

The Almagest

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"YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD TO SET ANOTHER GOAL OR TO DREAM A NEW DREAM ." - C.S. Lewis

Debate team take second place

Corey Drummond
STAFF WRITER

The LSU Shreveport debate team competed in the International Public Debate Association National Championships, held by Middle Tennessee State University, on April 9-13. After two previous wins at the tournament in a row, the debate team secured second place.

Over the past 11 years, the LSUS debate team won the IPDA tournament four times. After winning in 2012 and 2013, Trey Gibson, director of debate, and the team felt confident about their chances this year.

"We have consistently placed in the top of the national standings over the years. In fact, prior to this year, we were the top team for the last five years in a row," Gibson said. "We got solidly knocked out of that position by Union University, who's generally our number one competition."

In the first day of the two-on-two round, LSUS passed into fourth place, trailing behind the United States Military Academy at West Point by 22 points. For his performance in the team division, LSUS senior debate team member Chaz Coleman was awarded an IPDA National Championship Speaker title.

Following the disappointing first day, the team needed at least 11 wins to catch up with the top debating schools. Gibson sat down with the LSUS team to go over strategies

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Photo by Emily Wright

Hannah Sprawls, Modesté Golston, Amanda Deason, and Erin Bannon performing "Wright and Wrong" in the Black Box Theatre.

LSUS Drama Club breaks a leg

Emily Wright
STAFF WRITER

The Drama Club at LSU Shreveport performed three one-act comedies with varying casts on April 24 through April 27 in the Black Box Theatre in Bronson Hall.

The night of comedies entitled *You Can't Always Get What You Want* started at 8 o'clock on April 24 and featured seven cast members. The theatre patrons paid a five dollar fee for the show and received a pink Black Box Theatre ticket, a program with the actors', directors', and playwrights' biographies, and a

seat in the theatre. The three comedies were 10 minutes each.

The Black Box is a small, stark black room and seats up to 40 occupants, however, the settings for the three plays differed according to their locations and included set pieces such as tables, chairs, and a couch that were brought onstage or taken offstage before the next play began.

Laughter and chuckles from the audience soon filled the theatre as the performance opened with Leigh McLendon and Betty Matson portraying a husband and wife that argue over the television remote in *Dances with*

Football by Prince Duren. This play was also performed by Jordan Gaudet and Erin Bannon on varying nights.

Music played over the sound system as the actors came onstage and changed the set for the next performance.

The second play, *Wright and Wrong* by Phoebe Torres, featured Modesté Golston, Hannah Sprawls, Erin Bannon, and Amanda Deason in a family crisis that revolves around revenge.

The third and final play performed was *Sure Thing* by David Ives, which featured Shadi Darzeidan and Modesté Golston as two

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LSUS campus prepares to go tobacco free



Photo by Iris MacLean

Krystle Robles, senior, history, is a non-smoker who disagrees with the new policy.

Iris MacLean
STAFF WRITER

LSU Shreveport is joining many other college campuses nationwide with a tobacco-free policy to be implemented Aug. 1.

Signs alluding to the new policy are posted all around campus giving students a warning of what's to come. The new policy has everyone talking.

"I smoke. I do not think the rule should be implemented, maybe revised, such as a single designated smoking area," said Bee Phillips, junior, psychology. "Being a student is stressful and those of us that rely on smoking as a way of coping and socializing would be made to feel like our habit makes us undesirable to the campus and it's affiliates. No student wants to feel like they're not welcome at their own school."

Non-smoker Krystle Robles, senior, history, agrees with Phillips.

"I honestly find it dumb," Robles said. "I've never had a problem with any smokers on campus, so I don't understand why they are being punished. When they enacted the rule about staying twenty-five feet away from the door I thought that was the perfect compromise."

According to the LSUS Simple Tobacco Policy document, the policy is being implemented because the university "supports an environment where its students, employees, and visitors are not exposed to health risks." LSUS also feels that due to it being a major public university in Northwest Louisiana that educates hundreds of health-professions graduates, it's the school's responsibility to set an example and provide a healthy and safe environment.

See SMOKE, pg. 2



Editorial Policy

The information presented in this publication by no means reflects the opinions of the administration or staff of LSUS. *The Almagest* seeks to provide information for the LSUS campus and community; to involve students, faculty and staff; and to provide a public forum for ideas as guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution. Comments and complaints are welcome and should be addressed to the editor. They must be accompanied by your full name and e-mail address.

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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.

Retractions

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, a retraction is a public statement, either in print, or by verbal statement that is made to correct a previously made statement that was incorrect, invalid, or in error. The intent of a public retraction is to correct any incorrect information. *The Almagest* holds all rights if deemed necessary to retract such statements made, and shall, at will. Retraction notices should be made by e-mail or phone.



Editor bids a fond farewell to *Almagest*



Crystal Vandegriff

From the Editor's Desk

Graduation is finally upon us and for me personally. After May 18, I will officially no longer be an LSU Shreveport student. It is a weird, exciting, and terrifying feeling.

Logically, I know what comes next—get-

ting a job, beginning a career—but it still feels like stepping out completely into the unknown.

Don't get me wrong, I feel well prepared by my time here at LSUS.

It's more a fear that I'm completely losing the system that I've been a cog in since I was five years old. I always thought I was pretty smart and good at things based on my ability to test well. Now I'm not sure how that will translate into the so-called "real world."

Overall, I think the most valuable things that LSUS taught me were not in the books. Most of those things I already knew, or could find with a quick Google search.

It was the professors I learned from—the most important resource LSUS has. Dr. Vassar

and Ms. Smith taught me how to challenge my worldview in philosophy and freshman seminar, respectively. Dr. Webster and Ms. Lillian taught me how to work in a professional setting here at the *Almagest*, a skill that translated well to my internship.

This is my last issue at the *Almagest*, but I am confident that I am leaving it in capable hands. Hannah Sprawls will fill the executive editor position, Corey Drummond will be the managing print editor, and Chris Talerico will be the multimedia editor.

College may not be the best years of my life overall, but my years here at LSUS will certainly have been the most important when I look back in 20 years.

DEBATE cont.

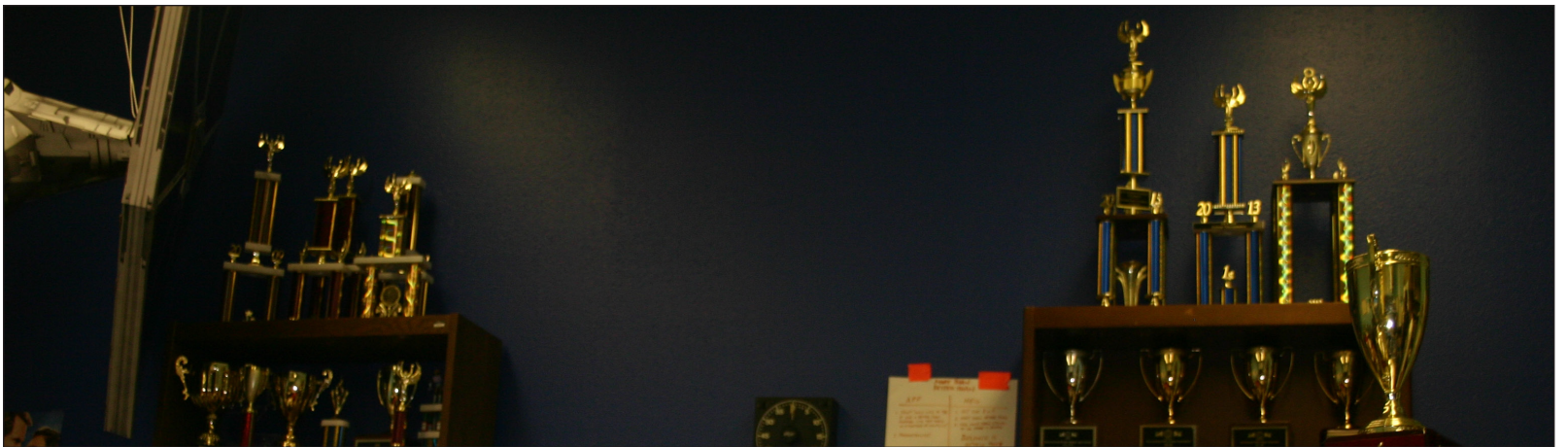


Photo by Corey Drummond

Trophies from the debate team's prior wins.

for the one-on-one rounds and formulate a game plan.

When the next rounds started, the LSUS team blew past West Point and Boise. They dominated over the next few days and made up their slow start with a series of excellent individual matches. Unfortunately, the University of Tennessee at Knoxville stepped up their game as well and claimed the first place spot by two points.

"Our team knew where we stood. We knew how close it was, but that is what our team does. Ethics above all," Gibson said.

The team felt it had the necessary preparation to handle the tournament and did not contribute second place to any specific reason.

"Even when we were champions, there was always room for improvement. This was just, to me, a series of unfortunate events," said Julie Thomas, senior, public relations. "The fact that it came down to that very last round meant we weren't an easy takeout. A person had to make it to finals to take us out and only by two points, so I'm not upset with our performance."

Before the trip to the tournament, the de-

bate team had some financial woes, but were saved by the LSU system.

"The LSU Board of Supervisors were critical in getting us to the national tournament. We were out of money and they came in with a nice, big check that helped fund a good portion of us getting there," Gibson said. "LSU Shreveport, Baton Rouge, and Alexandria really stepped up and showed how much a part of the system we were and we deeply appreciate their help."

SMOKE cont.

The policy prohibits the use of any tobacco product including smoking cigarettes, oral products, and vapor-emitting products. The use of tobacco products is prohibited on all LSUS property and in LSUS vehicles. The policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, contractors, and visitors.

The policy also prohibits all tobacco industry promotions, advertising, marketing, distribution, and programs or events on university property. This includes items like t-shirts or backpacks with a tobacco company logo. Clubs and organizations are also prohibited from accepting money or gifts from tobacco companies.

Once the policy is in effect the Office of Student Affairs will address students who do not comply. The appropriate supervisors will address staff, and their program/department heads will address faculty violations.

The first violation will result in a verbal/written warning. The second offense will lead to a more formal reprimand, and the third will result in referral to the Employee Assistance Program for counseling services.

Visitors who violate the policy will be asked to comply by the offices responsible

for the event in which they are attending. Those who do not comply will be asked to leave the campus. Visitors who continuously violate the policy will be banned from campus.

According to the Rationale and Implementation Plan for LSUS Tobacco, the university intends to provide plenty of awareness and education for the new policy. Signs will be posted around the campus with the words, "No Smoking" or "LSUS is a Tobacco-Free Campus" along with the international symbol for "No Smoking."

LSUS intends to promote education and awareness by distributing posters and brochures indicating that LSUS is tobacco free, notifying all current and prospective students of the policy, notifying all staff and faculty, and training all supervisors on their responsibilities in governing the policy. The university will also create a tobacco policy awareness statement to be signed by all current and new employees. The rationale document also states that the Student Development Center will provide assistance to students wishing to stop using tobacco.

DRAMA cont.

people that meet in a café and experience the ups and downs of dating and relationships. This play was also performed by Patrick Laurent and Hannah Sprawls on varying nights.

When the performance was finished, all of the actors took turns bowing center stage as they received applause from the audience. The cast then stepped outside of the Black Box as the theatre patrons were making their way out to shake the actors' hands and speak to them about their performances and to ask questions about their characters or the plays performed.

Robert Alford II, associate professor of speech, served as the director and set designer. Mary Jarzabek, director of electronic media journalism, served as the technical director, light and costume designer, and set designer.



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



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