



Are you ready for spring break? These students sure are!
-Pg. 4

Baton Rouge gets closer with LSU2015

Jennifer Middleton
STAFF WRITER

Louisiana State University wants to move forward, and their new program, LSU 2015, will be the vehicle that moves them in that direction. The LSU website states the goal of this new program: "[T]o bring together the resources of the various units of the current LSU System to create a single, globally competitive LSU with statewide reach that is more efficient and more productive in the areas of educating its students, creating robust collaborative research, delivering effective health care, impacting economic development and conducting public service activities."
"There are ten institutions in the LSU System that will be reconfigured," said Dr. John Vassar, the vice-chancellor for academic affairs at LSU Shreveport. "The goal is to find ways that the campuses can operate more efficiently in a time of decreasing resources from the State of Louisiana. This reorganization will be accomplished under the direction of the LSU Board of Supervisors."
Vassar explained that the Board has put together a transition team to determine what changes need to be made.
"The transition team has constituted five advisory committees that are providing specific feedback to how this implementation should go through," Vassar said. "These committees are focused on individual areas like research, student life, business operations, academic, and

See PLAN, pg. 3



Photo courtesy of Nathan Gurinsky

LSU Shreveport men's soccer team

Soccer swap leaves players cross

Montana Davis
STAFF WRITER

Last month, the decision was made to cut both men's and women's soccer at LSU Shreveport and compensate for it with a cross country team. The result will affect more than four dozen student athletes on campus.
The state is facing major budget cuts towards in higher education, forcing LSUS to downsize its athletic department. The basketball and baseball program were kept because they give the university credibility, but soccer had to be surrendered in order to save the school's budget.
Baseball and both men's and women's basketball programs cost around \$275,000

to \$300,000. The soccer team, on the other hand, has been down funded to only \$70,000. However this does not include coaching compensation or scholarships.
"If they are going to cut us, they should be getting rid of some of the extra coaches they have for baseball or basketball," said representative of the women's soccer team Cortney Hunter, "Basketball has three or four coaches a team and there are about twelve players on each team. We had forty some odd players and one coach for all of us."
LSUS chose cross country as the replacement sport because of its smaller cost. Because a cross country team only needs 5 to 7 people to make a team, it will be very affordable under the new athletic department

budget.
The team expected to meet a new coach, but instead received the news that meant the abrupt end to their college soccer careers.
Nathan Gurinsky, defender on the soccer team, said that players were "appalled and struck with dismay" after hearing the decision. He also said that anger and depression were just a couple of emotions floating about the room.
"I feel the decision is completely wrong. But not giving us any notice or options to do anything was the worst part. We have all been left with nowhere to go or play", Gurinsky said. "I am a senior who is twenty one hours away from graduating so I do not have the option to just transfer and play somewhere else.
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LSUS considers move to two-session semesters



Interim Provost Dr. John Vassar

Crystal Vandegriff
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

LSU Shreveport is considering major changes to the fall and spring semester system.
Currently, a plan is in the works to divide each fall and spring semester into two sessions, similar to summer sessions. If the plan is implemented, classes would meet for longer amounts of time per day, but would last for only eight weeks per semester versus the current sixteen weeks.
However, Interim Provost Dr. John Vassar said that the plan is still being discussed.
"We've had some programs, some individual faculty who want to

just jump in and start doing this right away but this fall would be way too soon to implement anything like this," Vassar said. "Plus, more importantly, we haven't gotten feedback from everybody yet. If the conversation's go well, the implementation wouldn't occur until fall of 2014."
A major concern for students is how the implementation of such a plan would impact those receiving financial aid.
"Financial aid, classification as a student—those elements wouldn't be affected by this because students will still have the same requirements but you wouldn't have to be enrolled for all twelve hours simultaneously," Vassar said.

The plan would also include making more courses available online, in an attempt to better serve students with busier schedules.
Some such online courses were tested last semester, with more to be offered this fall. Vassar says he is hopeful that these courses will help to better serve students here at LSUS.
Despite such uncertainties, Vassar says that he believes, if the change is implemented, it will be beneficial to students, especially those who may be struggling with their classes.
"If I had to emphasize one word in this to students, it would be flexibility," Vassar said. "Every decision we make is in the interest of what best fits our students."

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# Don't be shy, let the LSUS secret out!



**Crystal Vandegriff**

**From the Editor's Desk**

When I chose LSU Shreveport, I actually didn't know that much about it. During the time I made my choice, I thought I would be commuting rather than getting my own apartment and so I chose a place relatively close to my hometown. The only thing I was sure of at the time was that I did not want to go to my local community college—I had already taken dual-enrollment classes there and it felt far too much like an extension of high school. I can't even recall how I found out about LSUS, but when I did, something just clicked. I applied to several schools, of course, but LSUS was my choice. I went to a Pilot preview open house; it was the first time that I had ever been on campus but I didn't explore it at all. I had no

idea what the campus beyond the Noel Memorial Library looked like until I attended my SOAR session a month before my first semester here. At the time, the campus seemed huge and intimidating—I remember parking in a visitor's spot in front of the administration building and asking for directions because I had no idea where I was supposed to go. It took me a long time to get oriented on campus (although the numbering in Bronson Hall still occasionally throws me off). Now, I realize that LSUS actually isn't very big at all. Our parking lots hardly seem big enough to hold us all sometimes, the elevators never move fast enough, and our entire campus is comprised of about six main buildings. But even more than that, we have a small number of students—only about 4,000. With the LSU2015 plan, it has become increasingly obvious that it is crucial that LSUS grow as a university. In order to do that, we must draw in new students, showing them how great our school is. We do have several things working against us: the recent demise of our soccer program, continuing budget cuts at the state level, the public's general lack of knowledge about us.

However, I think the biggest problem is the perception of our university—it seems to me that a lot of people perceive our university the same way I perceived my town's tiny community college. The best foundation we can provide for our school to grow? You. I've been in classes and been amazed at the ideas my classmates could come up with—here at LSUS, we're taught to learn and question, not to blindly accept things. But it seems that our questions, our ideas, our revolutions get stuck inside our campus walls. Let them out. Show the world that we're the world's next brilliant minds, ready to take the world by the hand and lead it into the future. It is crucial that LSUS grow as an institution. To accomplish that goal, why not show the community, the state, the world how LSUS has helped you to grow both as a student and an individual? It's time to show our community that even though we're not the biggest school, we're so much more than some little commuter school tucked away in northwestern Louisiana. We're the world's next movers and shakers.

## NEWS

### LSU Shreveport SGA gears up for election season

**Mercedes Taylor**  
STAFF WRITER

LSU Shreveport students will soon have a chance to have their voices heard as the LSUS Student Government Association is gearing up for their election season. The SGA is a student-run organization that represents the student body as a whole in the creation of legislature and other activities held throughout the year. Any student is eligible to run for election as long as he or she meets the requirements of a 2.5 GPA for undergraduate students or a 3.0 GPA for graduate students. Students who meet this requirement have only to fill out the intent-to-run form. There is no limit to how many students can be on the ballot for election each year so that every student gets a fair chance at running. "If elected, a student is asked to commit their time to SGA every Monday at Common Hour and bring their ideas and initiative," said SGA President Casey Thomas, senior, psychology/criminal justice. Thomas next spoke about the importance of the SGA to the student body. "The SGA can do so much for the student body, however, it requires a strong senate to do so!" Thomas said. "The senate has all the power in the SGA, as they are the ones that propose, pass, and enact legislation." Students who win the elections will be able to retain their spot until the next upcoming election. Every year, there are around 35 students that participate in the election, to compete for the twenty-seven senator spots. Students will not get another chance to run for the SGA senate until the next spring semester.



Photo by Crystal Vandegriff

Casey Thomas, senior, psychology/criminal justice, is currently serving as SGA president

"SGA has opened my eyes to the many issues and obstacles we face as students and as a university," Thomas said. "However, it has also allowed me the opportunity to see that we, the students, can change or influence these obstacles. That is why I encourage students who wish to help our university to run for SGA. It is truly a vehicle through which they can bring about change!" If students are interested in learning more about the SGA or joining, they can contact Casey Thomas through email at [sga@lsus.edu](mailto:sga@lsus.edu) or by phone at 985-290-0986.

Even if you are not interested in joining and

just want to share your ideas, the SGA is always open to hear anyone's ideas. "I encourage any student that is a 'mover and shaker' to throw their name in the hat and run for a senator position," Thomas said. Thomas also spoke of another benefit of getting involved with the SGA. "SGA is not only an organization representative of the student body, it is a group of students that come to be friends and work toward the greater good," Thomas said. "It is a learning experience and certainly worth joining."



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# Pilot Greg Shyne trots the globe



Photo courtesy of Greg Shyne

Greg Shyne, senior, general studies, described playing with the Harlem Globetrotters as a “dream come true.” Shyne currently has a rookie contract, stretching from last Christmas to this April.

Mercedes Taylor  
STAFF WRITER

LSU Shreveport student Greg Shyne, senior, general studies is currently touring with the Harlem Globetrotters. Shyne was contacted last summer to come to a one-day trial with the Harlem Globetrotters. He is currently under a rookie contract from last Christmas to this April. In the last month and a half, Shyne has played in multiple games all over the continent, including southern Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and British Columbia, Canada. Shyne has been working his way up in the Harlem Globetrotters and hopes to continue with them in the future. He remembers watching the Harlem Globetrotters when he was younger and looking up to them. “When I first stepped on the courts it was like, wow! I’m really here,” Shyne said. “I really made it. I watched the Harlem Globetrotters when I was little, and this was like a dream come true.” Shyne has remarked on his experience as being a true gift. He played for the LSUS Pilot basketball team from 2009 to 2012 and says that he saw his dream and was given the opportunity to go for it. Shyne said he always stayed active in sports, both in childhood and throughout his college career. “I try to stay positive—to influence kids to stay in school and stay active in sports because you never know what opportunities you will get,” Shyne said. “I didn’t know that it would happen to me so young. I am only twenty-two and have been given an amazing opportunity. I see myself playing overseas basketball in the future and to hopefully continue with the Harlem Globetrotters. I have learned that the Harlem Globetrotters are a funny group that will have you laughing nonstop 24/7. They are overall a great bunch of guys to be around.” For more information on Shyne you can contact Coach Chad McDowell at LSUS by email at Chad.McDowell@lsus.edu or by phone at 318-798-4107. The LSUS basketball team has finished playing for the season, but will be back next season.

## PELICAN BRIEFS

### MCOM majors invited to professional panel

Mass communication majors are invited to participate in a panel of media professionals that will take students through mock interviews and resume reviews. Panelists include mass communication professionals from the Public Relations Association of Louisiana Northwest Chapter. The panel will be held during Common Hour April 4. Students should come equipped with resumes and, if possible, portfolios. The panelists will treat students as they would during a real interview. The event also offers students an opportunity to showcase their professionalism to media professionals. There is a fee of \$20 to cover lunch. Students interested need to RSVP as soon as possible to Dr. Linda Webster at linda.webster@lsus.edu.

### Lambda Pi Eta to host induction ceremony

The LSU Shreveport chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, the National Communication Association’s honor society, will inducting new officers, three new members and chording graduates at their spring instillation ceremony. The ceremony is scheduled for 6 p.m. on March 15 in room 336 of Bronson Hall. Former KTBS anchor Sonja Bailes is the keynote speaker for the ceremony. Interim Chancellor Dr. Paul Sisson will also be present. During the ceremony, some students will also be awarded with Public Relations Association of Louisiana memberships by PRAL Northwest chapter representative Kristen Gary. Refreshments will be provided by LPH after the ceremony. All students are welcome to attend the event. For more information contact Dr. Linda Webster at linda.webster@lsus.edu.

### SOCCER cont.

The majority of the ones who can afford to transfer and who will not lose too many credit hours will. None of us would have been here at LSUS if it weren’t for the soccer program.” LSUS Interim Chancellor, Dr. Paul Sisson, has given the soccer program the chance to save itself, if the team members can raise \$70,000 by May 1. However, if the goal is not reached, the donations will replace the scholarships of the displaced soccer players. The cut was made during one of the best seasons for the men’s team, one game shy from the NAIA National Tournament. “The only thing left for us to do is to go out and ask for support from our family, friends and people in the community to help us raise our goal of seventy thousand dollars,” said Gurinsky. “We believe we have too much heart to stop here, to not search for our dream’s answer. We are calling on everyone else to help us out by giving whatever they might be capable of offering.” A support group for the soccer team, “Save the LSUS Soccer Program” was created on Facebook, and already has attracted more than 415 members. A donations page has also been started on www.razoo.com to help raise the money needed to keep soccer at LSUS. The next fundraiser for the “Save the LSUS Soccer Team” support group will be held at from noon to 11 pm. March 16 at the Red Mango.

### PLAN cont.

information technology.” The teams will present their preliminary report in June, but Vassar speculated that the complete reorganization will take several years. All of the schools in the LSU system will be affected by the changes. “The effect on LSUS will be significant,” Vassar said. “But at this time we cannot be certain of exactly what form the changes will take. Ideally it will allow students here to more easily take advantage of additional degree programs from Baton Rouge, offered here on the LSUS campus.” The changes will not be implemented for a while, but LSUS is already taking steps to prepare for when they do. “We have a representative from our campus on each of the teams,” Vassar said. “These individuals are representing the interests of LSUS during these reorganization conversations. I would anticipate some preliminary conclusions from the Board this summer.” When the changes are implemented, LSUS will be ready.

# English club hosting poetry competition

Morgan Marshall  
STAFF WRITER

This semester at LSU Shreveport, the English Club and student organization Write On! are hosting their second annual poetry competition. The poetry competition held its inaugural annual competition here at LSUS last year. Dr. Elisabeth Liebert, an assistant professor in the English department, said the competition was created for two main reasons. “The first reason was if more people on campus generally knew we existed, it might bring some interest back into the club,” Liebert said. “The second reason was to promote the arts on campus. I know there are a lot of people out there who like writing poetry. I think it’s very important to give them a venue to express their creativity.” The competition is open to all LSUS students. Participants should submit one poem, up to forty lines, on any theme of their choice. The poems will be judged by LSUS alumna Katie Bickham, a BPCC English instructor and MFA candidate at the University of Sourthern Maine. The winners will be announced as first, second, and third place and will receive cash prizes. What determines the winner of the competition is at the discretion of the judge. Last year’s judge, Professor Dorie Larue, English department, looked at the message and complexity of the poem. This year, Bickham will focus on different aspects to determine the competition winner.

“This is my first competition to judge,” Bickham said. “Liebert believed I was qualified based on my credentials. I will read each poem carefully and choose the most successful works based on their creativity, artistry and resonance.” Bickham recently won a major prize in the field of poetry know as The Missouri Review’s 2012 Jeffrey E. Smith Editor’s Prize for poetry, with a \$5,000 cash prize. She will have her poems printed in the spring issue of *The Missouri Review*, as well as be flown to the University of Missouri’s campus in April to give a reading. Sharing a passion for poetry, Bickham said that sometimes people who are passionate about poems have little community that surrounds the art form, leaving them feeling isolated and without resources. “Competitions like these provide an outlet and a platform for sharing poems for a community that does not offer many such opportunities,” Bickham said. “I hope this competition ignites a growing interest in poems and celebrates those students who choose to challenge themselves to write.” Roughly forty contestants participated in last year’s competition. This year, Liebert hopes to have fifty. “The competition gives students a venue to express their creativity,” Liebert said. “It also encourages students to think creatively. Sometimes people want to be heard. Often people who write poetry want someone to listen to them and the poetry competition offers a way to be heard.” The deadline for submissions is March 22. Students are to submit their poems to lsus.poetry@gmail.com as an attachment, with their name and the name of the poem in the body of the email. Winners will be announced shortly after spring break at the competition’s award ceremony.



Students enjoying the free wi-fi in the UC Port have another reason to smile. Both the UC Port and the Bookstore are offering special discounts to anyone wearing LSUS apparel who comes in on the first and third Wednesday of every month. Participating students will receive a 10% discount on their purchases, excluding textbooks.

Photo by Jenna Glorioso



# LSUS student campaigns for American Eagle



Photo courtesy of Nadia Williams

Nadia Williams, senior, psychology is in the midst of a campaign to become one of the few faces chosen by American Eagle’s Project Live Your Life.

**Julie Thomas**  
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

LSU Shreveport student Nadia Williams, senior, psychology, hopes to become one of the few faces chosen for American Eagle’s Project Live Your Life. Williams discovered the Live Your Life campaign through its Facebook page.

Project Live Your Life is a campaign created by American Eagle Outfitters that allows individuals across the country to compete and showcase how they live their lives. This is the second Live Your Life campaign sponsored by American Eagle. Last year’s winner, Dez Duron of Shreveport, continued on to be a contestant on the hit television show, The Voice.

The contest will run over a month, split into weekly contests. Each contestant must rank weekly in the top 200 in his or her category in order to continue onto the next week’s competition. Voting restarts every Sunday night, causing the contestants to petition and campaign weekly for the next week’s spot.

The categories are Bright & Bold, Sharp & Chic, Heritage, Festival, Beach, and Spring Break. Williams is competing in the Bright & Bold category, advertising herself through the numerous social media networks required in the rules of the compe-

tion. Each contestant must create a Facebook page specifically used for the campaign and must regularly post photos and updates as well as campaigning for votes.

“I voted for Nadia last week because I saw that she went to LSUS,” said Megan Raley, sophomore, general studies. “I thought it would be awesome if someone from my own school won.”

If Williams wins, she will receive \$2,500, a modeling job with American Eagle Outfitters, and the opportunity to widely promote the various causes she supports, including equal opportunities in education, civil rights, and sexual assault prevention and awareness.

“I plan to take the money and use it to pay for my alternate certification in high school English and apply to LSU Shreveport’s TeachLSUS program to get my certificate,” Williams said.

Voting will end in just a few short weeks at the end of March. Williams made it onto this week’s competition and needs votes from anyone willing to support her.

“I have gotten a ton of support from my friends, family, professors, and fellow classmates,” Williams said. “I truly appreciate everything they are doing to help me make it to the next round, because I could not do this without them.”

# LSUS students share their spring break plans

**Ebonie Nelson**  
STAFF WRITER

Spring break can be the highlight of your spring semester, whether you’re planning a family vacation, a nice getaway with friends, or simply rest and relaxation.

Of course if you have children and plan on doing something without them, now is the time to start making sitter arrangements and preparations.

Many students plan on heading out of town.

“My friends and I are going to Houston for spring break to do some shopping and clubbing,” said Yolanda Mason-Jones, senior, secondary mathematics. “We also plan on taking the kids to Galveston beach, visiting the aquarium, and if we have time possibly fit in a theme park.”

“I plan on going back home to Baton Rouge or zip lining with some

friends in Denham Springs,” said Shainne Ewing, sophomore, Pre-OT.

Adding adventure to your spring break week can help take the everyday stress out of school and work. Unfortunately, some students can’t take the time.

“I work for Caddo Parish School Board and their spring break is not the same time as LSUS, so I will probably be working during my break,” said Bridget Bain, freshman, early childhood education.

“I plan on resting and relaxing mostly. Also catching up on some exercise,” said Baryshnikov Chambers, senior, mass communications. “If time permits I’ll take my family out of town to San Antonio.”

Visiting family and friends was also at the top of some students’ plans.

“I plan on visiting my godmother one weekend and going to a crawfish boil in Tallulah the next weekend,” said

Kandice Pullen, senior, education.

Shawnette Meziere, senior, general studies, says she plans on visiting a pregnant friend in Atlanta.

Safespringbreak.org offers some safety tips to remember during your spring break.

- While on the road, be sure to buckle up.
- When booking a hotel reserve a room that’s above the first floor but below the sixth floor. Why? First floor rooms are easier to break into and the sixth floor is sometimes too high for fire ladders to reach.
- If drinking, do everyone a favor: party smart and be responsible!
- The last tip pertains to going out whether it’s day or night: the cardinal rule is this—go out with your friends, go home with your friends.

LSU Shreveport Spring Break is scheduled for April 1-5.



Photos by Ebonie Nelson

Kandice Pullen, senior, education, above, plans on visiting her godmother over spring break. Baryshnikov Chambers, senior, mass communications, left, plans on relaxing and exercising. Shainne Ewing, sophomore, Pre-OT, below, will visit her home in Baton Rouge. Yolanda Mason-Jones, senior, secondary mathematics, lower left, plans on going to Galveston.



Photo courtesy of Bridget Bain

Bridget Bain, freshman, early childhood education, above, will be working during her spring break.

