



What can you do  
to beat spring  
allergies?  
Find out inside!  
—Pg. 3

## Psychology wraps study on reading

Kirsten Howard  
STAFF WRITER

The LSU Shreveport Psychology department threw a party to recognize all of the participants of a recently finished a 20-week long study on reading interventions throughout the Shreveport-Bossier community.

Professors from the LSUS psychology department, along with several undergraduate and graduate students who helped conduct the study, gathered at LSUS on March 25 to celebrate the progress of their reading comprehension study.

Leaders of the study, LSUS Professors Kevin Jones, Kevin Krug, Katherine Wickstrom, and Rebecca Nolan, presented the psychology students who volunteered with certificates commemorating their hard work.

Of the 20 to 25 LSUS students involved, the majority of them volunteered two times a week for, 45 minutes a session as reading tutors to around 16 to 20 below-benchmark students in the community.

However, there were several tutors who volunteered for more than an hour and a half a week. The students who put in a more significant amount of time were also presented with gifts as tokens of appreciation for the long hours they volunteered.

One of the LSUS undergraduate psychology students involved in this study was Lori Williams, see PSYCH, pg. 2



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

## One small speech, one big guest

Mercedes Taylor  
STAFF WRITER

Former presidential speechwriter James C. Hume visited LSU Shreveport, leaving words of wisdom behind for the students and faculty.

During Common Hour Hume spoke to a group of students and faculty about his experiences with such illuminaries as Winston Churchill, John F. Kennedy and Ronald Regan.

Throughout his presentation he shared many stories, one being when he first met Churchill during Queen Elizabeth's corona-



James C. Hume signed copies of his Winston Churchill biography.



Former presidential speechwriter James C. Hume spoke to a crowd of LSUS students and faculty.

tion, and the speech and presentation advice he was given.

“Churchill’s speeches made the difference between defeat and survival,” Hume said.

Many are unaware that some of the most memorable speeches were not written by the speaker who gave them, but by a behind-the-scenes writer. Hume looked back on one particular speech he wrote, the famous moon landing speech by Neil Armstrong.

“All of the country was listening,” Hume said. “Armstrong’s voice came over the speaker saying the words that I wrote. Those were my words and I wept when I heard them.”

Throughout his presentation Hume gave

lots of advice on how to give speeches. What to do and what not to do. Students and faculty walked away with a trove of new knowledge. Elizabeth Kemp, freshman, political science, thoroughly enjoyed Hume’s speech and the knowledge she gained from it.

“He had good one-liners, they were things that stick in your head,” Kemp said. “It was funny because he is giving a speech about how to give speeches and you could see how he implemented what he was saying to do in his own speech.”

If you are interested in reading some of Hume’s works you can pick up his book *Churchill: The Prophetic Statesman* along with many others.

## Why do students choose the Pilot life?

Julie Thomas  
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Although students may differ in age, major, or even political preference, they all share choosing LSU Shreveport as the school for their academic success.

The *Almagest* conducted a survey of 100 students to determine their reasons for choosing LSUS. Out of the 100 students, there were four distinct reasons for choosing LSUS: financial reasons, residential preference, peer influences, and lastly because LSUS itself was appealing.

Financing, such as scholarship opportunities and low tuition rates, is the top reason for attending LSUS at 46 percent. The second highest reason at 32 percent was attendance due to the influence of family and friends. Another 16 percent of students attended LSUS because they were already living in the Shreveport-Bossier area and did not want to move. Lastly, only 6 percent of the students surveyed attended LSUS because of academic reasons or extracurricular activities.

“When I was a senior in high school my best friend decided to go to LSUS, so I decided to go with her,” said Tammi Rodriguez,



Dr. John Vassar, interim provost

senior, biology.

Although the survey showed little academic interest by students, Academic Affairs is working to improve LSUS’s enrollment by

offering more degree programs and more flexibility.

As LSUS moves forward, more academic changes are planned. This fall, a new semes-

See SURVEY, pg. 2





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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.



# Working together to create a better LSUS



Crystal Vandegriff

From the Editor's Desk

A student called upon to answer a question gave an incorrect answer. A frustrated instructor then asked the student's major. Upon hearing the answer, the instructor walked up to the chalk board, wrote the student's major, along with a few others, before titling the list "worthless majors." This incident was related to myself and the rest of my media law class by the student in question just before spring break. Suffice it to say that none of us, including our professor, were thrilled to hear this story. Instead, we just kind of sat there for a moment in surprise before voicing our own angry opinions. The gist of our conversation became that such a thing is completely unacceptable and should be reported to the proper administrative authorities. Perhaps the instructor was having a bad day. Still, being frustrated and misspeaking is one thing, but to completely denigrate an entire major—an entire department!—is definitely crossing a line, if not several. I still do not understand the instructor's actions. What could he possibly have hoped to accomplish? These actions not only demeaned a

student's major but also created an extremely uncomfortable educational atmosphere for the rest of the class. Such behavior will only stifle classroom discussion and make students who have paid a lot of money to learn uncomfortable asking questions covering material they do not understand. Isn't that precisely the opposite of what educators want to accomplish? As I have repeatedly stated in the past weeks, LSU Shreveport is going through some tough times. If things continue the way they have been going, we will probably continue to go through tough economic times. This is absolutely not the time to begin turning on one another. Right now, one of LSUS's major priorities is to grow our school so that we can move into the future as a stronger university and a stronger voice in the community. I believe LSUS is very lucky—in my three years here, I have never had an experience such as the student mentioned in the outset. While my experience at LSUS has not been perfect and I certainly have some criticisms, my experience has been overwhelmingly positive. My instructors have been kind, helpful, insightful, and caring. My department is extremely knowledgeable and able to relate experiences to me about working in the field. Of course, LSUS is not a perfect place. No college or university is. Maybe this wasn't every students first choice, maybe this wasn't every professors first choice. That does not excuse tearing each other and this university down.

Students deserve a comfortable and engaging learning environment. I believe that the vast majority of professors offer that here at LSUS. Unfortunately, it tends to be negative experiences that are both most spoken about and most remembered. LSUS is an excellent college. There's no denying that. Through budget cuts, hiring freezes, and students being late to class after trying in vain to find parking spaces, LSUS has continued to provide a high quality education. This fall will bring some changes to our university, such as the pilot program designed to test the two-session semester system. LSUS will also be offering more online courses. Still, these are not the only things that potential new students will consider. They will want to know about how people, professors especially, relate to and interact with students. They will want to hear that LSUS professors are kind and able to work with students to help them accomplish their goals. They will not want to hear that their major, or their interests, is worthless. The best thing that we, as individuals, can do is, just as Aretha Franklin spelled it out, respect one another. Everyone here has diverse interests and opinions—that's what makes LSUS so special! There is a way to disagree with others without disrespecting them, their interests, or their beliefs. I stand by the fact that the incident described at the outset is the exception to the rule here at LSUS. However, we need to work together to make sure there are no more exceptions.

## NEWS

### Spring is here, fall registration is in the air

As the spring semester comes to an end, students are required to be advised for the upcoming summer and fall semesters. Whether you are a graduate student, or an undergraduate student, LSU Shreveport asks that students make it a priority to get advised. "The advising committee is concerned to spread the message to all of our students about the need to get the most out of the advising experience," said Elisabeth Liebert, chair of Arts and Sciences Academic Advising Committee. Emails from instructors are being sent out to students regarding the need to be advised prior to registering for classes. For questions about advising, students may consult Moodle. The freshman seminar classes also are being used to aid freshmen in the advising process. For questions regarding who their advisers

are, students can check with either their department chair, the advising lists posted outside of department offices, or consult the advising page on myLSUS.

—Ashley Harris

SURVEY cont.

ter schedule with an eight-week curriculum will be tested, along with five new degree programs in conjunction with LSU Baton Rouge. One of the new programs offered is a digital media degree through fine arts which is currently the only one offered in the state. "The new eight-week semester sounds pretty interesting to me, but I am curious to see how

PSYCH cont.

nior, psychology. She volunteered for 45 minutes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. During this time she would have her student read a story while she collected data and tracked the progress. "My favorite part was building his self-confidence and watching him improve," Williams said. Jones, Krug, Wickstrom, and Nolan presented the preliminary results gathered from the study at the party. Before the extensive tutoring, students in-

well it performs in the next few semesters," said John Hewitt, junior, general studies. Dr. John Vassar, Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affair, spoke hopefully about LSUS's future. "The overall goal is very simple: to better meet the needs of our students," Vassar said. "In the academic area, we are working to increase the

number of majors on campus and degrees offered." Another goal for LSUS academics is to increase the amount and availability of online classes. Vassar foresees LSUS connected to LSU within the next five years but said he believes LSUS will always be distinct and unique even working with LSU.

heart so warm. Psychology is about helping those who need help. That is what this study did and will continue to help us do," The results are considered preliminary because the study is expected to continue and expand with the beginning of the school year in the fall. "The next step is to increase the amount of reading done in each session and the intensity of the tutoring," Jones said.



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# Spring allergies are nothing to sneeze at

Ebonie Nelson  
STAFF WRITER

Spring time is here, which for a lot of people is their favorite time of year, however, it is also known as the dreaded allergy season.

Hay fever is a common springtime allergy and can make sufferers prone to sinus infections, eye infections and various other symptoms.

If you suffer from pollen allergies every year, Gwendolyn Barnes, a registered nurse for more than 15 years, offered some tips to help fight it.

- Get tested to find out exactly what you are allergic to.
- Stay indoors. Avoid the outdoors during peak pollen times, usually between 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Take your meds. Use over-the-counter antihista-

““

I often tell my family to do a thorough cleaning of the house. This will eliminate much of the mold and dust that was left over the winter season. If you have pets, I suggest you pollen-police your pets.

- Gwendolyn Barnes

””

mines for relief. Take them at least 30 minutes before venturing outdoors.

“I often tell my family to do a thorough cleaning of the house,” Barnes said. “This will eliminate much of the mold and dust that was left over the winter season.”



Photo by Ebonie Nelson

Gwendolyn Barnes has been a registered nurse for over 15 years.

- Wear a mask especially if you garden, mow the lawn, or have to be outdoors during a high-pollen time.
- “If you have pets, I suggest you pollen-police your pets,” she said.
- If your pets goes outside, keep them off furniture and bathe them frequently to eliminate the pollen they might bring inside.
- Wash your hair and clothes regularly to get rid of the pollen.

“For me spring is the worst season,” said Aimee Harris, freshman, computer science. “It makes me sneeze and have itchy eyes, which is very uncomfortable.”

- While driving, keep the sun roof and windows closed and keep the top on convertibles.
- Close windows and doors and don’t use fans that bring pollen inside. Use air conditioning if possible.

More than 35 million Americans suffer from pollen allergies, according to the FDA.

If your symptoms get worse after trying these few tips, Barnes suggest that you consult with your physician about treatments, such as allergy shots and medication.

# PELICAN BRIEFS

## Research forum to be held at LSU Shreveport

Students of the LSUS School of Mathematics and Sciences are invited to showcase their hard work at this year’s student research forum, held at 12 p.m. April 19th. The forum is designed to allow LSUS students to exhibit and present the research they have been working on this year.

Undergraduate, graduate and high school students who have done research with LSUS are invited to participate in the forum.

Those who wish to participate should send an electronic abstract to Dr. Tara Williams-Hart by 8 a.m. Friday.

## Career Services to host internship workshop

LSU Shreveport Career Services encourages students to attend a scheduled internship workshop to learn the value of having an internship.

The workshop stresses the importance of the real-world experience students can gain from an internship, which may later benefit their career. Attendees will also learn other various ways they can learn outside the classroom and be more prepared for employment upon graduation.

The workshop will be held at 11:15 on April 15 Admin 215. For more information, contact LSUS Career Services at [lsus-career@lsus.edu](mailto:lsus-career@lsus.edu) or 318-797-5365.

## Improv Factory at LSUS calls for all comedians

LSU Shreveport students are invited to test out their stand-up comedy routines at the Improv Factory.

During this event comedians can practice performing their routines in front of a live, intimate audience. No experience is required to participate.



The Improv Factory will be held during Common Hour April 15 in the UC Port.


For more information, contact LSUS Student Activities by email at [studentact@lsus.edu](mailto:studentact@lsus.edu) or by phone at 318-797-5393.

—Rebecca Wheeler and Elizabeth Stroud

Short on cash? We’ve got the answer. It’s time to sell those used textbooks!

<b>May 3rd</b> 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	<b>May 6th - 9th</b> 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.	<b>May 10th</b> 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	<b>May 13th</b> 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
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# LSU SHREVEPORT

## ENROLLMENT GUIDE

### SUMMER / FALL 2013



Stay informed on important university dates, enrollment & financial aid policies, and university services.

Available in Dean’s Offices, Library, Admissions & Records, & University Center or online at [www.lsus.edu/enrollmentguide](http://www.lsus.edu/enrollmentguide).



**LSUS**  
INDIA STUDIES



# India Night 2013

## North-South Jugalbandi

**Date:** May 11, 2013

**Time:** 5:00pm

**Venue:** University Center

**Dress:** Business Casual, Evening Wear,  
or Indian Attire

### Program

5:00 Appetizers  
and cocktails

6:00 Concert

7:45 Dinner



[www.rajeevtaranath.com](http://www.rajeevtaranath.com)

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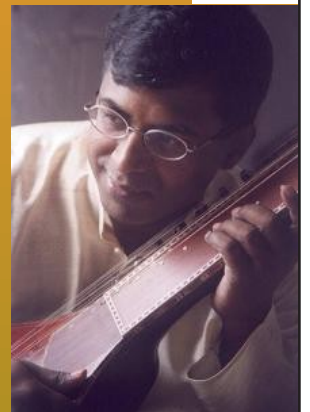
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**Lakshmanan on mridangam**

and

**Abhiman Kaushal on tabla**



**Tickets: \$100 [Individual] or \$700 [Table of eight]**

[Includes appetizers, cocktails, dinner, and drinks. Limited seating.]

Tickets are tax deductible. Proceeds go to LSUS India Studies Program.

**For tickets, please contact:**

Viki Fentress (LSUS): 318-797-5179

<http://lsusindiastudies.eventbrite.com> (credit card only)

