

The Almagest

a publication of LSU Shreveport

Volume LXI, Issue 1

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2012

www.thealmagest.com

“ONLY THE EDUCATED ARE FREE.” - Epictetus

New Degree Programs Come to LSUS Campus

Rebecca Randklev
STAFF WRITER

LSU Shreveport welcomes two new degree programs this semester to better serve students and the Shreveport-Bossier community as a part of the LSUS Commitment Plan.

The Commitment Plan, as issued in the spring, includes the addition of new academic programs, increasing enrollment and improving student outcomes through a consortium arrangement amongst other universities. The Commitment Plan is publicly available on the LSUS website.

LSU Baton Rouge has partnered with LSUS to bring a Bachelor of Science in Petroleum Engineering and a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management this semester.

Dr. Paul Sisson, LSUS Interim Chancellor, said collaborative degrees from the LSU flagship campus and LSUS have been added as a response to community need.

“Adding new degrees helps us build ourselves into a public comprehensive university that the community needs,” Sisson said. “By partnering with Baton Rouge, we are expanding the geographic area in which these degree programs will be offered.”

Students will be able to take the majority of their coursework in petroleum engineering at the LSUS campus. However, a few of their lab courses will have to be taken at LSU Baton Rouge.

Dr. Gary Boucher said LSUS currently has an oil blow out prevention lab that students must complete to obtain a degree in petroleum engineering.

“The blow out lab is extremely unique to LSU, it is the only lab of its kind in the United States,” Boucher said.

LSUS is diligently working to bring the petroleum related labs to LSUS.

“We basically have three years to put the labs in place, since students will begin their coursework this fall,” Boucher said.

According to the Commitment Plan, “as with all evolving documents, the LSU System rapid

response plan for Shreveport/Bossier will develop over time as local circumstances and regional objectives change.”

“It’s like a rocket leaving the launch pad, but we’re still building it as it’s leaving,” Boucher said.

Students obtaining a degree in petroleum engineering will be receiving a diploma from LSU, not LSUS. According to Boucher, the tentative plan is that in the first half of the program students will register with LSUS as their home institution and LSU as their host institution. The first course being offered is PETE 101 Introduction to Petroleum Engineering this fall. This is two-credit online course.

“

It’s like a rocket leaving the launch pad but we’re still building it as it’s leaving.

- Dr. Gary Boucher

”

Students and faculty are both excited about the new degree program.

“We’re extremely enthusiastic about it,” Boucher said. “The faculty are very welcome to the program, it’s a real rising star.”

According to Boucher, although a complete coursework has been created for the construction management degree there are no course specific classes available this fall.

In addition to the new degrees coming this semester, there will be other new joint programs added in upcoming semesters. These include a Bachelor of Science in Sports Administration, Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Education, Bachelor of Arts in International Studies and a Masters in Public Administration. These programs have been identified to meet industry needs.

LSUS faculty is developing letters of intent and proposals for the university’s first Ph.D. program, a Doctorate of Education in Learning.

LSUS Appoints New Administrators

Crystal Vandegriff
STAFF WRITER

Students returning to LSU Shreveport for the fall semester will notice some familiar faces in new places due to recent administrative staff reassignments.

Perhaps the most notable change is Dr. Paul Sisson stepping in as Interim Chancellor, in wake of Dr. Vincent Marsala’s retirement after 17 years of serving as LSUS’s Chancellor. Two other major changes are Dr. Randy Butterbaugh filling the position of Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Darlenna Atkins filling the position of Interim Registrar.

Sisson is beginning his twentieth year at LSUS, beginning as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics eventually working his way up to serving as Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, positions which he will continue to hold while serving as Interim Chancellor.

“The size and sense of community were really attractive,” Sisson said in regard to what originally drew him to LSUS. “That welcoming atmosphere extends to a general sense that LSUS as a whole—faculty, staff, and students—is a close-knit community. We look out for each other, and the aspect of that that is most im-

portant right now is that faculty and staff alike are all committed to our students and their futures. That’s our mission.”

Sisson also has high hopes for LSUS in the future, as well as a few goals he would like to accomplish while serving as Interim Chancellor.

“I’ve always been immensely proud of everything we do at LSUS,” said Sisson. “We are top quality, and can’t be beat in terms of how we prepare students for the rest of their lives, for the opportunities we provide undergraduates beginning in their very first semester, and for our value. But what we haven’t yet achieved is breadth. There are many degree programs and career paths that we haven’t yet been able to bring to campus, and I want to add them.”

Dr. Randy Butterbaugh has served at LSUS since 2004 as Dean of Students. Butterbaugh graduated with a doctorate in higher education administration from Mississippi State University. Butterbaugh was drawn to LSUS by the potential he says he saw at the school.

“I’m interested in the quality-of-life issues for students,” Butterbaugh said of his goals for his new position. His main goal, though, is to foster a sense of unity among



Butterbaugh

students and faculty at LSUS.

“It is not faculty and staff and students—labels are labels. Promoting a sense of community is very important. Particularly in a community that is somewhat compartmentalized—we have a residential population, as well as designations by college, by academic programs, etc. My aim is to establish a sense of community on campus.”

The LSUS Foundation has had an administrative change of its own: Susie Stinson was recently named as the Foundation’s new Executive Director. Stinson holds a Doctor of Jurisprudence and a Bachelor of Civil Law from LSU Paul M. Hebert Law Center in Baton Rouge, and has served as LSUS Associate Vice Chancellor of University Development since 2006.

Resources for Success Offered at LSUS

Cassie Vandegriff
STAFF WRITER

As classes begin and students are facing the pressures of a new semester, there are a number of helpful facilities and resources available students may not be aware of. Among these are the Health and Physical Education facilities and activities, the Student Development and Counseling Center, and the various labs available around campus.

Students have access to state-of-the-art fitness equipment and many recreational activities in the Health and Physical Education Building. The HPE building offers an indoor pool, a gymnasium, an indoor track and dance studio, as well as a multipurpose exercise and weight room with a treadmill, an elliptical machine, rowing machines, spin bikes, and a variety of weights and weight machines.

LSU Shreveport offers a wide selection of health and recreational classes and events, most of them free and available to all students.

“We try to have a little something for everyone,” Recreational Sports Director Angel Martin said. “From video game tournaments, to casual recreation and more competitive recreation, to health fitness classes...all those things help ultimately benefit the student’s total quality of life and

enhance their college experience which, research shows, does enhance your academic performance as well.”

Another helpful resource available to students is the Student Development and Counseling Center in the Administration building. Students who are new to LSUS may be especially interested in the freshmen mentoring program provided by the Counseling Center.

“First-time freshmen are paired with upperclassmen who follow them through the course of the semester, offering wisdom and resources,” Student Development and Counseling Director Paula Atkins said. “It is designed to assist in their adjustment to the first year of college and has proven to be a successful program.”

The Counseling Center also offers other helpful services, including personal counseling, outreach programming, and coordination of services for students with disabilities.

“All of these services are provided to assist students to minimize difficulties and persist toward their academic goals,” Atkins said. “Students simply need to call and make an appointment to see a counselor.”

For students in need of academic help, LSUS has several labs where students can receive assis-

tance in areas they may be struggling in. The largest of these is the Campus-wide Lab, located in UC109. The Campus-wide Lab is a multipurpose computer lab which offers students Internet access for research, as well as the computer hardware and software needed to complete coursework, including free printing and scanning.

In the University Writing Center, located in BH114, students can get advice on improving their writing from peer counselors. The Writing Center also provides students with a large variety of reference materials, such as handbooks, literary anthologies, and style manuals. Students are encouraged to bring rough drafts of their papers to the Writing Center so that they can receive critiques and individual tutoring.

The Math Help Lab in BH404 provides a helpful environment for students currently enrolled in mathematics courses to complete coursework. Students receive free assistance from peer tutors who work to help students understand course work and develop math skills.

Students may take advantage of many free services and facilities offered by LSUS. This includes state-of-the-art fitness facilities and activities, counseling, and tutoring labs located in each of the main buildings.



Got something the student body needs to know?
Get your message out by e-mailing us at almagest@lsus.edu