



Forget going green — students and faculty members have gone pink! —Pg. 4

Port Cleanliness: A Look Behind The Lunch Lines

Morgan Marshall
STAFF WRITER

With several local schools failing to meet state health code standards, LSU Shreveport students may be worried about how the Port stacks up. The Port, located in the University Center, is an area that offers students, staff, and guests a place to eat on-campus. Unlike other universities, students don't need a meal plan to stop by for a snack. However, the Port does have to keep up to date with the same regulations and health codes that other schools must maintain. The Department of Health and Hospitals is the inspection guideline for the state of Louisiana. According to their website where this guideline is located, nearly 32,000 retail food operations are inspected in Louisiana. Inspections are done on a risk category basis between one to four times a year, based on the type of operation. An inspection can be any of the following four types: routine, re-inspection, pre-opening, or complaint. Each establishment must follow the safe food handling and preparation practices, as well as the sanitation rules of the Sanitary Code, LAC Title 51, Part XXIII. "We are up to date with regulations, of course," said Steve Sittenauer, food services director. "We just had an inspection a couple of weeks ago. It was just a standard routine inspection." Along with the four types of inspections, there are two categories to which the inspection falls under: critical and non-critical. Violations that fall under critical, if left See PORT, pg. 3



Photo by Rebecca Randklev

Students are required to stop for pedestrians at any university crosswalk; students who fail to yield to pedestrians in a crosswalk will receive a \$100 fine. Additionally, students parking in a designated fire lane or handicapped area will be charged \$75.

Campus Fines Promote Safety

Rebecca Randklev
STAFF WRITER

LSU Shreveport students who do not abide by campus parking and book rental regulations will be required to pay fines. Students receive a parking brochure when they obtain their LSUS parking sticker. The brochure consists of all of the parking and traffic violations, but some students continue to disregard these regulations. A fine of \$25 is charged for the improper display of or altered parking decal, lack of

a parking decal, a car backed into a parking space, a vehicle parked facing the flow of traffic, a car that is not parked within the confines of a designated parking space or a student who parks in a faculty/staff reserved spot. A fine of \$75 is charged for students who park in a designated fire lane or handicapped area. Students can also receive moving violations on campus if they do not abide to traffic control signs or the maximum speed limit of 25 MPH where posted and 5 MPH in parking lots. Students who fail to yield to a pedestrian

in the crosswalk will be charged \$100. "It doesn't happen often, but it's too often really," Rebecca Chiles, director of the university police department, said. "When someone is in a crosswalk they have no protection against the vehicle that's barreling through not paying attention." Students who receive parking or traffic violation fines have 10 calendar days from the date they received the ticket to avoid a late payment penalty of \$10. Tickets can be paid at the cashier's desk in Admin 129. Ticket appeal forms, available at the LSUS Switchboard, must be filed within 10

See FINES, pg. 3

Students Choose New SGA Senators in Special Election



Brianna Mason, psychology, freshman, said she is excited to be serving as an SGA senator and is looking forward to her term.



Photos by Crystal Vandegriff Garrett Jones, criminal justice/computer science, junior thought SGA would be a good way to get involved.

Crystal Vandegriff
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

LSU Shreveport's SGA welcomed five new student senators Friday, after holding a special election. The senators were elected by LSUS students who cast their votes on MOODLE last week. The five incoming senators are Garrett Jones, criminal justice/computer science, junior; Sara Myers, business administration, junior; Brianna Mason, psychology, freshman; Suparsh Tanga, biology, junior; Regina Simmons, general business, junior. The senators were chosen as part of a special election to fill positions vacated by

students who had chosen to no longer serve on the SGA or were no longer eligible. The SGA has a total of 27 senators representing the LSUS student body, as well as three elected officers. After introducing themselves at the SGA meeting, the candidates spoke of their excitement. "I have high expectations for this year," Mason said. "I'm excited that I was elected and this will be a very memorable experience." Jones spoke of what made him decide to get involved with the SGA. "My friends had mentioned a couple things that they'd like to change about the campus and I figured it would be a good way See SGA, pg. 3

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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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From the Editor's Desk

Jenna Glorioso
EXECUTIVE EDITOR



Midterms are finally past us and the ball is swiftly rolling downhill towards the semester's end, the holidays and for this student and several others graduation in December. There have been lots of changes at LSU Shreveport in the last few months and it has been a roller coaster of emotions watching and participating in them.

One change we hope has positively affected the campus is the merging of the *Almagest* with the electronic media journalism's news source the LSUS Student News. We at the *Almagest* ended our print edition at the close of last semester in preparation for our new look and online format. The Student News reworked their approach to video journalism and now offer even more than before with in-depth sports reporting, more team reports and greater video production quality. The *Almagest* has tried to up our story output and ask the questions that most benefit students.

At the halfway mark of the semester we

I for one think we've all learned a lot and grown a great deal. I'm excited to think of what the *Almagest Student News* will look like next semester, next year and beyond as new editors, writers, reporters and videographers come in and continue to build what we have started.

- Jenna Glorioso, executive editor



are proud of what we have accomplished as one united news source. Our print and video stories aim to complement one another and give students a complete picture of what's happening on campus. I for one think we've all learned a lot and grown a great deal. I'm excited to think of what the *Almagest Student News* will look like next semester, next year and beyond as new editors, writers, reporters and videographers come in and continue to build what we have started.

The LSUS *Almagest Student News* appreciates you, our viewers and readers for following us through this transition and caring about what we have to say. I wanted to take a moment while looking back at where we've come from as a group and individuals and looking forward at all the great possibilities that lay ahead and say a sincere "Thank you!" for your continued patronage. We do all we do for the students of LSUS and hope we make you all proud of not only your news source but also your school.

Please keep reading, keep watching, keep asking questions and caring. And as always, know we're here for you, the students.

Do You Know What You're Eating?

Alexandra Meachum
STAFF WRITER

October has been declared no- genetically modified food month by organizations in California pushing for Prop-37 that would require proper labeling of food that has been genetically altered.

Concerns about GMOs or genetically modified organisms have arisen over the past several years and people wonder if it is something they should avoid.

There are many advocacy groups such as the Institute for Responsible Technology, and the NON-GMOs Project; which strongly stand against genetic alteration in the food supply and also produce articles about how it negatively effects the human body. .

"I've seen documentaries on Net-Flix about dangers of GMOs, so I think about it when I'm grocery shopping," said Katie Shelby,secondary education, junior.

Concern over a single study on Monsanto genetically modified corn resulted in Russian authorities temporarily suspending imports of GMO corn. Some European countries banned GM corn several years ago, and The European Union requires labeling for GMOs in contrast to America, who is the biggest producer and exporter of genetically modified foods, and requires no special labeling.

Matyas Buzgo, professor of biological sciences, sheds some light on the GMO controversy.

" So far for human/vertebrate consumption there has not been any trace of an increased risk eating any GMOs," Buzgo said.

According to Buago most GMOs undergo an internal change of genes that do not affect the human body when ingested. Genes remain inactive so they have no impact on our bodies.

"We eat a yellow-causing gene from bananas all the time, but we do not yellow," Buzgo said.

When food is genetically engineered

usually only one gene is moved because one is easier to control to cause alteration in an organism.

Most of the time when groups of genes are inserted into other organisms nothing happens at all, and the gene remains inactive.

An example of genetically modifying was when a photosynthesis pathway was created from a C-4(carbon-four) plant into a C-3 plant. C-3 plants shut down photosynthesis on days that are not very sunny compared to a C-4 plant that does not. This way plants are able to produce food at a faster, more efficient rate according to Buzgo.

Monsanto produces Ready Round-Up that is sprayed over corn containing thuringien, which produces a poison that kills insects that eat the corn. It is not harmful to humans because it breaks down in water and soil before it ever reaches human contact.

Companies have also learned to switch certain genes on and off. For example, some of the corn produces thuringien at the root level to kill ground insects, and others at the plant level to kill insects above ground.

"So it is easy to regulate the process," said Buzgo.

There seems to be a misconception of GMOs in the public, and Buzgo says some of it can be related to people being afraid of things they may not fully understand. The media and Hollywood can also project fear into the public.

It is also a political issue so different parts of the world are divided. Buzgo suggests that European culture may generally promote more concern over their health, especially healthier eating. So it is not surprising to him there is more fear of GMOs in Europe than in America.

Buzgo said being able to control and predict food growth not only helps farmers save thousands of dollars, it can help to feed the growing population number.

"We need to be able to produce food more quickly, efficiently, and affordably to meet the ever growing population number,"

Spring 2012:

BIOS 495: Seminar and Major Field Exit Exam 1 cr.

How to find and read research articles.

Focus in spring:

- Feed the world by 2050:**
- Are GMO needed?**
- Are agro corporations evil?**
- Affordable rehab**

M.Buzgo mbuzgo@lsus.edu
Wednesday 1:00-1:50

Photo Courtesy of Matyas Buzgo
Professor Matyas Buzgo will be teaching BIOS 495 in the spring semester. The class will focus on analyzing research articles about how to feed the growing world population safely, as well as affordably.

said Buzgo.

Most companies who produce GMO food are targeting conditions like drought and global warming which affect the food supply.

There is a general agreement among scientists that GMO food does not cause cancer, and more importantly does nothing to

the body.

Most countries in the world have allowed at least some of their crops to be genetically altered as well. So any fear evoking documentaries or studies claiming the dangers of genetically modified food are not currently backed by the scientific community.

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LSUS Students Give Back With Non-Profit Organizations

Julie Thomas
STAFF WRITER

The Nonprofit Leadership Alliance sponsored a volunteer fair open to the public Wednesday Oct. 10 on the LSU Shreveport campus. The event allowed students and local nonprofit organizations to mix and mingle before guest speaker, Janet Pace, spoke about the importance of volunteering in community.

A total of fourteen organizations based in the Shreveport area attended in hopes of recruiting students interested in volunteering for their organizations and events. For two hours, organizations were stationed side by side in the Caddo Room and distributing information regarding the volunteer programs offered.

The American Rose Society looked for people to volunteer for a Thanksgiving and Christmas event. The Hub, which cooks for the homeless, needed volunteers to help cook and serve food. Louisiana Association for the Blind needed volunteers to help guide and assist people with low vision on field trips along with many other activities.

“I came to the volunteer fair for extra credit but as well as a genuine interest in getting more involved in the community since I am new to the area,” said Brittany Phillips, sophomore, education.

Once the mingling portion of the fair concluded, the organizations and students were invited to a discussion led by Volunteer Louisiana’s Executive Director Janet Pace. Pace spoke on topics of volunteerism and effective volunteer management.

“I am extremely passionate about volunteering and the impact it makes on the

community and helping others change lives,” said Pace.

According to a study provided by Pace, people between ages 25 and 34 have the lowest average for groups that volunteer. Also, teenagers who volunteer have a higher chance of staying in school and graduating.

Within the Shreveport community 43% of adults volunteer making it the highest ranking city in Louisiana for volunteering. Religious organizations are the leading group for volunteer members, followed by education and youth volunteer programs is in second.

Halfway through the discussion, Pace had everyone participate in an interaction segment. She provided different volunteer task to the audience and had them decide whether that situation was an appropriate job for a volunteer. Situations varied from administering prescription drugs to processing staff paychecks, or selling tickets to a symphony. After the audience decided which tasks were not suitable for a volunteer, Pace explained that every task listed was an appropriate job for a volunteer.

“The worst thing you can do is box in your volunteers because they have a lot to offer,” Pace said.

Pace concluded the speech with information on how to get more information on volunteering and effective ways to volunteer. According to Pace, the Volunteer Louisiana website has an application established for finding opportunities for people within their areas and placing them in the areas best suited for their personalities. For more information, see the Volunteer Louisiana website at www.volunteerlouisiana.gov.



Photo by Julie Thomas

Volunteer Louisiana’s Executive Director Jane Pace spoke about the most effective ways for organizations to seek out volunteers, as well as volunteer management.

PORT cont.

uncorrected, can directly cause food illness or contamination. Non-critical, if left uncorrected, could advance into a critical case.

“On average we have around 350 people who stop by each day,” said Sittenauer. “So it’s important to make our customers happy as well as keep up with regulations. This way we can be accommodating, while also keeping it clean and safe for everyone who comes in.”

Along with Sittenauer, there are five people who work at the Port. The Port is open seven days a week from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm. There is a total of twenty-six years of food service and catering experience from the management as well as a combined eighteen years for the cooks, who all work

SGA cont.

to get involved,” he said.

Tanga was grateful to the students who voted for him.

“I’m very appreciative of the opportunity,” he said.

Simmons was eager to hear from students about what they wanted her to accomplish.

“Tell people to contact me,” Simmons said. “If [anyone] needs anything for the school done, just contact me.”

Myers spoke of her goals for her tenure as senator.

“I’m trying to get LSUS to grow,” Myers said. “My main goal is to get more students to come to LSUS.”

After the meeting, senators met with SGA President Casey Thomas to go over the SGA rules, as well as to learn how to present bills for discussion during SGA meetings.

together to improve the Port and keep it up to standards.

“At the Port we try to stay up with the trends, change up our specials, and take suggestions from the people that stop by to try to accommodate to the kind of foods and drinks they’d like to see here,” Sittenauer said.

Other than small ketchup drips and soda splashes, the Port seems to be on top of their game. Keeping a clean, orderly, and well stocked space is important to Sittenauer and the other workers of the Port, making it safe and well-kept for students, faculty, and guests.

“I enjoy eating at the Port,” said Joe States, criminal justice, senior. “It’s affordable and quick when I’m hungry and in a hurry.”



Suparsh Tanga, biology, junior, above, appreciates the opportunity given to him by his supporters. Sara Myers, business administration, junior, below, wants to help LSUS grow as an institution, starting with getting more students attending LSUS.



Photos by Crystal Vandegriff

Regina Simmons, business, junior, above, wants students to know that they can approach her with concerns they have about the campus.

PELICAN BRIEFS LSUS Student Organizations to Host “Cane’s Day” Benefit

LSU Shreveport student organizations are hosting a Cane’s Day at all five local Raising Cane’s locations on Nov. 8 from 3:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to raise money for the local Gingerbread House.

The Gingerbread House is a Caddo and Bossier Parish Children’s Advocacy Center set up to aid abused children and their families at no cost to them.

Students, or anyone else in the community, who want to participate can eat at any of the Shreveport/Bossier Raising Cane’s locations during the scheduled time and inform their server that they are supporting Cane’s Day. Fifteen percent of all proceeds from Cane’s Day will be donated to the Gingerbread House.

FINES cont.

days as well. The appeals are heard at the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee of the University, which meets the third Tuesday of each month. The committee is comprised of two students, two faculty and two staff.

Kirsten Howard, public relations, sophomore, said her friend received a parking violation for failing to park within the confines of a designated area.

“He didn’t pull up all the way to the curb when he parked,” Howard said. “He was really upset when he was fined.”

Many students park in handicap or faculty/staff spots because they cannot find a close space to the building. However, Chiles said there is no lack of parking on campus, as there are more spaces than there are students.

“I’ve been here almost 6 years and I’ve never seen every space taken, not even close,” she said. “People just

need to get here a little earlier.”

The library charges 20 cents per day, per item, with a maximum over due fine of \$10 for late books. Interlibrary loan books are \$1 per day, per item, with no maximum fine.

Library and parking violations account for \$10,000 annually.

“The money comes into the general fund of the institution and helps to defray cost,” said Michael T. Ferrell, vice chancellor for business affairs.

Students who fail to pay their fines will have all academic services withheld. This includes not being able to receive a diploma upon graduation or being able to register for the next semester until fines are paid.

“We’d actually like to have no fines, because if everyone did what they were supposed to, then no one would have a fine,” Ferrell said.

LSUS Students and Faculty Go Pink!



Photo by Erika Merritt

LSUS students and faculty wore pink on Oct. 10 to raise awareness about breast cancer. Participants also had the chance to enjoy some yogurt and donate the lid to help further fund breast cancer research.

Erika Merritt
STAFF WRITER

LSU Shreveport students, faculty and staff donned pink attire to show their support for breast cancer awareness at the 5th annual Pink Out Day.

Participants enjoyed yogurt to collect lids as part of the Yoplait “Save Lids to Save Lives” campaign, which donates 10 cents to the Susan G. Komen Foundation for each lid received.

Students are also encouraged to drop off pink lids to the Student Activities Board from now through December.

Pink paper ribbons were offered to honor survivors and victims of breast cancer and are displayed in the University Center lobby the entire month of October.

This year’s Pink Out event showcased a pink Chevy car provided by the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and the Highland Center.

LSUS’ Student Activities Board and Recreational Sports co-sponsored the event.

Breast cancer has affected many people including LSUS’ students, faculty, and staff.

“Actually one of my good friends that is in my fraternity, his wife of ten years passed away from breast cancer,” said Chase Migliore, chemistry, sophomore.

“Our former chancellor, Vincent Marsala, had breast cancer. He is a survivor of breast cancer,” said Kim Thornton, director of student activities. “So, for us, it hits home.”

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, breast cancer is the most common cancer among

women in the United States.

In a 1999-2008 report from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, it was found 210,203 women in the U.S. were diagnosed with breast cancer and 40,589 women in the U.S. died from breast cancer.

As reported by Susan G. Komen for the Cure, 118 out of 100,000 women in Louisiana were diagnosed with new cases of breast cancer between 2004-2008.

“There’s not a student, faculty, or staff member that can’t tell you that it affected someone close to them,” Thornton said.

Most breast cancers deaths occur in women ages 50 and older.

Thornton said Pink Out Day is a great cause and it is important to raise breast cancer awareness.



Photos by Joanna Kresge

Keenan Gaston, mass communications, senior, dedicates a pink ribbon outside of the University Center. After the event, all of the pink ribbons were put on display.

Linda Wimbley, assistant director of financial aid at LSU Shreveport opens a container of Yoplait yogurt as part of the “pink out” held outside the LSUS University Center, Wednesday. Pink lids from the yogurt containers were collected as part of the university’s effort to raise money for breast cancer as part of the “Save Lids to Save Lives” campaign. For each redeemed lid, Yoplait will donate 10 cents to Susan G. Komen for the Cure.



Meredith Hamiter, criminal justice, sophomore, enjoys a container of Yoplait yogurt as part of the “pink out” held outside the LSUS University Center, Wednesday.

LSUS Breaks Tradition With Non-Traditional Students

LSU Shreveport is a university with an academic setting that is conducive to education for a range of students. The *Almagest Student News* has taken a closer look at the make up of our student body in this three part series.

Morgan Marshall
STAFF WRITER

Over the years many students have walked the halls of LSU Shreveport’s campus. From new freshmen, to traditional four-year pursuers, to transfers, LSUS has many faces. Another lesser-known but prominent group of students exists, the non-traditional students.

The Student Development and Counseling center considers single parents, those employed full-time, working on a second degree, veterans, or students returning after working as non-traditional students.

“I started out going to college in 1996, but when I had my first child I had to put that on hold,” Michelle Brunson, science, junior, said. “Working became a full time priority to support us. Needless to say, I had been out for a while before returning. It feels good to almost be done after all this time,

though. I will get to be able to provide for my family better and make them proud. It is strange being here with the new generations that kept rolling in, though.”

For most non-traditional students, returning to school is a different experience the second time around. The Student Development and Counseling center has done their best to help them by creating a guide list of how to balance college and home life.

Rhonda Gillen, who graduated in business administration, was also a non-traditional student.

“When I first returned I felt nervous and self-conscious,” Gillen said. “I was just concerned with how to balance work, family, and whatever extra fun time I could hopefully squeeze in. I had to teach myself to study instead of watch television, which involved late hours and lunch breaks spent doing school work.”

Along with the help offered by the Student Develop-

ment and Counseling center, some non-traditional students also receive support from outside sources.

“I had very supportive friends and family. They helped me balance and stay focused on school. It was a fun experience and exciting, being able to show my kids that you’re never too old to accomplish a goal.”

According to the last available statistics of the National Center of Education, in 2002 73% of the student population was made up by non-traditional students.

“I find it funny how students, the younger ones, always complain about not having any time or being tired,” Brunson said. “I mean, I bet they’re busy, but they don’t even know how it can be later on down the road. It’s not an easy task, that’s for sure. But I feel support from all directions and I’m happy to finally be completing a degree. I tell my son, ‘Maybe when you’re older I’ll return to school with you for a second degree’. But that won’t be for another sixteen years at least.”