



To bead or not to bead?
Students prepare for Mardi Gras.
—Pg. 3

SGA works to improve LSUS, community

Kirsten Howard
STAFF WRITER

During the month of March, the LSU Shreveport Student Government Association and United Way are pairing up to raise a goal of \$10,000 in scholarship money for LSUS students.

“This is something that has never been done before in Northwest Louisiana,” said SGA President Casey Thomas, senior, psychology. Thomas is serving as the spearhead of the SGA and United Way campaign.

These scholarships will be available for currently enrolled students as well as incoming freshman. SGA and United Way have planned to raise this money through viral campaigns as well as through on and off-campus fundraisers.

“In times of budget cuts and budget cuts we need something that will really pull the students back together for a common goal, to better our school,” SGA Vice President Cody King, junior, finance, said.

The LSUS SGA organization isn’t just a club for future politicians, but rather an organization where students from every major can join with the common goal of making LSUS

See SGA, pg. 3



Photo courtesy of Trey Gibson

Chelsea Anthony, senior, psychology, gets coaching during the Southern Forensics Debate Championship Tournament.

LSUS debate team rises to the top

Mercedes Taylor
STAFF WRITER

The LSU Shreveport Debate team hit number one in Louisiana and the region when it won the Southern Forensics Debate Championship.

The tournament consisted of participants from universities and campuses who came from all over to compete for titles and rankings. In the LSU Shreveport Debate Team Chelsea Anthony, senior, psychology, placed first in varsity debate

winning the title of Louisiana Champion in varsity debate, Austin Wiseman, sophomore, business, placed second in the novice division, and Julie Thomas, junior, public relations, was elected to be the new Southern Forensics Student Representative for Louisiana and was named the Louisiana Champion Speaker for the division.

“Debate tournaments are a lot of fun! The weekends that we compete in the area are nice because we get to sleep

in our own beds, but we usually travel out of town for tournaments,” Anthony said. “I’ve gotten the opportunity to travel to a lot of cool places and meet some very interesting people, so even though tournaments can be exhausting it’s well worth it.”

“Crazy, chaotic, stressful, exciting fun, did I mention stressful?” Thomas said. “It is so crazy your adrenaline is pumping and you won’t even realize that that it is four o’clock in the afternoon; the day goes by so fast.”

See DEBATE, pg. 3

LSUS offers personal trainers for students, faculty



Angel Martin, director of recreational sports

Ebonie Nelson
STAFF WRITER

Are you looking for a fitness program that’s flexible around your schedule, at a convenient location, and affordable? The LSU Shreveport Recreational Sports personal trainer program is offered to all LSUS students, faculty and staff.

Currently, there are two certified trainers and one trainer-in-training that are all ready and willing to help you get fit. The trainers are prepared to design individual workout plans, addressing a variety

“Our trainers are truly motivated and passionate about what they are doing, because they plan on making this a career,” said Angel Martin, director of

recreational sports. “The trainer program is all about getting people active and staying fit.”

The program is that it gives the client one-on-one training at an affordable rate, compared to outside fitness gyms and wellness centers. This program utilizes all LSUS facilities, such as the weight room, swimming pool, and baseball field.

“I’ve been really considering the personal trainer program as a way to work out without breaking my pocket book,” said Kayla Hullaby, junior, biology. “It’s time to get ready for the summer.”

A few things to keep in mind while training: wear appropriate clothing, bring water to all sessions, be on time to all training sessions, and openly commu-

See TRAINER, pg. 3



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.

Letters Policy

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.



Almagest at LSUS is committed to you



Crystal Vandegriff

From the Editor's Desk

Merriam-Webster provides several different definitions for journalism: "the collection and editing of news for presentation through the media," "writing characterized by a direct presentation of facts or description of events without an attempt at interpretation," or "writing designed to appeal to current popular taste or public interest."

All of these definitions are factually correct as the denotation of the term; however, in practice, journalism often carries some slightly more negative connotations.

Around the turn of the century - the last century that is - journalists were associat-

ed with the sleazy depictions of yellow journalism popular on the silver screen: bribing sources, braving dames and shirking ethics all just to get the scoop.

Today, negative impressions of journalism often come from tabloid media - because who really likes the paparazzi? - and talking heads on 24-hour news networks who wouldn't know journalistic integrity if it suddenly appeared on their teleprompter. Still, these talking heads often aren't meant to be seen as journalists at all, but rather pundits who do exactly what Merriam-Webster's definition says journalism does not: offer their interpretation of the events they report.

Such is the difference between editorial and news journalism; the problem is that the line is becoming blurry.

Here at the *Almagest*, we do our best to always keep you, the readers, informed of what is going on on-campus. We attempt to put aside whatever biases we might have to give you the information you will need to make intelligent and informed decisions here at LSU Shreveport.

Beginning last semester, the *Almagest* joined forces with LSUS Student News, our on-campus video news source. This union has proved to be beneficial for both sides, and, I think, for you.

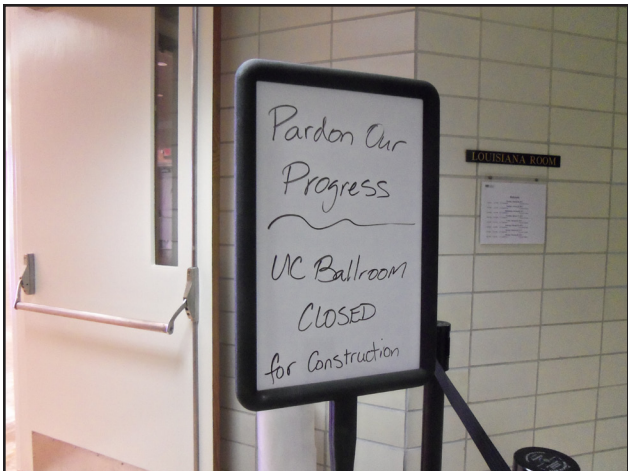
By working together, we have been able to cover most of the happenings of LSUS, providing the same factual incites as always but with various and diverse perspectives.

This semester, we will continue to work together to bring you the best information possible; however, we will be doing it under a new banner - Almagest at LSUS, rather than LSUS Almagest-Student News.

The same great Pilot news source with a shiny new name, as well as a new publication day - because we know news moves fast, we're bringing it to you faster: you can look for new editions on Wednesday, instead of Thursday night.

As always, we welcome whatever comments, suggestions or complaints you might have. Contact us on our website: almagestlsus.com or email us at almagest@lsus.edu.

University Center renovations nearing completion



The University Center Ballroom, as well as the art gallery and UC Theater, have been closed for the past month due to renovations. These renovations, however, are nearly complete.

In a Student Organization Council meeting, Aaron Suckle, director of operations for the UC, stated that work on the ballroom and art gallery would be completed, and the rooms reopened, by Friday. Renovations in the UC Theater are currently scheduled to be completed in mid-March.

Photos by Crystal Vandegriff



VOLUME LXII, ISSUE 3

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LSUS students prepare for Mardi Gras celebration



Photo by Crystal Vandegriff
Mardi Gras beads come in a variety of colors but are most often purple, gold, and green.

PELICAN BRIEFS

LSU Shreveport to host LifeShare blood drive

LifeShare Blood Center is holding a blood drive for LSU Shreveport students on Feb. 18. The LifeShare bus will be on campus from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. near the University Center Mall flagpole. Any student interested in donating will need to provide a valid photo ID.

Improve listening and note-taking with SDCC

The LSU Shreveport Student Development and Counseling Center will be hosting a listening and note taking workshop to assist students in developing important retention and study skills to help them succeed throughout the semester. The workshop will be held during Common Hour on Feb. 13 in room 215 of the Administration Building. It will be held again that evening at 5 p.m. in the Red River Room of the University Center. The workshop will teach students strategic note taking strategies and active listening skills that are essential to a lecture learning environment. The listening and note taking workshop is a part of SDCC’s Academic Success Strategies Month, which aims to help students develop techniques and strategies to maximize their time and study efforts. For more information on other academic workshops being held in February, contact the SDCC at (318) 797-5365.

Recreational sports to host pool tournament

Students interested in sharpening their pool skills, socializing and potentially winning a \$25 gift card are encouraged to sign-up for the upcoming 8-ball pool tournament. The tournament will be held in the UC Game Room on Feb. 13 during Common Hour. The event is free to students with a valid student ID. Students may sign-up by emailing Angel Martin at angel.martin@lsus.edu or in person, by stopping by the UC Office no later than 10 a.m. on February 13. For more information on upcoming recreational sports and sporting facilities events visit www.lsu.edu/recsports.

LSU Shreveport to host overtime party

An overtime party will be held by LSU Shreveport immediately follow the men’s basketball game on Feb. 18. The party will be held in the UC Lobby. The party is open to all who want to attend. Free food will be provided for those in attendance. Contact Kimberly Thornton at kimberly.thornton@lsus.edu for questions.

Iris MacLean
STAFF WRITER

Mardi Gras season is upon us, and everyone is doing something to celebrate. While Mardi Gras is celebrated around the world, Louisiana has it’s own unique celebration. Louisiana historian and professor of history at LSUS, Dr. Gary Joiner explained that throughout the state, each region is even more specific to their unique traditions. Here in North Louisiana celebrations are geared towards a protestant, mature approach that revolves around krewes being somewhat like a social club. “I’m going to catch a lot of cups for the house because all of our glasses keep breaking,” said John Michael Provenza, senior. While some people are using Mardi Gras to restock their cabinet, others like to restock their stomach with treats. “I eat king cake. King cake is a gift of the gods! My favorite is praline or cream cheese and cinnamon,” said Joiner. “I’m excited to go to the parades this year because the old route is back, and after I plan to go to the Afroman show downtown,” said Ashley Purland, senior, molecular biology. “I plan to go to the parades, party, eat king cake, and catch a lot of beads,” said Lindsey Anderson, sophomore. The Mardi Gras capital, New Orleans, is more about the glitz and glamour that the city is and they follow the traditions that were created back when it all began. Whereas, South Louisiana is a rural, community centered celebration involving activities such as riding horses onto farmland where they then steal chickens, with farmer’s permission, and cook chicken gumbo and cochon du lait. “In Louisiana,” Joiner said, “we have a law that the only time it’s legal to wear a mask in public is during Mardi Gras season, and this stems from the time of the Civil War,

SGA cont.
the best campus it can be. SGA is the student organization in charge of creating and passing legislation on-campus. Open meetings are held every Monday during Common Hour in the UC Webster room. These open meetings are an opportunity for any student to state their opinions and concerns to “the voice of the students” as Thomas said. “What we always say is that everyone is on SGA because it is for the students, by the students. So, even if you weren’t elected, you are welcome to be a part of SGA.” Thomas said. Both Thomas and King agree with King’s sentiment “SGA stands for building the Pilot community and bringing the community together.” However, this year SGA has planned to go beyond this one goal to accomplish things never before done on the LSUS campus. With that in mind, SGA officers started off the new year full of innovative plans to make LSUS

DEBATE cont.
Students interested in joining the Debate Team can contact Professor Trey Gibson at trey.gibson@lsus.edu, telephone 318-797-5081. There are no tryout dates or deadlines that students must meet in order to join. It is not too late to join, although it is too late in the year to compete. However, students interested in debate will be able to watch, learn and practice for the next coming year. “Doing debate is the best decision I’ve ever made. I’ve learned more

when laws were made to prevent the Ku Klux Klan from wearing their white cloaks.” “According to History.com, Mardi Gras originated in Rome during the time of Pagan celebrations of spring and fertility. Saturnalia and Lupercalia are the names of these festivals. Then, Christianity overtook Rome, and instead of wiping out the celebrations altogether, the new leaders implemented them into their faith, resulting in a time of excess and partying leading up to 40 days of fasting and penance between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday. As Christianity continued spreading throughout Europe, Mardi Gras followed, hitting Spain, France, Germany and England. The day before Ash Wednesday was coined as Mardi Gras, meaning “fat Tuesday”, in France. The name comes from the excessive consumption of meat, eggs, milk and cheese in the days leading up to Lent. Mardi Gras found its way into the United States March 3, 1699 when French explorers, Iberville and Bienville, traveled from France, to what is now Louisiana. They landed just south of New Orleans where they held a celebration. This spot was named Point du Mardi Gras by the explorers, and here many fancy dinners, masquerades, and street parties ensued. That is, until the Spanish took over New Orleans and abolished these festivities until the Louisiana became a state in 1812. Mardi Gras returned in 1827 when a group of students danced through the streets in New Orleans with colorful clothing in attempt to create what they saw in Paris. Then, after 10 years, the first recorded parade celebrating Mardi Gras kicked off an ongoing tradition in New Orleans. Dating back thousands of years, Mardi Gras is a time of feasting and celebration preceding Lent, filled with king cakes, parades, extravagant balls and parties. teachers and some of us still have younger brothers and sister in these schools. We still have that connection.” King said. King’s primary goal is using LSUS’s connection with these schools in order to reach out to them and give LSUS a bigger impact on the community. All SGA officers and members have joined committees to make the on-campus experience at LSUS better for every student. SGA campaigning begins April 8 and ends April 12. Intent-to-Run Forms are currently available in the SGA office and UC offices in the UC Center. They are due by noon March 28. For more information on SGA or SGA elections visit an open meeting during Common Hour or contact an officer. Contact information is available at <http://www.lsus.edu/student-life/student-organizations/student-government-association>.

TRAINER cont.

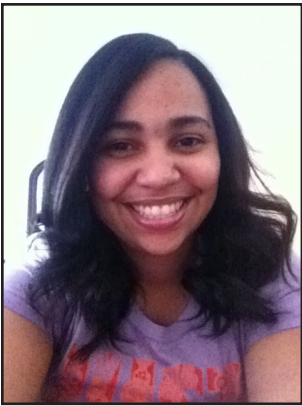


Photo by Ebonie Nelson
Kayla Hullaby, junior, biology.

nicate with your trainer. For more information on the personal trainer program contact Angel Martin, director of Recreational Sports at angel.martin@lsus.edu or 318-797-5393.

Pilot baseball off to slow-but-sure beginning

Montana Davis
STAFF WRITER

LSU Shreveport baseball began with a rough start, but slowly cooked to perfection over the three-game weekend. The Pilot team lost game one. And game two by one run, but finally conquered the William Carey Crusaders in game three.

Game one at Milton Wheeler Field gave LSUS their first loss for the season, ending 10 -3. WCU pitcher, Cullen Babin, held Pilot offense tight while the Pilot's own pitching line-up gave away a 3 walk advantage and a hit by pitch.

Ridge Gonsulin, junior outfielder, made a single to right field. Kyle Pearson, senior outfielder, hit a double to left field, helping soften the score to 4-1.

Senior Pilot reliever, Ben Suit, pitched an impressive four and two-thirds innings only allowing one hit, one run, two walks, and struck out six Crusaders.

"We've been down a lot worse at the start of a season," said Reed Laval-lee, sophomore catcher. "There's no need to worry because we will do our thing. We aren't number two in the nation for losing."

Game two showed signs of a turn-around for the Pilot's but ended with the score 9-8 WCU.

K.J. Semein, junior outfielder, went 3 for 4 and Pearson went 3 for 3, hitting his first homerun for the season. Pearson said hitting it at that field meant a lot to him as it is the same place he hit his

first career homerun with the Pilot's his freshman year.

The downfall for LSUS, during game two, was Pilot's pitching giving up an eight spot during the second inning.

Trent Cormier, freshman reliever, pitched the third inning allowing four hits, no runs, three walks and two strikes.

Game three is where the LSUS team finally dominated WCU, the score ending with a cool 12-1.

Greg Friesen, senior batter, hit a two run single at the top of 7th with 5 runs. Pearson also went two for four.

"We did lose some great players, but I truly know we have great players on our team now but we are having to go through the pilot process of how we do things here at LSUS," Pearson said, "Quality over quantity! And that we believe in the person next to you just as much as you do yourself."

Jason Mouton, junior pitcher, had the longest outing of Pilots so far, allowing 6 hits with only one earned, walked two, struck out seven.

Paul Barton, junior reliever, came in during a scary seventh inning with bases loaded. He struck two out of three batters.

Though the team seemed to have a hard time getting into the game, they persevered through the weekend and brought back a Pilot victory.

Pilot baseball will play University of Houston Victoria, 6 p.m. Feb 8 at Pilot Field and again at 1 p.m. Feb 9.



Photo by Montana Davis

The LSU Shreveport Pilots faced off against the William Carey Crusaders at the Milton Wheeler Field.

LSUS students share their big stories of the big game

Julie Thomas
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Super Bowl XLVII aired Sunday night at 5:30 p.m. Football fans across the nation and across the LSU Shreveport campus joined together to watch the Baltimore Ravens face off against the San Francisco 49ers.

This game was a face-off between coaches and brothers, John and little brother Jim Harbaugh. Sports news calls this year's game the "Har-bowl." This year's game was also the last game for Baltimore Ravens middle linebacker, Ray Lewis. Lewis announced his retirement at the beginning of the 2012-2013 football season.

Before the game officially kicked off, Jennifer Hudson and Sandyhook Elementary School's children choir sang The Star Spangled Banner together followed by Alicia Keys performing the National Anthem.

As the game began, students from LSUS huddled around their televisions, eating cheese dips, and discussing the night's outcome. Some students were even confident enough in their teams to place bets on who

would win.

"I am not really rooting for one or the other but if I had to pick I'd say the Raven's will take the win," Chaz Coleman said, junior, psychology. "I put money down on the Raven's so if Ray Lewis gets his win, I'll get something out of it too."

E.T Broomfield plans to spend his Super Bowl Sunday night at a party with friends and family serving nothing but BBQ, BBQ, and more BBQ. Broomfield even placed a friendly bet against the 49ers; a wager worth work hours with his boss.

"I won't be mad if the 49ers win because they deserve it, but I really do not want to pick up extra shifts because of them," Broomfield said, freshman, criminal justice.

Another party was held at Zach Carscadden's house, invited guest included family and friends, serving a Mexican style potluck with a bring your own boos policy.

"This year I am pulling for the Ravens because I have an emotional factor to them. It is Ray Lewis's last year and his motivation will carry the team," Carscad-den said, senior, finance.

The TKE fraternity members threw a party at Clayton Steele's home, housing 15 TKE members and serving foods such as queso, hamburgers, sugar cookies, and beer. Other LSUS students to host parties were Austin Wiseman, Luke Bishop, Joey Sanderson, and Elizabeth Kemp. Kemp planned a crawfish boil style Super Bowl party.

The halftime show was performed by Beyoncé joined by former Destiny's Child members, Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams. At this point, the Ravens were ahead 21 to 6.

As half time concluded, lights went out across the Mercedes-Benz Super Dome blacking out half of the stadium. The game was then delayed for 33 minutes until the power outage was solved.

Once the game proceeded the Ravens made NFL history with a kickoff return of 108 yards scoring another touchdown. The game was then 28 to 6. The 49ers then continued into the game scoring two touchdowns turning the game into a close call. In the end the Baltimore Ravens defeated the San Francisco 49ers 34 to 31.



LSU Shreveport students gather around the traditional big game meal - chips and dip - to watch the San Francisco 49ers take on the Baltimore Ravens.

Photo by Julie Thomas