs to reach more students.

When Melancon is not training, one might catch her teaching a non-credit cooking class through the LSUS Department of continuing education.

PELICAN BRIEFS

TeachLSUS program hosts teaching seminar

Students interested in obtaining their Louisiana teaching certificate at their own pace, while working as a full-time salaried teacher, are invited to attend the informative session hosted by TeachLSUS.

The program recruits and trains students, who are non-education degree holders, the fundamentals and principles of education to prepare them to serve as educators in classrooms across Louisiana.

The information session will be held 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Jan. 29 in room 113 of the Business and Education Building.

For more information contact program coordinator Tracey Burrell at tracey.burrell@lsus.edu or call (318) 797-5100.

Student Government Association intent-to-run forms available

LSU Shreveport students interested in running for a position on the Student Government Association are invited to pick up their intent-to-run forms. The forms must be turned in at either the UC Office or the SGA Office by 12 p.m. March 28.

Students interested can find out more information about requirements and deadlines by contacting current SGA President Casey Thomas at sga@lsus.edu.



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LSUS debate team captain ranks top in nation

Jennifer Middleton
STAFF WRITER

Debate team President Chelsea Anthony is a leader of doing, according to her coach, Professor Trey Gibson. A psychology major at LSU Shreveport, Anthony first became interested in debate when she was in high school.

“I decided that I wanted to go to law school,” she said, “and I thought having debate experience would help me get there.”

That experience is certainly opening a lot of doors for her now. Anthony took a very impressive second place in the National Tournament Championships her freshman year in college. Now a senior, Anthony ranks number one in the nation in the varsity division of the International Public Debate Association.

Anthony has already won two tournaments this year, one of which was the Mississippi College Tourna-

ment which, according to Gibson, “gives her a significant lead in the current IPDA national standings.”

“She’s done a good job leading the team this year,” he said. But he adds that even the best members of the debate team know where their victories come from. “They will be the first to tell you that they couldn’t do it without their team members. Even though these are individual rankings, it’s very much a team sport.”

The idea of teamwork is a sentiment Anthony wholeheartedly agrees with.

“We’re a very diverse group and we work so well together,” she said. “Even though we debate individually, any win is really a team effort.”

When asked who she attributes her success and skill level to, Anthony credited both her coach and the rest of the team.

“Trey Gibson has tons of debate experience and has done everything he can to make me a great debater, but more importantly, he’s taught me how to be the

best person and leader I can be. Also, I learn so much from watching my teammates and from their critiques when they watch me.”

So how does it feel to be ranked first in the nation?

“We compete against so many skilled debaters from great programs,” Anthony said, “and being ranked among them at all is such an honor. To actually be ranked first feels incredible, and I’m so thankful to my team for helping me get there.”

For Anthony, her success is a result of the combined efforts of the entire team.

“People don’t realize that individual debate is a huge team effort,” she said. “We help each other prepare cases, we practice against each other all the time, and we support each other no matter what. I definitely couldn’t have done this without them.”

“Chelsea is certainly indicative of what LSUS students can do,” Gibson stated. “I’m very proud of her.”

LSUS goes into overtime with basketball after-party

Julie Thomas
STAFF WRITER

In a time of monetary struggle for LSU Shreveport, the women’s and men’s basketball teams have no shortage of school support as the teams were the subjects of celebration and school spirit for the annual Overtime After Party held Jan. 24.

The men and women’s basketball teams played against St. Thomas University last Thursday night ending in victory for each team. Both teams currently hold a winning record with over half the season completed.

“Our basketball teams have been doing amazing this year, and we wanted to show our appreciation for their hard work, said Student Activity Board President Symphony Davis, sophomore, education.

This was the second basketball Overtime After Party thrown, entertaining between 100 and 150 LSUS

students at both celebrations.

The Overtime After Party was held in the UC Port. The event began at 8:45 p.m. immediately after the men’s basketball game. Just as the pizza and DJ finished setting up, students began to arrive, cheering and celebrating the win over St. Thomas.

The Port was filled with students congregating in groups, eating pizza, dancing, and trying to discuss the night’s win over the music playing in the background. Foreign language professor Cecilia Smith playfully joined in with a group of students dancing to a hip hop song played by the DJ.

Across the Port, a small dance circle formed in a group of Kappa Sigma fraternity members. Cheers and laughs emerged as the dancers began and a roar of applause concluded the men’s performance.

“I [started] dancing because I was trying to get everyone going; trying to get this party started,” said

one of the Kappa Sigma dancers, Ian Brown, freshman, business. “I come to these games because of the school spirit and to show that LSUS students actually care about the school.”

Although LSUS may be in an economic struggle, school sprit has not weakened in the past months. Students continue to display school spirit for their teams and organizations.

“The games are fun to attend because I know most of the players and also because most of the sororities and fraternities show up,” said Alpha Kappa Alpha member LaTonya Washington, senior, community health.

The event was sponsored and hosted by the Student Activity Board and funded by student activity fees.

For more information regarding the men and women’s basketball schedule for the rest of the season, visit the LSUS student website.

Recreational sports hosts ping-pong tournament



Tunde Abubakar, junior, biology, above, took first place in the ping-pong tournament, earning him a \$25 Walmart gift card. Holdon Shankle, freshman, biochemistry, right, continued playing other participants for laughs, even after they had been eliminated.

Students were invited to participate in a ping-pong tournament, held in the University Center game room Wednesday during Common Hour. The tournament began with elimination rounds in which the first participant to reach fifteen won and moved on to the next round.

Eventually, the field was narrowed to four semi-finalists: Russell Antee, freshman, fine arts; Kris Omberg, sophomore, criminal justice; Tunde Abubakar, junior, biology; James Cummings, sophomore, musical theory.

Of the four, Cummings and Abubakar advanced to the final round with Abubakar claiming first prize - a \$25 Walmart gift card - by a margin of 21-12.

“It was a lot of fun until I got stomped,” Omberg said. “It was a good game.”

Photos by Jenna Glorioso



PERDUE cont. _____
due said.

“She’s been wonderful. She hit the ground running here,” said Brooke Rinaudo, LSUS director of media and public relations,

Rinaudo also noted that Perdue has done a lot of work trying to procure scholarships thus far.

Perdue has big plans for the foundation.

“I think we’re right now in the stages of creating long term plans involving students, faculty members, and the community,” Perdue said. “We want to educate the community about how LSUS is a great institution that is very affordable and it’s in our own backyard.”

The LSUS Foundation is a nonprofit organization, separate from LSUS. Its mission is to seek and maintain private support for LSUS, oversee investments and other assets for LSUS’s benefit.



GOT SOMETHING THE STUDENT BODY NEEDS TO HEAR ABOUT? GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT BY EMAILING US AT ALMAGEST@LSUS.EDU

Pilots and Lady Pilots dominate St. Thomas Celts

Morgan Marshall
STAFF WRITER

It's that time of year again! LSU Shreveport Pilots Basketball has finally returned.

On Thursday, the men and women's teams played against the Saint Thomas Celts.

"The game was on the edge on some points," said Craig Cochran, senior, kinesiology. "I think it was a pretty competitive game. I would have to say my favorite part of the game was when number ten was hitting all the three pointers."

The Pilots teams now consists of 13 players on the men's team and 11 on the women's.

The record for both teams this season stands at 14-4 for men's and 16-3 for the women's. Both teams have 29 scheduled games for this season, with their victory over the Saint Thomas Saints being game 18.

"I loved how they came back," said Morgan Young, freshman, biological science. "They were never really down too far, but we have a team of good players

and I love how they can just come right back."

The men's next game will be against Paul Quinn at 4 p.m. on Feb. 2, here at home. The women's will be on the road in Marshall, Texas against Wiley College at 2 p.m. on Feb. 2, as well.

Chris Demirdjian, junior, kinesiology, is excited about cheering on the Pilots in upcoming games.

"I really enjoy going to the games," Demirdjian said. "LSUS always puts on a great show every game."

The turnout for these games often results in scarce seating.

"Game-in and game-out, LSUS has a high powered offense and a great coach," Demirdjian said. "Who wouldn't want to go to these games? This is the place to be if you're a student here at LSUS. If not come on out, too."

Admission to home games is free to any student with a valid LSUS student ID as well as children six and under. For the general public and LSUS faculty and staff, admission is \$5. There are also season passes available for purchase by contacting the Athletic Secretary by email at sharon.bloxom@lsus.edu.



Photos by Morgan Marshall

Forward Victoria Smith, junior, above, puts up another two points for the Lady Pilots. Left, the Lady Pilots huddle to determine strategy.



Rydell Harris,senior, shoots a free throw while his teammates and opponents look on. The Thursday night game looked a little bleak for the Pilots until they rallied and managed to turn their luck around.