



Pilot Pete shows students he cares with some sweet treats!
-Pg. 4

Debate team president scores big

Mercedes Taylor
STAFF WRITER

LSU Shreveport student and debate team President Chelsea Anthony, senior, psychology, continues to rise in debate being, recently named the national debate champion. Anthony won the Edmund Burke award, which names her the season ranking national varsity debate champion. The award is given on a point system based on Anthony's six best tournaments. She received 74 points, while second place scored 61 points, a 13 point difference, placing Anthony far ahead of her competition. "I feel so thankful," Anthony said. "I absolutely could not have achieved this without the help of my amazing team and coach. Every single win for us is a team effort, so this title is as much theirs as it is mine." The tournament was held by the International Public Debate Association which consists of about 80 debate programs coast-to-coast. Anthony received first place within this organization. Debate coach Trey Gibson knew that Anthony would get the title because of how far ahead she was of her competition. "She has grown enormously," Gibson said. "Stylistically she has always been a passionate debater, but she has really grown when it comes to implementation of argumentation, but also grown through See DEBATE, pg. 3

Arrest in LSUS robbery, shooting

Crystal Vandegriff
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Shreveport police have arrested Scott Houston, 19, in connection with an armed robbery and shooting that took place in the parking lot of LSU Shreveport's University Court apartments. Houston is charged with armed robbery. Police are still searching for two more suspects. The arrest comes after a man was shot in the leg after being robbed at gunpoint late Saturday night. The victim, whose identity has not been released by police, was taken to LSU Health Shreveport and treated for non-life-threatening injuries. According to police reports, the victim was speaking with a friend in the University Court parking lot when they were approached by three men, at least one of whom was armed. Reportedly, the victim and his friend were both ordered to the ground before the victim was robbed and then shot in the leg. Currently, the LSUS University Police

"We have cameras around campus and those have been very helpful in dealing with this situation. We patrol the campus and [the apartments] constantly."
- Rebecca Chiles

"Department is coordinating with the Shreveport Police Department in connection with the ongoing investigation. "We have some eyewitness accounts that gave us a description of the possible vehicle that led to the arrest," said Rebecca Chiles, university police chief. "At this time, to our knowledge, nobody involved was a student." Chiles also said she is hopeful that the remaining two suspects will be taken into cus-

today soon. In response to the incident, Chiles said the University Police will continue to do everything within its power to keep students safe. "We have cameras around campus and those have been very helpful in dealing with this situation," Chiles said. "We patrol the campus and [the apartments] constantly." Chiles also offered some precautionary advice to wary students. "The main thing I tell students, and anyone, is to be aware of your surroundings," Chiles said. "Don't be looking down texting, but be aware of what's going on around you. Be very wary of suspicious-looking people or groups and suspicious-looking situations. Just be aware of your surroundings." If students notice suspicious persons or activity, they can alert campus police by calling 318-797-5082 during office hours or 318-455-5497 after hours. In emergencies, students can use the emergency call-boxes located around campus and the apartment complex.

LSU System announces new president

The LSU Board of Supervisors announced today that F. King Alexander will serve as president of the LSU System, as well as chancellor of LSU A&M. The announcement comes after the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved Alexander's appointment. Alexander will begin serving his term as president in July. Alexander will replace current LSU System President William Jenkins, who is also currently serving as interim chancellor for LSU. Alexander visited the LSU campus in Baton Rouge last week, holding a staff forum

Thursday morning, a student forum Thursday afternoon, and a faculty forum on Friday. Alexander was recommended by the LSU Presidential Search Committee on March 18 during a Board of Supervisors meeting. In the LSUS press release announcing the decision, Alexander is stated to have served as the president of California State University Long Beach since 2005 and previously served as president of Murray State University from 2001 to 2006. The press release also noted that Alexander previously held positions at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

The press release additionally stated that "under [Alexander's] leadership, CSU Long Beach improved graduation rates to their highest levels in school history; enhanced the number of graduates of their highest levels, totaling approximately 9,000 degrees per year; and obtained capital funding and constructed a new \$110 million hall of science, a \$70 million student recreation and wellness center and a new school of nursing facility during an economic recession." Alexander holds a Ph.D in educational leadership and policy analysis, as well as a Master of Science in educational studies/comparative educational policy.

Pilots take a last-second loss but never lose cool



Photo by Morgan Marshall

The Pilots stand for the national anthem during a home game earlier in the season. In the recent national tournament, the Pilots won the Dr. James Naismith-Emil S. Liston Sportsmanship Award

Montana Davis
STAFF WRITER

LSU Shreveport lost in the semifinal round of the 2013 Buffalo Funds NAIA Division I Men's Basketball National Championship. A hard loss to swallow, the Pilots put up a hard fight but showed resilience throughout the event, earning them the tournament's sportsmanship award. Georgetown's Monty Wilson scored the game-winning three pointers with 0.4 seconds remaining in the game. Though a loss, LSUS was not an easy defeat - final score was a close 90-88. The Pilots ended their season at 27-7. This was LSUS' ninth appearance in the tournament and the team finished with an all-time record of 8-9. The Pilots also finished with an average of 7.3 per game in four games of this

year's tournament, including 10 three-pointers in the contest and an advantage of in made free-throws, 89-50. Pilot scoring was led by Brandon Davis, who scored a team-high total of 31 points, 13 rebounds, four assists and four steals. Rodney Milum scored 21 points and five rebounds. Tevin Hall and Aaron Jones both scored 11 points on a combined 7 of 9 shooting. Davis and Milum were the highest-scoring teammates with at least two appearances in this year's tournament heading into the game, combining to average 48.0 points. Both were named to this year's "Tournament All-Team." Davis averaged a double-double for the tournament while sending in 25.5 points and pulling down 13.5 rebounds per game. Milum also took command as he shot 44 percent from beyond the arc and averaged

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Letters to the editor are encouraged. However, the staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, and content. Any letter submitted by a club or organization must be signed by all members of the group or by the group's president. Letters should be e-mailed or submitted to the *Almagest* office, BH 344, by 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Please type the letter and include your classification and major. *The Almagest* reserves the right not to publish submitted materials. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed.

### 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.



# A calendar redesign to re-energize future

## An Almagest at LSUS Editorial

The much talked-about redesign of LSU Shreveport's academic calendar will begin its pilot program in the fall. Several online courses, mostly general studies, have already adopted the two-session format.

At this point, the switch is still considered a recommendation from Interim Chancellor Dr. Paul Sisson, with a definite move to be decided after the success or failure of this fall's pilot program.

Discussions between administrators and faculty, administrators and students, and faculty and students are still being held. Rumors are still moving swiftly throughout the campus rumor mill.

There are two hugely important points to consider: that this could be extremely beneficial for students and that this could be extremely beneficial to LSUS as an institution.

As it stands now, students who receive financial aid and most scholarships are required to maintain at least the minimum 12-hour requirement to continue receiving their money. Students who take only 12 hours and then struggle with one of their classes have two options: to either drop the class and be required to pay back their tuition money or to continue with the class and add an "F" to their GPA so that they can continue to receive their financial aid or scholarship money.

Under the new plan, the requirements to be considered a full-time student remain the same: 12 hours per semester. The amount of financial

aid a student receives will remain exactly the same, it will just be paid out at different times and in separate intervals. However, students struggling with a class will have a great advantage: if they struggle with a class in the A-session, they can drop the class and try it again in the B-session. These students would still be taking 12 hours per semester and would therefore still qualify for their financial aid.

Students who switch their major will also have a greater chance of still graduating on time with a chance to take more classes per session and more classes per session online.

Another benefit for students would be in the purchasing of textbooks. Currently, students must purchase all their textbooks at the beginning of the semester—this is a huge expense for college students, usually climbing into the hundreds even before sales tax.

If LSUS were to move to a two-session calendar, students could buy the textbooks they would need for the first session, sell them back at the end of the session, and then purchase their second-session textbooks. While the overall cost would be about the same, it would at least be more spread out. Students would have more of a chance to get their finances in order or save up for what the money required to buy the textbooks they will need.

Of course, the plan is not perfect—shorter sessions will mean longer per-day classes. The same amount of contact hours must take place for

every class. Classes that are one hour on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday will shift to classes that are two hours on Monday and Wednesday. Some students may think that seems a little daunting.

Still, even longer per-day classes may have its benefits. Longer classes will mean a chance for more in-depth class discussion, a greater amount of immersion in the subject for students, and, depending on the professor, longer amounts of time to complete in-class assignments and tests.

The second point that must be considered is that this calendar change could greatly benefit LSUS as an institution.

The bottom line is that it is crucial for LSUS to grow. Offering more classes online and allowing students a chance to complete their degree in a shorter amount of time may go a long way to helping accomplish that goal.

A calendar change will help LSUS to create the new brand that they are trying to sell to potential students.

For too long LSUS has been thought of as a local last-choice school or commuter college. This move would show our community and northwest Louisiana as a whole that LSUS is not an institution stuck in the past, but an institution that listens to its students and helps them move forward into a brighter future.

LSUS carries a lot of great history and tradition with it, but it is only change that will help the university continue into the future.

# Change the world, challenge yourself



Crystal Vandegriff

From the Editor's Desk

“

This week, I'd like to encourage you to challenge your beliefs, discover why you believe in them. Do you actually believe in them at all or are you just parroting what you've been told [to believe]?

”

The problem arises with the fact that it seems that many of these people are holding on to a past that never really existed at all.

Nostalgia is just imagination when it is applied to the past. Longing for the past is not going to help improve the future.

Instead of holding on to the beliefs of your parents, your family, or your friends, why not create your own belief system? Maybe you really do believe the exact same things as them, that's fine, too. But it's imperative that you challenge your beliefs to make sure that they are indeed your own.

I was a junior in high school before I really began to question what I was being taught. I discovered that my beliefs differ from those of my parents. They're quite similar to my sister's beliefs. They're extremely different than many of my high school teachers.

And that's OK.

Education should be about challenging yourself. Without challenge, nothing is really learned. Being able to repeat information is not the same as actually learning anything.

One of my favorite classes since beginning college has been philosophy. I took it a few semesters ago with Dr. Vassar. It was great! It was incredible to be able to have intelligent discussions, real class discussions—and debates!—with fellow students.

I learned to not just study my own beliefs, but to study other people's beliefs. It became important to me to not only realize that other people had different belief sets than mine, but also to understand where and why their beliefs differed from mine. Why do they believe what they believe?

Of course, that doesn't mean I agree in the least with all beliefs. I believe in women's rights, same-sex rights, and I'm not very religious. Intolerant people irk me more than anything else.

However, I still believe that it is important to be informed.

What I love most about journalism is searching for the facts. Getting to tell a story that will help people become more informed. Learning about a variety of people, cultures, foods, and places.

I was drawn to study journalism because I developed a fascination with people—I want to hear their stories, I want to understand what's going on in the world beyond my own home.

So the question I leave you with today is not what you believe, but why?



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# SGA begins elections for officers

Jennifer Middleton  
STAFF WRITER

Elections for a new Student Government Association vice president begin this week.

The contenders for the student-held office are Garrett Jones, junior, computer sciences/criminal justice; and Matt Kay, junior, marketing/management.

“I chose to run for SGA vice president because I’m willing and capable of making LSUS a better place,” Kay said.

Kay explained that while the SGA can pass resolutions, he wants to take it a step further by finding the right faculty members to present those resolutions to.

“They get things put in place,” he said.

Jones chose to run because he wants to bridge a gap.

“I want to be able to be that medium between the students and between the administration,” Jones said.

Jones and Kay both want to help bring back the soccer program, and they both expressed concern about the new eight-week semester system that is set to be implemented in the near future.

Kay suggested a petition to help get the soccer program going again.

“I want to see SGA start circulating a petition around campus,” Kay said. “We support our athletics, we support our soccer, we want to keep all these programs going.

“As far as the dual semester,” Kay said, “I want to see a traditional method as well, where students who have learning disabilities or students who might not be able to take the four hundred level classes in eight weeks have an opportunity to take it in a traditional semester instead.”

Jones also explained why the eight-week semester idea



Photo by Jenna Glorioso

Matt Kay, junior, computer sciences/criminal justice, stood outside of Bronson Hall to encourage students to vote.

troubles him.

“I find [it] a major problem because it’s taking away from student life on campus,” Jones said. “and it’s taking the students to where they just sit at home on a computer. They’re not networking with other students, they’re not making those connections here. We decrease campus life, the campus will be obsolete soon.”

A possible decline in student life worries Jones, so he suggests a possible solution.

“I want to take a look at dormitories,” he said. “I want to see if we can find some way to start getting funds to build dormitories. Dorms on campuses are one of the main ways that students network. They meet everybody on the floor, pretty much. And then, as we get rent money from the dormitories, we put it back into lowering tuition, kind of paying back students.”

Voting for SGA elections opened Monday, and will end Thursday.

# Noel Memorial Library continues to grow

Iris MacLean  
STAFF WRITER

The humble location and small collection of the original LSUS library doesn’t compare to the three-story granite building holding it’s extensive collections now.

When LSUS opened in 1967, there wasn’t much to the small library. This was the motivation to bring in the Archives and Special Collections in 1974.

Dr. John Hall, then- chairman of the social studies department; Malcolm Parker, then- library director; and Hubert Humphreys, then- assistant professor of history, implemented plans for the addition of new collections. Their aim was to document and preserve history in northwest Louisiana.

LSUS hired the first archivist in 1975. Patricia Meador started with just two collections, and built a program featuring more than 600 archival collections, 300 manuscript collections, and 150 oral histories.

This collection is currently located on the third floor and available to anyone. People all over the country and abroad use it to research the Red River, plantation life, business and industry, society and culture, education, politics, architecture, and the natural environment of northwest Louisiana and surrounds from 1830 on.

“The library was definitely much smaller prior to the donations of James Smith Noel in 1994,” said Brian Sherman, head of access and services, “because there was no endowment of any type.”

Sherman was referring to the Noel Memorial Library when James Smith Noel moved his immense collection of 200,000 volumes into the new building.

James Smith Noel, born in Shreveport in 1912, died four years after founding the library. He was a premier connoisseur of rare 20th century books. He spent his life collecting books, dreaming of someday building a library for scholars.

Throughout the years, the library has grown. It houses a reference collection and government documents that take up the entire first floor. Follow steps to the second and you will find the main collection as well as microforms and media. The third has the Noel Collection and Archives.

The building stands out from the architectural style of the rest of campus. It’s made of granite, with large sweeping windows in front that open the library to natural light. A spiral staircase lined with mirrors and windows curves up to the third floor.

“I’ve heard that it was one of the very last public buildings made with granite,” Sherman said.

## DEBATE cont.

her knowledge of so many world events.”

Gibson remarked that debate is much more than arguing. It helps the students learn and grow into better debaters, listeners and researchers.

“I think the best thing you can do for yourself is to constantly evaluate how you’re doing and find ways to improve,” Anthony said. “After every round, I try to think about what I could’ve done better, and I keep that in mind the next time I debate.”

Anthony joined the LSUS debate team her freshman year. Since she started, she has continued to win debate after debate. She plans to graduate the following spring semester of 2014 and beginning law school at LSU. After graduation, Anthony hopes to continue with debate and help out her fellow debaters.

“Hopefully I can come back and compete every now and then in the professional division, but unfortunately, I won’t be able to very often,” Anthony said. “I’ll miss my team so much. Debate has been such an important experience in my life and it really has made me who I am.”

Students interested in competing in debate can contact Trey Gibson by email at [trey.gibson@lsus.edu](mailto:trey.gibson@lsus.edu) or by phone at 318-797-5081. Even though it is too late to compete for this debate season, students interested can still join and gain valuable information and practice for the next upcoming season, according to Gibson.

## PILOTS cont.

23.5 points per game.

The Pilot team remained a class-act throughout the ups and downs of the tournament, and scoring them the Dr. James Naismith-Emil S. Liston Sportsmanship Award.

The Pilot’s head coach Kyle Blankenship was recognized with the Charles A. Krigel Award, presented to the coach of the squad that earns the Naismith-Liston Sportsmanship Award for team leadership.

LSUS students and faculty, such as Nobel Library cataloger Martha Lawler, agree that the team’s character and poise throughout the tournament is what they are most proud of.

The Pilots overcame many obstacles to get to the tournament.

For example, most teams have a dozen players on full scholarships; LSUS has the equivalent of about three scholarships for men’s basketball. Other teams have a head coach and two full-time assistant coaches; the Pilots only have a head coach and one part-time assistant. Most tournament teams were driven by big buses, while the Pilots made due with rental vans.

The team’s attitude and hard work paid off as they took home the award that required skills both on and off the court, Shreveport’s own underdog story.

# PELICAN BRIEFS

## LSUS soccer fundraiser at Buffalo Wild Wings

All those interested in helping save the LSU Shreveport soccer team are invited to a fundraising event to be held April 8 at Buffalo Wild Wings on Youree Drive.

Participants will receive a certificate to present to the cashier at the time of payment. 20 percent of every purchase made with a certificate will be donated to the LSUS soccer team.

Only the Buffalo Wild Wings located at 7441 Youree Drive, Shreveport, LA, is participating in the fundraiser.

## Career Services hosts online image seminar

LSU Shreveport Career Services will host a developmental workshop to teach students about the significance of their online presence in a job search.

The workshop will be instructed by Paula Atkins, director of student development. She plans to inform students on how to present themselves through various social media.

The workshop will also stress the importance prospective employers place on candidates maintaining a professional online image.

It will be held at 11:15 a.m. April 8 in Admin room 215.

For more information contact Paula Atkins by e-mail at [paula.atkins@lsus.edu](mailto:paula.atkins@lsus.edu) or by phone at 318-797-5365.

## SGA senator campaigns to begin after break

Campaigning for senator positions in LSU Shreveport’s Student Government Association takes place April 8-12.

Students planning to campaign must file intent-to-run forms by Thursday. Requirements for senator include a 2.0 or greater GPA for undergraduate students, and a 3.0 or greater GPA for graduate students, as well as no scholastic or disciplinary probations.

Campaign rules can be found in the SGA office, and may be picked up after turning in intent-to-run forms. For more information about Senator Campaigns of SGA, visit <http://www.lsus.edu/student-life/student-organizations/student-government-association>.

## LSU Shreveport gets ready for new freshmen

All incoming freshman for the fall 2013 semester at LSU Shreveport may attend the first available Freshman Orientation Session April 12.

Newly enrolled students are required to attend Freshman Orientation before registering for fall classes. This event allows freshmen to tour the campus and get one-on-one help with scheduling classes at no cost to them.

Freshman Orientation sessions for fall 2013 are scheduled for April 12, May 21, June 14, July 12, July 26, and August 13. Students must register in advance for this event. For information on how to register, visit <http://www.lsus.edu/admissions-and-financial-aid/undergraduate-admissions/first-time-freshmen/freshman-orientation/freshman-orientation-faqs>.

## Free cotton candy offered in the UC

Interested in scoring some free cotton candy? Then stop by the Cotton Candy Carnival on April 10.

The Student Activities Board will hand out free cotton candy to LSU Shreveport students in the UC Lobby during Common Hour.

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



# ThinkFirst encourages Shreveport to think active

**Elizabeth Stroud**  
STAFF WRITER

Biking and walking are exercise trends that have gained popularity across the country. The Department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences is capitalizing on these trends and have partnered with the Community Foundation of Shreveport/Bossier, to participate in ThinkFirst’s Bike and Walk Project in Shreveport. This is the first study of this kind in our area

The project, which started Saturday, continued with sessions on Monday and Wednesday.

Dr. Emmanuelle Clottey, professor of kinesiology and health sciences, hopes that this health conscious project will give students real life experience while helping the community.

“Our overarching desire is to create a win-win situ-

ation for LSUS and the communities by letting LSUS students participate in addressing real community issues,” Clottey said.

Clottey’s other goals for the project include helping with containing the obesity epidemic by making people more active, increasing the health of Shreveport/Bossier residents and creating awareness about leading an active lifestyle through biking and walking.

The Bike and Walk Project includes three main activities. The first is talking to walkers and cyclists around the community to understand their motivation for leading a healthy and active lifestyle.

“The survey will help us to gain a better understanding of walking and biking practices in Shreveport and ways to improve them,” Clottey said.

The second aspect to the project is to count the number of walkers and cyclists at the selected survey sites.

This will help the project members know more about the patterns and volume of walkers and cyclists.

The third, and most influential, aspect of the project is compiling all of the information gathered into a report for community leaders, city authorities and local policy makers. This report will include data and offer recommendations on how to make Shreveport a friendlier place for walkers and bikers.

The Walk and Bike Project is the first one of its kind to be conducted in Shreveport, a project that Clottey hopes will continue to grow, to help promote healthy living for years to come.

“This is a pilot project that we hope to scale up to get more residents to live actively,” he said. “Active living promotes health.”

# Tulin Melancon to serve on Multicultural Center board

**Ebonie Nelson**  
STAFF WRITER

Newly elected Multicultural Center of the South board member, Tulin Melancon, is proud to serve with the non-profit organization.

The mission of the Multicultural Center of the South is to educate the general public and visitors about the rich diversity and history of Shreveport, Bossier, northwest Louisiana and the South.

“It would be really good for me to serve on a board like this, it would be nice to represent my country,” said Melancon, LSU Shreveport assistant director of online learning and faculty development.

Her Turkish background adds another piece of culture to the center.

After being invited to Multicultural Day by a friend, she participated in the activities representing Turkey. She brought cultural artifacts and Turkish cuisine to the table. Upon meeting her, some members, expressed interest about

the country and its traditions.

The Multicultural Center of the South offers several programs to the public such as: Multicultural Academy, Women’s Day, Teen Council, Christmas Around the World, Taste of culture, and various children’s activities. The programs provide an opportunity for students to engage in learning through multicultural experiences.

LSUS has its own multicultural department in which some faculty members serve. However, when events go on at the Multicultural Center, Melancon serves as board member and LSUS representative.

Natives from different countries living in Shreveport and Bossier have donated everything inside the two-story building. They provided authentic artifacts to decorate displays from China, Korean, Turkey, and Africa, among others.

“I feel it’s a really good place to be a part of. I like it,” Melancon said. “I suggest any of our students to get to know the place and involve themselves.”

The center has resources available to people of all ages. It offers diversity training and adult education, room



Tulin Melancon, LSU Shreveport assistant director of online learning and faculty development

Photo by Ebonie Nelson

# LSUS shows students appreciation with some sweet treats

Last week, the LSU Shreveport Student Activities Board hosted Student Appreciation Days. March 18 was “apple day”, at 7 p.m. March 19 a special event featuring the band the Neopolitans was held in the UC Port for evening students, and between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on March 20 the ice cream truck, sponsored by Mister Cool, gave out free ice cream to students.

Daniel Blount, junior, computer information systems, below, enjoys a nice, cool drink in the UC Mall. Myron Potter, freshman, biochemistry, right, opted for the more classic cone. Lower right, Sonya Parker, freshman, criminal justice, enjoys a cone while talking to Keke Ellis, sophomore, sociology. Ellis is currently serving as the Student Activities Board special events and entertainment chair.

Photos by Jenna Glorioso

