



The luck of the Irish brings students free cookies!

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“YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD TO SET ANOTHER GOAL OR TO DREAM A NEW DREAM.” - C.S. Lewis

## LSUS students receive awards, scholarships

**Eloise Watts**  
STAFF WRITER

The LSU Shreveport Department of Communications has awarded four students for their hard work and excellent GPA.

“I’m honored to have won this award. It means a lot to me that the communications faculty took the time to acknowledge my academic accomplishments,” said Rani Graff, senior, mass communications.

Rani Graff, Mercedes Taylor, Julie Thomas, and Crystal Vandegriff were each nominated to receive this award by the faculty at LSUS. These students will each receive a scholarship award from the royalty fund from the sale of the public speaking textbook. Each student must demonstrate both academic achievement and a combination of leadership, professionalism, and portfolio work directly related to the field they hope to enter.

Lambda Pi Eta, the national honor society for undergraduate communication students, hosted an award ceremony for the chosen scholars.

“Each scholar will receive \$100 a semester as long as they are eligible,” said Mercedes Taylor, senior, mass communications.

Graff is serving her second term as president of Lambda Pi Eta. She is currently interning in the LSUS media office where she works on writing press releases and producing infomercials for each campus department. They will play during commencement so that

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# Pilots make school history

**Montana Davis**  
STAFF WRITER

The LSU Shreveport Pilots now hold the biggest recorded upset on the first day of the 2013 Buffalo Funds-NAIA Division I Men’s Basketball National Championship.

Although the Lady Pilots were defeated in the first round of the NAIA Division I Basketball Tournament, the men’s team held strong and earned a spot in the Final Four.

## Pilots secure spot in the Final Four

Though the women’s team fell to their first round, the men’s basketball team held strong and persevered throughout the tournament, defeating No. 8 Pikeville, No. 9 Evangel, and most recently, No.1 Columbia.

The Pilots defeated No. 8 Pikeville in their first round, 91-87. They were led in

scoring by Rodney Milum with 30 points (a tournament best), Brandon Davis and Mark Politte, shooting 21 points each, and Tevin Hal with 17 points.

This was the LSUS men’s basketball team’s ninth straight national tournament appearance. After their first win in the tournament, they proceeded to their second-consecutive appearance in the quarterfinals after beating Evangel 77-70.

LSUS scoring against Evangel was led by Brandon Davis’s 23 points and 17 rebounds, with his 17th double-double in the season. Rodney Milum followed with 19 points for the Pilots.

The Pilots were up by only nine with one minute left in the first half. After a pair of free throws by Mark Politte, LSUS took a 41-31 lead into halftime.

During the first few minutes of the sec-

ond half, the Pilots held their 10-point lead. But Evangel fought back and was down only three, 45-42, with 14 minutes left to play after an offensive rebound was put back.

After several minutes, the Crusaders came all the way back, tying the game at 53.

With the game tied at 57, the Pilots answered with an 11-2 run, leading LSUS to a 77-70 victory.

LSUS performed an impressive second-half comeback to defeat No. 1 Columbia, 79-78, and advanced to the semifinals.

Brandon Davis led the Pilots with 27 points and 10 rebounds, for his 18th double-double of the season. Rodney Milum followed with 24 points, on 5-of-11 shooting from behind the arc.

Jake Green sacrificed himself and took a charge for the Pilots, allowing the game winning free-throws sunk by Tevin Hall. This put

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Both the Lady Pilots’ and the Pilots’ games were broadcast live in the UC Webster room. All were invited to help cheer the teams to victory.

Photo by Montana Davis

# Noel Foundation provides new library equipment

**Kirsten Howard**  
STAFF WRITER

The LSU Shreveport Noel Memorial Library recently received a \$60,000 donation from the Noel Foundation to fund the purchase of all-new library equipment.

Like many other LSUS programs, the Noel Memorial Library has been experiencing budget cuts for several years. Without enough money to purchase more up-to-date computer hardware for the library, LSUS students and teachers were “stuck in the past” in terms of technology.

Some of the library equipment had not been replaced in fifteen years. The client-terminal computers had not been replaced in five years and their usual life-expectancy is only around three to four years.

To give an idea of how outdated the older equipment was, Brian Sherman, head of access services and systems for Noel Memorial Library, said, “As opposed to normal computers, the thin client terminals in the library connect to two servers that control processing. The old servers were so old

that I would have to run to the back, where the processing servers are, just to delete space in order to let students save large documents.”

After more budget cuts for the 2012-2013 school year were announced, the LSUS Noel Memorial Library knew funding for new technology needed to be found elsewhere.

“The situation was getting serious,” said Alan Gabehart, dean of Noel Memorial Library. “Some of the equipment was on its last leg.”

Due to the circumstances at hand, Gabehart immediately decided to send a proposal to the Noel Foundation, owners of the James Smith Noel collection of books held in the library. They soon answered LSUS’s request for funding and donated enough to purchase almost 50 pieces of new equipment.

Gabehart and Sherman used the money to replace outdated equipment used primarily by students. Forty-two new client terminals with 23-inch monitors, two new processing servers, two ScanPro 2000 microform scanners, and two

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Photo by Kirsten Howard

Brian Sherman, head of access services and systems for Noel Memorial Library, left, and Alan Gabehart, dean of Noel Memorial Library, right.

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# Cutting the soccer team at what cost?

## An Almagest at LSUS Editorial

In wake of the recent announcement that both the men's and women's soccer teams will be replaced with cross-country, LSU Shreveport soccer players have been left scrambling to save the program.

In order to save the program, albeit for only one more year, the team members must raise \$70,000 by May 1. Doing so would allow upcoming seniors to finish out their college years playing soccer. Should the donations fail to meet the \$70,000 requirement, the money will go instead to replacing the scholarships of the affected soccer players.

Of course, even if raised, the \$70,000 will not cover everything—scholarships for soccer students and coach compensation have been left out of the figure to give students a more feasible chance. The original cost of saving the soccer team was around \$163,000.

Clearly, LSUS is in dire financial straits, however, was there no better way?

Obviously, the athletics department is costly—there are scholarships, travelling expenses, equipment costs, and uniforms to consider. However, athletics are also a major draw for students at LSUS.

Over four dozen LSUS student athletes were affected by this decision. Strictly by number of players, the soccer teams were the largest of all LSUS sports teams.

And yet, in amount of funding, the soccer teams were dwarfed by the funding given to the baseball and basketball teams. In fact, even the original save-the-soccer-team figure is significantly less than the average spending for baseball and men's and women's basketball, which reportedly clock in at around \$275,000 to \$300,000 annually.

Rather than cutting the soccer program entirely, why not trim the budgets for the other programs?

More importantly, why not inform the team further in advance of the issues facing the program—allow them time to attempt fund-raising rather than forcing their hand into a last-ditch effort to resuscitate an already dead program.

Purely from an outside perspective, it seems as though there was a lack of communication between the athletic department decision makers and those that would be most affected by this decision. Making such a decision without including the players doesn't seem very sportsman-like.

Beyond the monetary issues, what does this

decision due to the credibility of the university?

More than four dozen players are now displaced. Many now face the risk of losing their soccer scholarship. What then? If they cannot get their scholarship here, they will most likely go somewhere else.

Granted, soccer is not as popular a sport as basketball or baseball—that's what made LSUS so unique! Unlike most area colleges, LSUS had both men's and women's soccer. This fact drew many students to LSUS.

Now, with the soccer teams gone, such students will go elsewhere. Why, when it is most crucial for LSUS to grow, would we choose to cut a program that drew in students? Furthermore, why would we do so when such actions will undermine the faith that students have placed in LSUS?

Obviously, attempting to please everyone would be a Sisyphean task.

Students are aware that times are hard for the school, evidence of budget cuts is everywhere. However, suddenly yanking the soccer teams out from under the players feet is a sign of poor faith.

Students have placed their trust and futures in the hands of LSUS and they deserve to have that honored.

# Isn't it time you decided what you believe?



Crystal Vandegriff

From the Editor's Desk

Last Friday, I attended the Lambda Pi Eta, Psi Kappa Chapter induction ceremony. Students, some alumni and faculty, and parents all crowded together into Bronson Hall room 344 to congratulate both new and graduating members. The ceremony went well—the speakers were well rehearsed and everyone did their part. However, it was keynote speaker Sonja Bailes's address that particularly caught my attention.

She based her speech around a book, entitled *This I Believe*, which consists of a variety of people stating the one belief they hold at their

core, in 500 words or less. Bailes said that, after much thought, her core belief could be summed up as "everyone has a story to tell."

Throughout her speech, I sat thinking about what my core belief is: what do all of my actions come back to? I thought about it when I got home, over the weekend, while I marathoned the *Lord of the Rings* movies. I'm still thinking about it right now, as I write this editorial.

What do I believe in, more than anything else?

Throughout this process, I have come up with some definite things I believe in: although the world is an awful, awful place (and, as a journalist, I consume a lot of news—to the point that I'm shocked at how little shocks me anymore), there are still little things that make it worth it to smile every day; exploring the arts and literature will help us to better understand real life situations and other people; it's important to take time for yourself, away from work and school, to focus on what you need for your physical and mental well-being.

To me, all of these things come back to what

I determined to be my one core belief: that we as human beings should never stop seeking knowledge, that we should always continue learning.

In her speech, Bailes pointed out that when we stop learning, we become stagnant. Personally, I think it's a bit worse than that—I think we begin to regress.

When we believe there is nothing left to learn, or we consciously stop striving to learn new things, we let others decide for us, as though we were children.

Even if you never set foot in another classroom, I encourage you to find an area of interest to you and learn everything you can about it. When you've done that, find another.

Challenge your mind daily. Challenge your beliefs. Remind yourself of why you believe in the things you believe.

I also encourage you to sit down, even if it's just for a few minutes, and figure out what you believe.

Now, I ask you: what do you believe in, more than anything else?



## Students get a taste of Ireland at LSUS

Last Friday, the Student Activities Board hosted a St. Patrick's day celebration for students in the University Center during Common Hour. Students were invited to eat cookies, as well as enjoy some green punch.

Left, the table's last customer got an extra treat when he was given the table decorations, which he decided to wear around his neck. Right, a member of the student activities board pours a student a cup of green punch.

Photos by Jenna Glorioso



VOLUME LXII, ISSUE 8

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# LSUS offers aid with your FAFSA

**Ebonie Nelson**  
STAFF WRITER

The thought of filling out the Free Application for Federal Aid (FAFSA) can be overwhelming. Students usually have lots of questions about this process. Some important things to remember when starting or renewing the process:

- First make sure you are filling out the appropriate forms for the school year in which you need aid.
- If you are filling out a hard copy of the FAFSA, make a copy of the blank form, just in case you make a mistake.
- Read all instructions and follow them precisely.

Since last year the Department of Education has been using the IRS data retrieval tool, a recommendation from the financial aid office regarding your FAFSA.

"I encourage students to complete their income tax first, wait two weeks, because it takes the IRS that long to process it," said Betty McCrary, director of financial aid. "And then make sure you use the data retrieval tool."

This year the Department of Education has five tracks of verification, whereas the previous years had one track.



Photos by Ebonie Nelson

Betty McCrary, director of financial aid



Student financial aid deadlines

They are also requiring students to go to the IRS office and get an IRS tax transcript which delays processing.

"That's why we recommend students to use the IRS data retrieval tool. If you can't, beware of the tax transcript," said McCrary.

If it's your first time filling out a FAFSA your first step is to get a Personal Identification Number to sign electronically. To receive the PIN go to [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov). If a student is under 24 years old that student that is considered a dependent and both parent and student will need to register and get a PIN. Then go to the FAFSA website, which can be found on the LSU Shreveport website.

Once you have completed and submitted the form electronically, go back and review the application to make sure everything is correct.

"I just renewed my application, so I'm waiting on my confirmation from LSUS," said Latisha Williams, sophomore, bio-chemistry.

McCrary says if you haven't heard anything within a month call the financial aid office. It's best to be proactive. Fall and spring deadlines are June 1.

For any questions or concerns regarding the FAFSA or any financial issues contact the financial aid department in the ADMIN suite 202, or 318-797-5363.

## PELICAN BRIEF

### LSUS students asked to cast their vote for SGA

Students will be able to voice their opinions in selecting the new LSU Shreveport Student Government Association vice president by voting on Moodle.

Voting will begin on Monday and end at noon Thursday.

Students can cast their votes by logging onto their Moodle accounts and utilizing the designated spot for SGA elections during the allotted time frame.

Current SGA Senators Garrett Jones and Matthew Kay are competing for the office and began campaigning on Monday.

The positions of president and secretary are unopposed. Current SGA Vice President Cody King is running for president and current SGA Senator Brianna Marie is running for secretary.

Results of the election are expected to be released Thursday.

For more information contact current SGA President Casey Thomas at [SGA@lsus.edu](mailto:SGA@lsus.edu).

### PILOTS cont.

the Pilots up by four, with only two seconds left in the game.

The Pilots lead the NAIA Division I in scoring with 92 points per game, while Columbia was allowing 55.7 points per game. LSUS was only the third team to score 70 or more points against the Cougars this season. This was Columbia's first loss in a year.

The Pilots will make history in the Fab Four as they take on the 13th seeded Georgetown at 8 p.m. Monday March 18 at Municipal Auditorium.

### Lady Pilots play hard but fall short

The LSUS women's basketball team fell to Lee University 60-55 on March 13. Lee took the first win in the opening game of the 2013 NAIA Division I Women's Basketball National Championship for the fourth time in 10 championship appearances.

The Lady Pilots finished their season with an overall record of 25-6.

Both teams had a rough first half offensively, shooting less than 25 percent from the field. The Lady Flames opened the second half with a 13-2 run, advancing Lee to a 37-24 lead.

The Lady Pilots finally tied the score, 50-50 at the 1:47 mark of the second half. The first time the LSUS women's basketball team had tied or taken the lead since the first half.

The Lady Flames scored eight points in the final minute, leading to their five point victory.

LSUS was led by Sharde Henry, who scored 15 points.

"They were a tough team but we fought hard and stuck with them. We could have won it, but they had an All-American step up when they needed her," said Katie McCoy, senior guard on the women's basketball team. "Even though we did lose, it was good hard game to go out on. They were number seven and we were number twenty-five. I definitely think we held our ground and never backed down."

All games were televised live in the UC Webster Room at LSUS. The viewings were completely free.

### NOEL cont.

computers with 24-inch monitors to accompany the scanners were purchased.

"The new microform scanners have much more advanced technology," Sherman said. "The new machines allow students to save the image, e-mail it to themselves, and edit the image to make it much better quality. Images can be enlarged now to sizes you couldn't fathom before."

Sherman claims the new scanners are especially helpful in regard to the "strong collection" of Northwest Louisiana newspapers with hard-to-replicate images.

"This is stuff that, without the help of the Noel Foundation, would not have been able to be replaced," Gabehart said.

The Noel Foundation is dedicated to supporting the Noel Collection, however, they have financially supported much more than just the library and its collections this year.

A \$50,000 donation was also given for the purchase of e-journals and e-articles in the engineering and computer sciences fields. The Noel Foundation donated this money to the library because of the new petroleum and construction management engineering programs at LSUS.

Altogether LSUS has received \$110,000 from the Noel Foundation for the 2012-2013 school year and the entirety of the funding has been used for new library resources.

"With the help of the Noel Foundation this year, the library will have up-to-date technology for the next several years and, hopefully, we will be able to get back into the three-year rotation of hardware, like before the budget cuts," Gabehart said.

## Workshop offers healthy ways to deal with stress

**Ashley Harris**  
STAFF WRITER

Emotional distress is a fundamental feeling that people try to avoid. It can vary from physical, mental, social, and economic stress. The Student Development Counseling Center held an event in the university port at 5:00 p.m. last Wednesday about coping with this distress.

Graduate student Piper Shaw administered the session. Shaw gave handouts, which coincided with a PowerPoint slideshow. The slideshow introduced different ways for students to accept distresses of school and life. The first way mentioned was recognizing your emotions—which can range from fear, anger, to sadness.

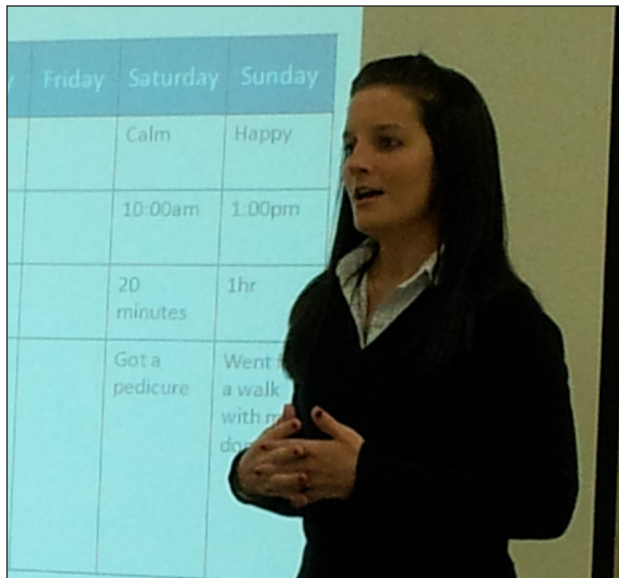
"Negative emotions are important to our survival," Shaw said. "There are some things that shouldn't be feared, or avoided at all costs."

According to Northern Illinois University Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center, students may struggle with relatively long-standing emotional deficits that are exacerbated by the transition into college. Shaw spoke about specific ways of acceptance such as watching and observing, labeling or describing, and using imagery to describe the magnitude of your distress.

She offered the example of comparing your emotions to an ocean wave (go with the flow, and wait until it passes) and clouds in the sky (wait until the "dark area" clears). Keeping an emotional diary is another suggested way to cope with distress. Shaw also suggested dancing, going for a walk, talking about it, asking for a hug, and last, but not least—smile and reminisce about good times.



Students listen for helpful tips about dealing with distress.



Photos by Ashley Harris

Piper Shaw, graduate student

### AWARDS cont.

those attending graduation can see what LSUS has to offer.

"This is my third time to receive this award," Graff Said.

Taylor also chooses to spend her time interning in the LSUS media office where she uses her skills in public relations. She is currently the secretary to the LSUS chapter of Lambda Pi Eta. Taylor is hoping to continue working in social media and video production.

"Last semester three people were given this award and this year there are four recipients," Taylor said.

"About a month ago, Dr. Webster notified all of us and told us there would be a ceremony honoring those that won," Graff said.

These students have worked very hard to maintain a good GPA while managing their time between work and school. Each recipient is a full-time student getting closer to graduating. They have each put in many long hours while trying to excel in the classroom.

"I hope to keep it up and continue receiving my \$100 scholarship," Taylor said.

# LSUS gains a little more color with Rainbow Jeopardy

**Kirsten Howard**  
STAFF WRITER

The LSU Shreveport Spectrum Gay/Straight Alliance Club is planning an up-and-coming trivia event in hopes of widespread campus participation and increased awareness of the organization.

Last week's meeting allowed GSA President Rodney Miller, psychology, senior, and GSA Vice President Blair Doucet, animation, junior, to present many new ideas concerning the trivia tournament and the organization's future.

The trivia competition, known as Rainbow Jeopardy, will feature a Jeopardy-like series of questions about famous gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people, slang, movies, and other trivia. The competition will include both easier and more difficult questions.

The event is scheduled for Common Hour next

Wednesday in room BE 104. Students will sign up individually, and then be paired with other individual members to create a five-person team. Students may also sign up an entire team, but members may not exceed five. Prizes will be given to the top team.

Rainbow Jeopardy is not the only event GSA has planned for the spring semester of 2013. GSA, along with many other on-campus organizations, will host booths at the LSUS Spring Fling April 24 and 26.

On April 24, GSA will sell baked goods and treats. Money raised will go to the organization's fund which sheds light upon pressing societal issue such as sexuality and gender equality, Holocaust Remembrance Day, and the Day of Silence.

On April 26, GSA will set up a game for students to play and get an idea of what the organization is all about. Winners will receive a prize.

In addition to Spring Fling, GSA has planned fun and informative meetings for the remainder of the spring. Meetings are held at 4pm every Wednesday and during during Common Hour Friday, most often in room BE 104. The Wednesday meetings are business and event planning meetings, whereas the Friday meetings are more of a social-hour with fun activities or events.

Finally, GSA is making its name known on-campus as well as off-campus through its volunteer work. Possible volunteer activities for the spring include visiting the Mercy Center, Housing for the Philadelphia Center, to garden and improve the landscaping for tenants, as well as volunteering with Chimp Haven for Earth Day on April 20.

For more information on the growing GSA organization, contact President Rodney Miller, Vice President Blair Doucet, or Dr. Mary L. White, assistant professor of finance and economics, GSA faculty advisor.

# LSUS debate team tackles controversial soccer swap



Photos by Jenna Glorioso

Above, debate team President Chelsea Anthony, senior, psychology, and her opponent, debate team member Chaz Coleman, junior, psychology, go over their notes before the debate begins. Below, Coleman argues in favor of cutting the soccer team.



Above, Chelsea Anthony, senior, psychology, argues against cutting the soccer team. Right, Trey Gibson, communications instructor and debate team coach, welcomes the audience and introduces the two participants in the coffeehouse debate.

**Jennifer Middleton**  
STAFF WRITER

The LSU Shreveport debate team met in the University Center during Common Hour Wednesday to discuss the school's intention to cut the soccer program.

"It was a fun debate," said debate team member Chaz Coleman, junior, psychology. "We dealt with a very tough issue. Although I had to argue we should cut it, the majority of students are still in favor of the soccer program." Coleman explained that, after talking with students, they realized that the biggest issue was that people simply didn't have much information about what was going on.

"They didn't know why it was being cut," he said. "They didn't know what potential benefits are being brought by it being cut, and so I think after this round, everyone walked away really informed, whether they agree or disagree with what we talked about, I think that's what's most important."

Coleman's teammate, debate team President Chelsea Anthony, senior, psychology, added that another important factor is the effect the cut will have on the players.

"You can tell how much these players love the game," Anthony said. "We interviewed some of them, and we found out that this is their whole life. And to have that taken away from them without any notice is really unfair and so we just wanted to make

sure that everybody knew that that has happened, and that they understood why it happened, and then they could make their decision from there."

During the debate, Anthony argued in favor of keeping the soccer program.

"Number one, I said it was important to the students who are playing soccer," she said. "They obviously love the sport. I said it was important to the community—a lot of them are really great volunteers. I said it was important to our school—it increases enrollment. I also said that they weren't given enough time to try to save their program, and so they absolutely need another year to try to save it. And I said they were willing to sacrifice a lot. They started out with a \$150,000 budget. They're willing to go down to \$70,000."

Coleman, on the other hand, had to present an argument in favor of cutting the program.

"We don't have the budget for it," he said "We don't have the support for it as well in the community."

He explained that in regard to long-term success, the cut would benefit the rest of the sports department.

"We would really secure the other athletic teams we have," he said. "We could still bring back soccer a few years down the road. There are some benefits to actually cutting the soccer program."

