



Dr. David Gustavson offers the latest insight into the chancellor search.  
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LSUS battles budgetary woes  
Christopher Talerico  
STAFF WRITER

Since the financial collapse of 2008, LSU Shreveport has contended with an issue most state-funded universities have grappled with: budget cuts.

Going from a budget that was seventy percent state-funded to a budget less than thirty percent state-funded has put LSUS in a tight corner, but faculty and staff associated with LSUS have countered by simultaneously getting leaner and more robust.

“When you go from having 70% of your overall budget coming from the state and that gets reduced to having 30% or less of your overall budget coming from the state... we’ve had to raise tuition and fees each year since 2008...but we don’t want to lose that reputation for being affordable,” said Dr. Paul Sisson, interim chancellor.

This reduction of state funding has forced LSUS to make some tough decisions and more acutely focus priorities.

“Educating students is the number one goal we have. The steps taken have been to identify a greater interest and need for students,” said Dr. John Vassar, interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. “The student’s voice has become more important than ever before. There’s a real positive element to that because, from the student’s perspective, it’s made the institution more responsive to

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Dr. William Yu, assistant professor of chemistry

Photo by Corey Drummond

Chemistry gets a new scope on life

Corey Drummond  
STAFF WRITER

A brand-new electron microscope is on its way to the chemistry department at LSU Shreveport. Thanks to a sizeable grant, the department will soon have its hands on very high-quality hardware.

The National Science Foundation awarded the chemistry department an equipment grant of \$197,800. The science department wrote and proposed the grant to the

NSF in hopes they could get a boost in funding. Once approved, every bit of this grant was put toward the acquisition of a new transmission electron microscope to be used by students and staff.

“NSF is a federal agency that funds all kinds of research projects, but they also have projects that are geared to undergraduate institutions. They were not interested in the specific research that was going to be done, but the grant proposal included a number of different faculty members and their research

interests,” said Dr. Cran Lucas, professor of biological science.

Dr. William Yu, assistant professor of chemistry, led the movement to buy this device to help the department remain updated and relevant. When the department was awarded the grant, he decided to use the opportunity to do something that they could not have done without it.

“We chose this model and try to keep the maintenance low. Also, this model could be easier for students to do experiments and

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Collaborative degrees promise growth at LSUS



Dr. Gary Boucher, petroleum engineering degree advisor

Photo by Frank Johnson

Frank Johnson  
STAFF WRITER

LSU and LSU Shreveport have joined forces and faculty to offer students in North-west Louisiana a larger variety of degrees.

The five degrees offered are petroleum engineering, construction management, human resources education, sports administration, and international studies. The petroleum engineering course began last fall, while the other four are just beginning.

These degrees will be awarded from LSU in Baton Rouge. The heads of these departments range in location from Shreveport to Baton Rouge.

The dedication and implementation of these programs came from some top-level administrators. Dr. Paul Sisson, interim chancellor of LSUS, and some colleagues at the LSU campus brainstormed and started the process of this collaboration.

What do these programs mean for the area?

“It’s unique, it’s a real benefit to our region, it provides more opportunities right here, so people don’t have to go somewhere else,” Sisson said.

The need for more specialized skills in the gas industry caused the petroleum engineering degree to emerge as the most popular among the five collaborated programs currently being offered.

“Petroleum engineering is about a third of our majors in this department,” said Dr. Gary Boucher, professor in the chemistry and physics department and petroleum engineering degree advisor.

Unfortunately, this program does require the students to spend their last three semesters in Baton Rouge where they have an on-site drilling rig.

“It is very, very popular. Most of the

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# Committee posts ad for new chancellor

**Christopher Talerico**  
STAFF WRITER

The search for LSU Shreveport's permanent chancellor officially began Sept. 13 with the posting of the chancellor position in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. Applications will be taken until Oct. 22. The ad lists the position as full-time, executive-level employment that will oversee both LSUS and the LSU Health and Sciences Center.

- Sought-after qualities of the new chancellor, as published in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, include:
- \* Possesses unquestioned integrity;
  - \* Will develop a vision for the University that facilitates growth, capitalizing on its campus and community assets;
  - \* Can effectively and strategically manage

- finances and affect decisions, however difficult;
- \* Provides leadership to address recruitment and retention issues, including the development of baccalaureate completion programs;
- \* Will be a dynamic and articulate spokesman for the University in the community, region, and state, and before governmental bodies;
- \* Welcomes actively engaging with the Shreveport civic, business, and educational communities in order to strengthen relationships and expand educational opportunities;
- \* Has the capacity and determination to tackle bureaucratic barriers in order to nurture the contributions of a talented and creative faculty and staff;
- \* Will work in an effective and collaborative manner with LSU leaders to maximize LSUS's engagement with and benefit from the Board of Su-

- pervisors' "LSU Shreveport Commitment Plan" and the "LSU 2015" initiative; and
  - \* Has the interpersonal skills and enthusiasm to work with a diverse and dedicated campus community to engender greater cohesion and momentum
- Chair of the LSUS Chancellor Search Committee Dr. Dave Gustavson hopes to conclude reviewing the applications "between November and February" at which point the short-list of candidates will be sent to Baton Rouge for final selection.
- "We're shooting for someone we can name as chancellor somewhere around March or April and having that person take office either at the beginning of the summer or the fall in 2014," Gustavson said.

## SCOPE cont.

labs," Yu said.

Yu intends to use the new microscope for close measurements and lectures for various science labs. Students will be able to access it for experiments and lab-work. The microscope will not be exclusive to the chemistry department. The plan is to make it available to as many people as possible.

While it most definitely will be used for research and teaching at LSUS, Yu also hopes that the microscope will bring outside attention. Much like the Museum of Life Sciences lends out its library of specimens to outside researchers, the hope is that businesses and other schools will be interested in using the new equipment. Through this, LSUS will be able to expand its connections to the many local and regional groups.

"It will be used mostly for research and teaching, and hopefully local businesses find out we have a TEM here. Having it could improve our reputation," Yu said.

A transmission electron microscope is a very powerful and important asset for the science department. Yu said he expects the microscope to attract a number of good candidates to work together, to enhance the teaching and research of the science department, and to increase the recruitment of science and technology students.

While the order has been placed for the electron microscope, there will be a waiting period as the manufacturer assembles and prepares it for delivery. Yu said he hopes for the microscope to arrive by the first quarter of 2014.

## DEGREE cont.

petroleum classes are currently being offered at night, but that's okay because most of the students know each other," Boucher said.

Even people without any skills can get involved. As of right now, with its class-time schedules, it's also functional to the working person as well.

"We want to get the student as a freshman, and we want them to come into the program from the beginning," Dr. Boucher said.

It is important for the student researching these collaboration courses to pay special attention to grade point averages and all other necessary requirements of the University in Baton Rouge, they may not be the same as LSUS.

Some classes are online and administered by LSU, and some are taught by LSUS faculty on campus.

The overall success of these programs has been promising and there is intention on getting more.

"We began with five, but we all along thought, if this works out well, which we thought it would, we're going to expand it," Sisson said.

There are currently 75 students enrolled in the collaboration programs between the two universities.

## BUDGET cont.

the student's desires."

One identified area of interest to students involves schedule flexibility, but it is an issue that is pulled and tugged at from opposing influences.

"We have fewer faculty on campus now. There are fewer options for class times because you have fewer faculty to teach them with less flexibility in scheduling for the same reason," Vassar said.

Faculty and staff have decreased by about twenty five percent following the economic collapse of 2008, but schedule flexibility lost due to a reduction of faculty has been supplemented by a growth of online courses and the introduction of eight-week "term" courses this semester.

"About 10% of our classes this fall are in one or the other of the eight-week terms," Sisson said.

Moreover, Sisson cites two specific occurrences where the condensed eight week term courses provided the scheduling flexibility necessary for two students currently enrolled.

One student required surgery that left her unable to attend the first eight weeks, but was able to shift her courses to the second fall term. Had she not been able to take courses in the second half of the fall semes-

ter, she would have lost her financial aid.

Another student was eyeing the spring 2014 semester as her graduation date, but found the classes offered over the sixteen-week semester scheduling insufficient to graduate on time. However, with the addition of the term courses, she will now be able to graduate after the spring 2014 semester as planned.

The LSUS Foundation has also stepped up to help fill the vacancy of cut state funds.

"Our first area of business right now are to get those current funds that we can use for our immediate needs. The days of the state being your largest funder are gone," said Laura Perdue, executive director of the LSUS Foundation. "Suddenly the responsibility for higher education funding is coming back to the community. Our fund-raising in the community is based on need. That's why the community wants to support us, because they see the need."

With a sharper focus on the future, the faculty, staff, and subsidiary organizations of LSUS are not daunted.

"We see our destiny as the public senior university in this region. Graduate programs are important and they are growing," Sisson said.



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# Meeks explores millennials role in the workplace

Jennifer Middleton  
STAFF WRITER

The Millennial generation has the power to save the future. At least this is what Michael Meeks, LSU Shreveport's assistant professor of management, believes. He expressed why during a student workshop last Wednesday.

Understanding Millennials was held in the University Center theatre, and put on by the LSUS Marketing Club. The primary focus of the event was the role of Millennials in the workplace. By definition, anyone born between 1980 and 2000 is considered a Millennial. This generation is now between the ages of 13 and 33, which means they dominate college campuses and, more recently, the work force. Meeks highlighted the differences and potential conflict between the current generation and the baby boomers.

Meeks is experienced in researching areas of generational differences.

"I talked to several students and got some of their

feedback. I talked to several of the professors, and [I'm] getting exactly the same thing that I see everywhere I do this, and I do this around the world," he said. "The Millennials think the Boomers are the problem, and the Boomers think the Millennials are the problem. Although we have four generations in the workplace, those are the two that seem to be at each others' throats so much."

The four generations, Meeks explained, are the veteran generation—those aged 73 to 93—the baby boomers, Generation X, and the Millennials.

"The Boomers were raised a certain way, a very hard way," Meeks said. "And the Millennials were raised a very soft way. And we would expect different outcomes. The challenge is, the Boomers don't think about it, they don't think about the changes, and as a result, the behavior irritates them."

Meeks explained that the Boomers had a completely different mindset when they first entered the workforce.

"When they had some of their first jobs, they had such

high regard and respect and even fear of their supervisors," he said. "They would never think of interrupting them or bothering them. Whereas the Millennials have been raised to be involved. So a big complaint we get from supervisors and managers is, 'These new Millennials are in my office constantly, like a revolving door, all day long.' It's just a different way they were raised."

But Meeks is convinced that the Millennials have the right idea when it comes to their approach to life and the workplace.

"The world is changing," he said, "and it's changing more rapidly than we can really comprehend. The Millennials have the ability like no other generation to adapt. They are fabulous multi-taskers, and they have a broad base of knowledge. And so it might be that just because they don't fit the mold of Baby Boomers, they might be the ones that are going to save the future."

# Students jumpstart future with Sci-net research projects

Ebonie Nelson  
STAFF WRITER

Whether you are a science major, math major, in the medical field, or just a research buff, LSU Shreveport offers a research program that can help jumpstart your career.

The biological sciences department has been working non-stop researching topics that can be beneficial one day.

A majority of the faculty have at least two projects going on at the same time. Associate professor Kui Chen, in particular, is the faculty director of two research projects. The basis of his program is Nanosensors for Reactive Oxygen Species. His team will use tools in analytical chemistry to combine the advancement of nano materials and look for interesting applications with biomedical or medicine applications.

Project one is called "Optimization of Gold Nanoshell-Mediated Photothermolysis of Lymphatic Endo-

thelial Cells." The base of this project is to use nano particles heated by shining light energy to kill cancer cells.

Project two is called "Plasmon-Enhanced Fluorescent Nonosensors for Studying ROS and Oxidative Stress." This project used nano sensors to detect a group of compounds called reactive oxygen species. This group of compounds plays an important role in diseases including cancer, inflammation, and cardio-vascular diseases.

"Since the start of the research program, it has and will continue to benefit LSU Shreveport in several different ways," Chen said.

These projects give valuable hands on experience to medical students, potential graduate students, and students who are looking for industrial positions after college. Especially going into a company at an entry-level position, having research experience looks great on a resume.

In addition, conducting research can bring in external financial support like grants, which can help purchase equip-

ment mainly for the science labs and senior level courses. Chen teaches an instrumental analysis course that explains the use of instruments used in the labs and research.

"As a result of having this equipment our science department is probably one of the best equipped in northwest Louisiana if not the whole state," Chen said.

Chen said he feels that having this research program will help LSUS as a whole. It gives a research atmosphere to the learning environment. It will make the university more attractive to incoming and transfer students who are looking to research. As a small university, it provides the opportunity for individual research with a mentor.

LSUS student Kimera Williams will be presenting this November at the 2013 Southeast Regional IDEa Meeting in Little Rock, AR.

"I like the hands-on experience that I'm getting, while being a part of this program," Kimera Williams, senior, biochemistry. "I know that it will help me out in the long run."

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# English professor Terry Harris runs through life

*The Almagest invites you to get to know your professors through weekly professor profiles.*

**Krista Wilson**  
STAFF WRITER

When sitting in a class, a student may guess a few of their professor hobbies. However, it may come as a surprise to most students to discover one of their professors has participated in 20 Boston marathons.

Dr. Terry Harris, chair of the English department, said that he began running after earning his Ph.D. because he needed some physical activity. Harris’s friend from graduate school was the one who convinced him to try running, and later persuaded Harris to participate in a marathon. The idea of running a marathon intrigued Harris.

“I ran one and did very well for my first time and my reaction was-I can do better than that; I can get a faster time,” Harris said. “I went back and ran the same marathon the second year and that’s when I qualified for the Boston Marathon.”

When Harris qualified the first time for the Boston marathon he said he would participate because he may not have another opportunity. He was also able to participate in the 100th anniversary of the Boston marathon in 1996.

“It’s a special marathon and there is an attractiveness to running the Boston marathon,” Harris said. “I just have great experience running in Boston and have enjoyed it. I kept re-qualifying so I just kept going back.”

Harris said he has had great experiences with lots of marathons and he is extremely proud of the fact that he has been in twenty Boston marathons, but he has nothing else to prove, for now. While it has been two years since Harris participated in a Boston marathon he still enjoys running five to six times a week. Harris said he enjoyed running because it is something he could do without any questions.

“It’s interesting how active he [Harris] is with athletics because most people in the English department aren’t active at all,” said Thomas Dubose, associate professor of English.

Harris has been with LSU Shreveport for 25 years. Even with his busy schedule Harris finds the time to teach and interacts with his students.

“I get a big kick out of helping students discover something new, I think that’s the most rewarding,” Harris said. “I like sharing what I’ve found with others, so the best part of teaching is being able to share what I have with others and to see them appreciate it and respond positively.”

Harris will meet with his students after class and hopes students will take what they learn in his classes and use it in their lives.

“He’s [Harris] interesting and he keeps you involved with the topic,” said Jarred Sepulvado, freshman, biology. “He explains things thoroughly so you can understand them.”

Dubose said he enjoys that Harris is so accessible and



Photo courtesy of Terry Harris

Dr. Terry Harris has participated in 20 Boston marathons.

easy to talk with. DuBose said he enjoys Harris as the chair of the English department because he will allow the professors to teach and he does not micro-manage their curriculum.

When Harris is not running or doing things for the

English department he can be found enjoying classic movies, music, and art. He also enjoys supporting college sports, everything from football, to cross-country, to women’s soccer, and just about any other sport that colleges represent.

# Fine arts department represents at Digifest South

*Don’t know what to do with your degree after college? This weekly series is dedicated to helping you find out.*

**Iris MacLean**  
STAFF WRITER

LSU Shreveport promoted the department of arts and media at Digifest South with a display booth garnished with handouts and professors ready to sell the school to elementary and high school students.

Digifest South was held over the weekend at the Bossier Civic Center. The digital art and media exposition hosted area elementary, middle, and high school students Friday to spark their interest in all things digital. LSUS was among other local schools and businesses such as Louisiana Tech, Sci-Port, and Moonbot Studios.

Jason Mackowiak, professor of arts and media, said their main goals were to educate students about what the department has to offer and excite them about all the choices that are found at LSUS. Print, web, illustration, digital, and multimedia are all paths students can choose with a degree in fine arts.

“The department of arts and media is here today to promote what we have to offer to area high school students, to get them interested in the fact that people may tell them you can’t do anything with art and it’s just not true,” Mackowiak said. “With digital art we can teach anybody to create things.”

A student lab is provided for students who do not have their own computer and don’t finish their work in class. The lab stays open until 8:00 p.m. every night and is free.

“What we provide that’s unique are multiple teaching labs that are full of twenty-seven inch iMac’s with all the software they need for things like illustration, Photoshop, and web design,” said Mackowiak. “And the way we teach the



Photo by Iris MacLean

Jason Mackowiak, professor of arts and media, and Allen Garcie, assistant professor of fine arts, show off what LSUS has to offer to high school students at Digifest South.

courses as they get further along in the curriculum is beneficial because they start taking courses within the specific programs, such as specifically Photoshop.”

Mackowiak described a fine arts degree as good for people who have a thirst for moving around and creating art. This degree opens students up to a world of jobs all over the country and world. It’s not going to provide most

people with the traditional view of a job to start at and then retire from thirty years later. Instead, it gives people the opportunity to constantly seek new outlets and move to places where art is thriving.

“I love painting, drawing, and any type of creating really, and I want to eventually teach, so fine arts is perfect for me,” said M.E. Briethaupt, freshman, fine arts.