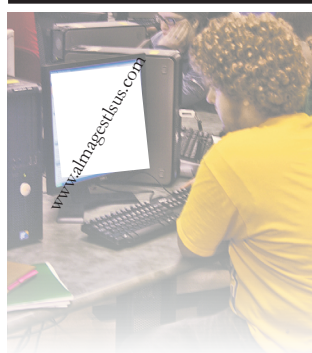


The Almagest

a publication of LSU Shreveport



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Volume LXI, Issue 2

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2012

www.almagestlsus.com

“IF YOU THINK EDUCATION IS EXPENSIVE, TRY IGNORANCE.” - Andy McIntyre

Noel Memorial Library Offers Hidden Gems

Elizabeth Stroud
 STAFF WRITER

Most students who visit the Noel Memorial Library rarely venture up to the third floor. They would be surprised to learn that the third floor holds some of the most interesting and rare books in the entire city of Shreveport. Both the private collection of James Smith Noel and the Archives and Special Collections are located there, and both are full of antique books and documents.

The Archives section alone has nearly 700 collections, and most of them are primary documents. There is nearly 22,873 feet of records and manuscripts that are associated with local history. These include the records of LSUS since its founding.

“One of the Archive’s strengths is the very large collection of architectural drawings by local architects,” said Dr. Laura McLemore, head archivist LSU Shreveport.

These architectural drawings include at least 26 buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. The Archives also has about 800 maps, the earliest one dating back to 1718.

Dr. John Hall, former chair of the social studies department, Malcolm Parker, former library Director, and Hubert Humphreys, former assistant professor of history, created The Archives and Special Collections program at LSUS

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

LSUS Police Keep Campus Safe

Rebecca Randklev
 STAFF WRITER

The LSU Shreveport Police Department strives to provide students and faculty with a safe place to work and learn.

The department maintains a presence on campus 24/7 and provides a variety of services to students, faculty and staff. The University Police Department is comprised of eight officers, who have all previously worked at other law enforcement agencies. About half of the officers have retired from their prior agency, although all are full time employees of the University Police Department.

Rebecca Chiles director of the University Police Department said the department’s main focus is the campus and the University Court Apartments.

“Although anything that occurs on our

campus, we can follow off campus,” Chiles said.

The department is also permitted to act on violations that occur near campus on Youree Drive or Kings Highway.

“If we’re driving down either one of the roads adjacent to campus and we see a violation that could really hurt somebody, like a drunk driver, we take action on those types of situations,” she said. “But, we don’t go looking for stuff in either one of those areas.”

On a typical day the department responds to calls and patrols the campus. During class change times the officers run radar, patrol the crosswalks and keep pedestrians safe. When students and faculty are in class, the University Police patrol the parking lots and buildings.

After classes are over in the evenings, the

primary focus of the department is building security and safety of the residents at the apartment complex.

Although the department is not always responding to calls, one of their main focuses is to maintain a presence on campus.

“Law enforcement is not always actively doing something,” she said. “We’re here and we’re visible and a visible presence of enforcement is the biggest deterrent to criminal activity.”

The most common crime on campus is theft. “Theft is a crime of opportunity,” Chiles said. “Keep up with your possessions, don’t leave it for even a second.”

Domestic abuse at the University Court Apartments is a crime on the rise.

“Over the summer we saw a big increase in domestic abuse,” she said. “I’m in the process of getting together with Providence House to do



Photo by Rebecca Randklev

Officer Glyn Best patrols the campus after hours.

a program for the residents on domestic abuse.”

In addition to keeping the campus secure, officers from the University Police Department do continued training throughout the year. Some of their ongoing training includes safety training on fire and tornado drills, firearms training and classes on domestic abuse.

Cody Lewis, finance, freshman, said he likes having the campus police around to make students aware of campus rules and regulations.

“I actually called them

the other day to see if I could have a pocket knife on campus,” Lewis said.

Lewis said having a University Police Department makes him feel much safer on campus and they are a necessity for any college campus.

“We’re college kids, we’d destroy everything if someone didn’t keep us contained,” he said.

To contact the University Police Department, call (318)-797-5082. To reach them after hours, call (318)-455-5497.

LSU System Committed to Future of LSUS

Natasha Struble
 STAFF WRITER

A new multi-faceted Commitment Plan at LSU Shreveport will bring changes to the campus. The plan involves the LSU system, but the focus is on LSUS.

“It’s really an answer from the LSU system on how the LSU system sees itself as the flagship system for the state and wants to make sure that LSU Shreveport is serving that role in our part of the state,” said Dr. Paul Sisson, provost and vice chancellor at LSUS.

The plan was brought about due to budget cuts and discussions last spring regarding

the merger with Louisiana Tech. With the plan, talk of a merger has died down.

The Commitment Plan will bring about multiple changes. One of the biggest effects for students will be the creation of new degree programs. Two new programs have been implemented this fall and two more are planned for next semester and an additional two more in a year.

“It’s a way to bring brand new program offerings here to this campus in a much faster more efficient way than the usual way,” Sisson said.

The plan will allow students who enroll in the new programs to graduate with a degree from LSU A&M campus without having to

physically relocate there.

For some degrees, such as the new petroleum engineering degree adjunct staff may be brought in for specialized courses.

The plan was devised by several people throughout the system. Sisson and professors and deans from the LSUS campus worked on it as well as the dean of engineering of LSU Baton Rouge designed the Commitment Plan.

Other non-academic aspects were put into action over the summer. These included marketing and expanding the dual enrollment program, a program which allows high school students to begin earning college credits before graduation.

“Definitely stay tuned because it’s a big

See COMMITMENT, pg. 3



The LSUS Women’s Soccer team took home the Mayor’s Cup last Monday. The team defeated Centenary in “The Swamp” for the second annual “Mayor’s Cup” game.

Photos by Joanna Kresge



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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.



LSUS Allows for More Flexible Scheduling Options Through Online Courses

Cassie Vandegriff
STAFF WRITER

Online courses can be perfect for students whose busy schedules don't allow for a firm classroom routine, as well as for students who simply prefer an alternative to face-to-face classes. To help students make the most of classes with an online component, LSU Shreveport uses MOODLE.

MOODLE is a learning management system that offers a number of features designed to optimize online learning. The system's organization makes it easy for students to keep track of assignments and resources for each class. Forums and messaging allow students to communicate with the instructor as well as with each other, simulating a face-to-face classroom.

Unlike many similar software packages, MOODLE is open-source, meaning everything is

free or available at a small development cost.

"LSUS chose MOODLE as our LMS as a cost-savings measure," said IT services assistant director Scott Hardwick. "Many years ago, LSUS utilized the Blackboard LMS; however, the costs of that product increased every year, quickly making it unattractive for most schools. LSUS, along with the great majority of our fellow universities in Louisiana, moved to the MOODLE platform around the same time period."

"I began teaching online in 1999 using WebCT," said chair of Communications Dr. Linda Webster. "The program had all kinds of amazing options, but it cost a tremendous amount of money to purchase and to upgrade. However, the functions we have with MOODLE are very similar."

In May, IT upgraded MOODLE to version 2.2, fixing some minor bugs and adding several new features, including a mobile format for smartphone and tablet users.

"This mobile-friendly format is much easier to work with than trying to squint and see the entire MOODLE web page squeezed down to smartphone size," Hardwick said.

Another feature introduced in the upgrade is an improved messaging system. In addition to providing easier communication between students and instructors, the system offers students customizable options.

"Messaging has now become very granular and allows the student to set which messages they want to be sent to them via the MOODLE pop-up messenger and which ones through e-mail," Hardwick said.

"I like the new messaging system for contacting students via e-mail through the course site," Webster said. "I haven't had time to look at any of the other options [but] I hope to have time to go through some of the new options this semester."

LSUS Students Have Opportunity to Experience Something Different with Electives

Julie Thomas
STAFF WRITER

For every degree there are required classes that must be taken in order for a student to graduate, but there are also classes, flexible for choice, that are known to the students as electives.

Every degree has an allotted amount of elective hours that are required just as those mandatory core classes are for graduation. The purpose for electives are to widen a student's perspective and knowledge outside of the core curriculum.

According to www.wisegeek.com an elective's purpose is to "give students the chance to take classes outside of a prescribed plan of coursework."

It allows students to explore other studies they might be interested in to see what they may or may not like. It is also for meeting new people and getting a more well-rounded education.

Here at LSUS there is variety of electives offered for the students. To name a few offered there is hatha yoga, running, art, swimming, scuba diving, leadership, debate, and yes, even hula hooping.

During Audrey McFarlin's elective art class,

students learned to draw sometimes using naked models.

"The funniest thing happened when we had to draw a naked lady while our professor, Mr. Hooper, critiqued the way people were drawing the lady's butt," said McFarlin, fifth year senior, biochemistry major.

Another elective offered at LSUS is swimming and scuba diving.

"It was so fun because it's not every day you get to have class underwater at the bottom of a pool," said junior elementary education major, Kaitlin Seals.

Although the class was only a 1 hour credit, at the end of the semester the students were able to take the test to become a certified scuba diver.

When Seals went to Cozumel during the summer, her scuba diving training came in handy when she and her family were scuba diving in the ocean.

Although those are some of the electives offered at LSUS, other colleges around the country offer much different types of electives.

According to www.onlinecolleges.net, there is a list of "The 15 Strangest College Courses in America." Some of those courses are, Argu-

ing with Judge Judy at UC, Berkeley, The Art of Walking at Centre College, The Joy of Garbage at Santa Clara University, and The Science of Harry Potter at Frostburg State University.

Cyberporn and Society, offered at State University of New York, is a class in which the students and the professor watch pornographic movies and study the body language through the choreography of the subject in the film.

The number one strangest college course on the list is, The Strategy of Star Craft offered at UC Berkeley, where students study and play the game of Star Craft in order to find the most productive way to beat it.

While electives can be fun or easy there are some things students should know. Most electives are only a 1 hour course credit. With TOPS, it is a requirement for students to maintain a 12 hour curriculum no matter what classes are taken.

Just because a student is taking 4 classes does not mean that student has 12 hours if there is an elective involved. The purpose to electives are to help students in many ways whether it's to relax, have a good time, earn an easy A, or learn something new to possibly further a future.

LIBRARY cont.

in 1974. They recognized the importance of preserving historical documents that were about northwest Louisiana.

When they began their project in 1974 the Archives consisted of only two collections, by 1994 it had grown to such a level that it was moved to its current location on the third floor of the Noel Library.

"Probably our largest collection, in terms of sheer size, would be the Caddo Parish Coroner's Office records," McLemore said. The records date from 1921 to about 1999, and the Archives first acquired them in 1971.

One of the most significant additions to the archives was the purchase of

the book Red River Photographic Views, 1873. It is a 107 hand-colored photographic views of the Red River made to accompany the annual report for the removal of the Red River Raft during 1873. There is only one other copy of the album, and it is housed in the Library of Congress. When the Archives first started, Malcolm Parker paid only \$400 for this rare album.

This fall, the LSUS Archives is expanding even more. The Handbook of North Louisiana Online will be launched. It is an online encyclopedia of North Louisiana history, geography, and culture may be accessed by scholars and the general public alike.

COMMITMENT cont.

plan and it will continue to evolve. So there will be further details coming along," Sisson said, "but then there will be new things that we add to the plan that aren't even written down yet. So it's definitely something to pay attention to, just keep your eye on and see what all comes along."

For those interested in reading more details on the Commitment Plan, a PDF file is available on the right hand side of the LSUS homepage.



Photo by Natasha Struble

Dr. Paul Sisson, Provost and Interim Vice Chancellor at LSUS, explains LSUS's commitment plan.

"It's a way to bring brand new program offerings here to this campus in a much faster more efficient way than the usual way," Sisson said.



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