

# THE SENTRY

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AT ALEXANDRIA

May 2008

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## Manuel named Chancellor

By Trayce Snow  
Senior Editor

March 28 was the culmination of nearly nine months of searching. David Manuel, vice president for academic affairs at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, was named Chancellor of LSUA by LSU System President John Lombardi.

As a way of introducing the new Chancellor to the LSUA community, students were asked what information they would like to know about Manuel. Following are the questions asked and the Chancellor-elect's answers.

**-Please explain the role of the Chancellor at LSUA**

The Chancellor is the chief executive officer of the LSUA campus and reports to the President of the LSU System. The Chancellor provides vision and leadership; supports excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service; and promotes the recruitment and retention of talented students, faculty and staff. The Chancellor has the responsibility to represent LSUA within the LSU System, to develop sources of outside funding and to facilitate interactions with the local community and other constituencies.

**-What is your number one priority at LSUA? What initiatives can we expect to see developed within your first year as Chancellor?**

Priorities always tend to have timelines associated with them. A high priority will be contributing to the creation of a comprehensive enrollment management and retention plan. An additional immediate priority is to learn as much as I can about LSUA so that I can appreciate its culture, community, students, faculty, staff and



David Manuel

its environment. My active listening and learning will clarify goals, strategies and initiatives. Some of these may already be underway, some may be modifications of current initiatives, and some may be entirely new. For example, in this listening process I will be interested in learning the University community's meaning and understanding of LSUA's vision to become "...a baccalaureate institution of choice..." Clearly articulating this will surely drive strategies, plans and the priorities that we subsequently undertake.

**-Increasing enrollment is a top priority mostly concerning recruitment of traditional students, but LSUA has a large nontraditional student population. Do you have plans to increase enrollment and retention of this student population as well or will your focus be on the traditional student - of which there are fewer nationwide.**

My understanding is that the University is currently working on an enrollment management and retention plan. Yes, there is a desire to attract more traditional and full time students. However, the

part time and non-traditional student populations are a very important part of the mission of LSUA and in all likelihood will continue to be for the immediate future. We must focus on and target strategies that address all of LSUA's student needs and populations; enrollment, retention and graduation strategies will require some tailoring if LSUA's students are to be successful.

**-What will you do to make LSUA more attractive and to add more degree programs?**

Everything we do will send the message that we are a high quality institution of higher education that focuses on student success. To accomplish this we will engage in the LSUA venture in an integrated fashion — recruiting high school students; appointing, developing and retaining high quality faculty; *designing degree programs that are relevant and forward-looking*; creating a physical environment that is pleasant and welcoming; offering students the best academic experience; creating a dynamic and vibrant campus life; graduating students into successful careers; and creating a campus community that invites alumni to return often.

**-How will you help boost/enhance non-academic student life?**

This is a great question. LSUA has taken two recent and significant steps to boost the non-academic life of the campus: The Oaks Apartments and the onset of men's baseball and women's softball. In addition, the planned renovation and expansion of the Student Center will add new facilities

**See Manuel Q&A pg.2**

## Multi-purpose academic center finally funded

By Trayce Snow  
Senior Editor

In a \$350 million capital outlay bill for construction sent to the legislature for approval, Gov. Bobby Jindal recommended LSUA receive \$9.95 million for a Multi-Purpose Academic Center (MPAC). The governor presented the information April 18 at a news conference held at LSUA.

"Obviously we're here on this campus for a very important announcement," Jindal said. "We're here to say that we're committed to providing nearly \$10 million, \$9.95 million, for the Multi-Purpose Academic Center right here on this campus."

The first request for capital outlay funding for the MPAC was submitted in 1983 by H. Rouse Caffey who was Chancellor of LSUA at the time.

"I was glad to see that Chancellor Cavanaugh, and others before him, had not abandoned this project," Caffey said. "It was rewarding to me to be present at the press conference when Gov. Jindal announced the remaining fund-

ing necessary for the bids and construction of this building, the first new academic building at LSUA since the Nursing building in 1979."

According to David Wesse, vice chancellor for finance and administrative services, LSUA will receive funding and complete the bidding process by July 1. Construction can begin 30 days after a bid is accepted.

"I would expect construction will begin in August," Wesse said. "This is a 2-year construction cycle and the remainder of the \$17.45 million will come the next fiscal year."

**See MPAC pg. 2**



Photo by Victor Riscili  
Governor Bobby Jindal greets guests at a news conference held at LSUA April 18.

## SG Elections Results

As of press time  
**James Klock (unofficial)**

President

**Lei Prenell**

Vice President

**Cody Dunn**

Senior Senator

**Sabri Deason**

Junior Senator

**David Tubbs**

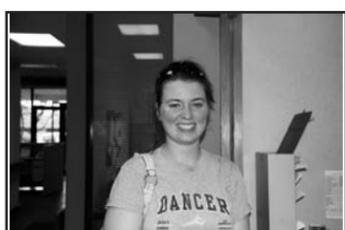
Freshman Senator

## We Asked: Did you vote in the first Student Government elections?



Daniel Williams, communication studies junior

"No. Because I feel like we didn't have enough time to make a good decision. You can put anything on paper."



Amanda Linder, nursing freshman

"No. I don't believe in voting. I think politics are dirty and I feel my vote doesn't matter here."



D'Wayne Price, communication studies senior

"No. I didn't even know anything about it. I don't have access to a computer outside of school."



Lea Hull, nursing freshman

"No. All because of the dirty politics. All that happened in the quad blew my mind. I couldn't vote after that."



Jennifer Fehmie, communication studies sophomore

"No. I didn't know. Were there e-mails sent out? Why weren't there any flyers announcing it? I had no idea."

# LAGNIAPPE



Photo by Melissa Laborde  
Lady Generals Coach Casey Goodman showing her commemorative bat.

## 2008 Athletics Awards

	Baseball	Softball
<b>Most Valuable Player</b>	Jordan Marks	Megan Rowe / Sloan Laiche
<b>Best Offensive Player</b>	Wes Hotard	Amy Leonard
<b>Best Defensive Player</b>	Kaygan Jones	Erin Brossett
<b>Best Pitcher</b>	Eli George	
<b>Coaches' Award</b>	Clint Harry	Toni Willis

The NAIA Champions of Character individual award was presented to freshman softball pitcher Alyssa Smith, while the baseball program received the same in the team category.

### GPA Awards for minimum 3.0:

Trey Broussard, Logan Crow, Christopher Simmons, Cody Laprarie, Casey Henagan, Casey Charlie, Katherine Parrott, Adam Tucker, Wes Hotard, Clint Harry, Amy Leonard, Toni Willis.



Photo by Melissa Laborde  
Generals Coach Dan Purvis showing his commemorative bat.



Photo by Melissa Laborde  
Jordan Marks, MVP, stands with Matt Burns, assistant coach for the Generals.



Photo by Melissa Laborde  
Sloane Laiche, co-MVP, stands with Mike Wright, volunteer coach for the Lady Generals.



Photo by Melissa Laborde  
Megan Rowe, co-MVP, stands with Mike Wright, instructor of criminal justice and volunteer coach.

## Generals baseball ends its first season, hopeful for 2009

By Brandi James  
Guest Contributor

The LSUA Generals' baseball team has endured discouraging losses and celebrated wins, but they have emerged as a team with a strong bond and hope for the future at the end of their first season.

"It has been more than we could have hoped for with such a young, inexperienced first year program," said Adam Tucker, catcher.

In spite of this being their building year, the team proved to be a strong program by ending the season with the number of wins in the double digits.

The team agrees the single best moment was winning their first home game. It was against Louisiana College and a natural rivalry has developed. Not overlooking games lost in the last few innings to highly regarded teams, Taylor Guidry, infielder, says there is a positive side to those games.

"To be contending with

these major teams only to lose it in the end, shows we have a lot of potential," Guidry said.

With classes, practice and games, the players have found an activity to relieve stress and further develop the connection necessary to be a cohesive team – sand volleyball at The Oaks.

"It's a great way to relax and unwind and still stay active," Tucker said. "It also provides a great way to build a strong team bond outside of baseball."

Baseball and softball players, friends from the apartments, and anyone else bored on any given afternoon get together to play. All-day tournaments are not unusual on the weekends.

The games give players a chance to broaden their social circle and enrich their experience at LSUA, and for players like Guidry, there are other reasons to play.

"Cause chicks dig it," Guidry said.

For the off season all of the

guys are planning to return home, where some will play in private leagues.

"Playing in leagues, whether it be in New Orleans like me, Lafayette like Guidry, or Florida like Hotard [Wes Hotard, outfielder], is important to stay conditioned and in shape," Tucker said.

Expecting the 2009 season to be even better, the Generals have a few new recruits coming in from other colleges and are keeping everyone from their strong core team.

## Sim class avoids a war of the worlds

By David Tubbs  
Staff Reporter

Throughout Assistant Professor Kerry Ordes' advanced political science simulation, there was a pseudo-invasion of India, genocide in Kurdistan, and high-level Russian espionage.

"It proceeded as expected," said Ordes.

The simulation, which ended the last day of class, accounts for one-fourth of the student's grade. The remainder of the grade is based on a mid-term exam, a foreign policy paper, the simulation performance and an additional paper.

"They diligently found out what they could about their

country and their neighbors on their own," Ordes said.

The simulation began when Chinese brutality in Tibet increased world-wide tensions with China and spurred the west to begin talk of boycotting the upcoming summer Olympics hosted by China.

The Russian Federation discovered it had one of the world's largest oil reserves, but did not know what to do with it. As high oil prices drove the price of food beyond the purchasing power of millions, Russia sat on their good fortune.

Turkey tried selling its border area inhabited by Kurds who were receiving arms from the Russians.

The U.S. took a low-key approach to international politics, handled the war in Iraq and attempted to broker peace between Israel and Syria – perhaps because of overwhelming hostilities between Iran, Russia, China, and Syria.

A Russian policy issued by team members Andrew McDowell and David Doyle read: "The discussions between our two countries [the U.S. and Russia] must be conducted carefully and deliberately to avoid any misunderstandings."

"We were on non-speaking terms [with the US]" said Jason Wheeler, Iranian team.

"They either wanted us to help them, or they wanted a piece of us," said Lacie Staf-

fard of the U.S. team.

India, capable of being a key world player, lacked adequate support and found itself in dire straits when the simulation's food shortage hit hard. They were more content to finagle an aircraft carrier deal with whoever would sell.

Israel, trying to remain quiet, was thrust into the spotlight because of a border conflict with Syria.

"Our goal was to protect our borders," said Daniel Williams of team Israel.

"Syria did not tolerate Israeli action against greater Syria," said Derik Richey of the Syrian team.

Behind the scenes and in a small room with a few com-

puters were "the Fates." These three students laughed, joked and wrote updates for the class. They sifted through private correspondence between country teams and ensured the simulation was realistic. The Fates had previously taken the course under the role of independent nation and retook it in a deity status.

"For non-traditional students, this is the wildest experience . . . this is the future," said Fate Matthew Falgoust.

The progression of political simulations is difficult to track. In the end, there was no winner or loser.

Grades were awarded with respect to a nation's actual foreign policy, said Ordes.

# PEOPLE

## Student Spotlight: Levelle Harris

By Victor Riscili  
Editor-in-Chief

Levelle Harris has been the top biology student at LSUA for the last two years and continues to prove himself as an exceptional student.

"I would put him against any undergrad biology student," said Reed Crook, assistant professor of biology. "It doesn't matter what school they go to."

His list of awards is long: Academic Excellence for GPA 2004 through 2007, the 2007 Leadership Alliance/Eli Lilly Fellowship award from Stanford University of California, 2006 Leadership Alliance Fellowship award from the University of Colorado-Boulder, TOPS Honors Awards, Who's Who Among U. S. College Students, the Dr. Ben Martin endowed scholarship, National Deans List since 2003 and the 2007 and 2008 Outstanding Biology Student award at LSUA.

He has recently been accepted to the National Institute of Health.

"It is a training program where I will be working in a lab," Harris said.

The summer of 2006, under the Leadership Alliance Fellowship, Harris worked at the University of Colorado-Boulder to study the role of Sox genes in Fruit flies. According to Harris, Sox genes assist in the development of many organisms, including humans.

His 2007 fellowship to Stanford University was to track the development of stem cells as they develop into pancreatic cells.

"We were tracking the beta cells, which are the insulin-secreting cells," Harris said. "We were using a protocol to develop these stem cells into beta cells. The process behind it is that we could harvest beta cells and replace them in patients suffering from diabetic diseases."

LSUA Assistant Professor of Biology, Susan Sullivan, has been working with Harris for two years on a study of bacteria carried by Town, or leaf-cutter, ants. Harris presented their findings at a meeting of the Louisiana Academy of Sciences in Baton Rouge and at a branch meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in Little Rock, Ark.

"Usually professors give the talks at ASM meetings," Sullivan said. "Levelle was the only undergrad to present."

Harris has been president of the Biological Sciences Organization for the last two years,



Photo by Victor Riscili  
Levelle Harris has won many awards, including that of top biology student for 2007.

but not all of his time is restricted to biology related activities. In 2007, he earned the Colonel W. R. Middleton award for service to the community. He works as a biology tutor on campus and gives time to the local community.

"I work at the Kingsley Place," Harris said. "I spend a few hours out there every week playing games and visiting."

Since 2006 Harris has volunteered with Alzheimer patients at the retirement home, tutored adult readers at Partners in Literacy and worked at the Hope House as a house volunteer.

After graduation, Harris' goal is to continue the type of work he has been doing.

## Professor Spotlight: Susan Sullivan

By Philip Fanara  
Copy Editor

A professor's work is not always finished after class is over. Professors have been devoting time to research in hopes of finding solutions to problems and unanswered questions.

Susan Sullivan, assistant professor of biology, and Levelle Harris, senior biology major, are researching leaf cutter ants, which do something that could change the way we preserve food or provide healthcare.

According to Sullivan, ants perform unexpected and amazing tasks. She noted through research that the leaf cutter ants are very organized, creating their own compost pile and morgue. Ants are assigned a specific task at birth and the leaf cutter ant is assigned to find leaves for food.

Sullivan says the ants cannot directly consume the leaves because they cannot digest cellulose, the substance leaves are made of. They use a fungus that breaks down the cellulose into a matter that is digestible. The idea being researched is that the leaves brought back do not normally have any other fungi or bacteria forming on them. This allows the ants to store the leaves in the colony without threat of a bacteria or fungal infection.

Sullivan theorized the ants may utilize bacteria that inhibit the growth of any other bacteria and fungi and is testing this hypothesis. Leaf cutter ants were crushed to extract bacteria and fungi which were placed in plates and allowed to grow alongside varieties of known bacteria. When the plates were checked, it was noted that most control bacteria grew away from a bacteria obtained from the ants.

Recently, Sullivan and Harris isolated a new bacterium discovered from a different colony of ants. According to Sullivan, this new bacterium also has antimicrobial properties. It has a different pattern of growth than the previously discovered bacterium.

"It stopped the growth of other bacteria around it. I'm pretty excited about it," Sullivan said.

The next step in this experiment is finding which substance produced by the ant bacterium is responsible for inhibiting the growth of other bacteria. This can be a complicated process because bacteria can produce many different types of compounds. To find this specific inhibitory substance, Sullivan said collaboration needed with a biochemical lab and can take a couple years to complete as long as funds are available for research.

Sullivan designs the experiments and assists Harris while he carries them out. Once the experiment is completed, and if the gene(s) are identified for the substance that inhibits the growth of bacteria, research could provide new substances for preventing spoilage of foods and improving human healthcare.

"That, along with the great hands-on learning experience for our students, is a goal of the project," Sullivan said.

Through these experiments, students learn how to carry out scientific inquiry, safety techniques and learn a large number of techniques not taught in classes Sullivan said.

"The research has also



Photo courtesy of Susan Sullivan  
Susan Sullivan, assistant professor of biology digging for ants.

made the students very competitive for external research programs and admission to graduate and professional schools," Sullivan said. "I would imagine the experience would also help an employer see that an individual is capable and practiced at original thought and problem solving."

## BCM's 'Amazing Break'

By David Tubbs  
Staff Reporter

During Spring Break 2008, 13 members of the Baptist Collegiate Ministry went in search of people to help. The BCM's "Amazing Break" was an effort to get students involved in community outreach and service. Ten students and three supervisors committed random acts of kindness in three separate states: Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama.

Chad McClurg, BCM director, considers the trip a good experience for students.

"They got to see different places and got the chance to demonstrate faith in action," McClurg said.

In Atlanta, the group unpacked boxes of clothing and food for the non-profit organization Community Action Mis-

sion Project which began as an initiative by local religious organizations to pool resources to provide better social services to those in need.

"We sorted cans and made boxes for families who could not afford them," said Chase Burns, sophomore business major.

According to Jamie Funderburk, freshman communication studies major, the Austelle Baptist church in Atlanta held 30 years of junk. The congregation is predominately elderly and unable to renovate their own facilities. The volunteers lent a helping hand.

"It was an honor to share God's love by helping," Funderburk said.

The group then drove to Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., and helped paint Vanderbilt's own Baptist

Collegiate Ministry building.

"It was a good way to reach out to other BCM's," said Jared Price, freshman history major.

A poverty-stricken man in Birmingham, Ala. got a gift from LSUA in the form of a new roof.

"I went so that I would have the opportunity to help people in need," Burns said.

The group also took time off for themselves to enjoy the break from school before returning.

The whole trip was planned by McClurg through a network of personal contacts. The BCM holds similar trips each semester.

"I had never been on one before," said Oliver Alexandre, sophomore allied health major. "It was awesome. I'll probably go on another."

To feature your student club, organization, fraternity or sorority in the next *Sentry* issue, send your organization's information to [sentrynews@lsua.edu](mailto:sentrynews@lsua.edu).

# PEOPLE



Photo by Trayce Snow

Upon their arrival at the Alexandria International Airport, the visiting Montenegrin professor and three students were greeted and presented LSUA t-shirts, book bags and LSUA literature. From left are Dessie Williams, coordinator for Multi-Cultural Affairs at LSUA; Marija Knezevic, assistant professor of 19th- and 20th-century British literature at the University of Montenegro; Ginger Jones, professor of English at LSUA; Ivana Vavic, Ana Ponos and Mira Grebovic, all students of the University of Montenegro.

## International visitors

By Trayce Snow  
Senior Editor

Without the benefit of a full-fledged International Studies program, LSUA has taken another step toward fulfilling its goal of establishing one by assisting Ginger Jones, professor of English, in the act of hosting three students and one professor from the University of Montenegro.

"I believe the international student exchange is a uniquely fascinating and broadening experience," Jones said, "and I am certain that now that our campus has hosted foreign students for over a week, we can understand the benefits of facilitating further exchanges with other students and other campuses.

Mira Grebovic, junior English major, Ivana Vavic, senior English major, and Ana Ponos,

senior English major, together with their professor, Marija Knezevic, assistant professor of 19th- and 20th-century British literature, arrived at LSUA April 23 for a 13-day stay.

Montenegro, a European country on the coast of the Adriatic Sea, declared its independence from the union of Serbia and Montenegro on June 3, 2006, making it the newest fully recognized country in the world.

During the fall to spring 2006-2007 academic year Jones, as a Fulbright Scholar, taught three English literature classes at the University of Montenegro and got to know Grebovic and Knezevic. By writing letters to the Minister of Education and the University of Montenegro, Jones was instrumental in helping Knezevic obtain approval and fund-

ing for a visit.

"Everyone has been so attentive to our needs," Knezevic said. "We are quite thankful for the efforts of Dr. Jones and everyone."

The students presented information about their country, while Knezevic presented a lecture on the British writer D. H. Lawrence on whom she is an authority, having recently published *Lorens u Italiji* (Lawrence in Italy).

The group also attended classes at LSUA, visited local churches, the Alexandria zoo, New Orleans, Natchez, and were invited to homes and shown around town by several LSUA faculty, staff and students. Courtesy of Thomas Armstrong, interim chancellor, and David Wesse, vice chancellor for finance and administrative services, the group stayed at The Oaks.

## Wheeler receives Overdyke award

By Philip Fanara  
Copy Editor

Jason Wheeler, senior history major, was awarded the Overdyke award for the spring 2007 semester for his article "Lynching and the Indignation of Representative Gentlemen." Wheeler wrote his article as an assignment for history class (HIST 4072, The New South) taught by Jerry Sanson, professor of history and political science.

Wheeler's article, published in the winter 2008 edition of the journal of *North Louisiana History*, is about racial violence in the early 1900's and Frank Pipes Jr., a 47-year old black man who was lynched

following a series of wrongful accusations and arrests.

Wheeler worked on his article periodically for several months doing extensive research such as studying microfilm, reading the 1904 Alexandria Town Talk and examining city records at the parish courthouse.

"Jason is a very good writer," Sanson said. "We were confident we had a winner."

Wheeler remains modest about his own writing abilities.

"I'd say I am a good writer," Wheeler said. "I really don't like to judge my performance."

The Overdyke contest asks students to submit an article for publication relevant to the his-



Jason Wheeler  
tory of north Louisiana, which includes areas from Alexandria and above. It is split into an undergraduate and a graduate division. The awards are given by the North Louisiana Historical Association and are made in memory of the late W. Darrell Overdyke, long time professor of history at Centenary College, Shreveport.

## Ms. LSUA 2008



Photo by Saurabh Singh

Alonna Richard takes her walk after being crowned Ms. LSUA 2008. Richard was one of five contestants.

By Nicole Powell  
Staff Reporter

Alonna Richard, freshman nursing major, was crowned Ms. LSUA 2008 on March 29 at the 48th annual Ms. LSUA pageant. Richard received a \$1000 scholarship along with a sash and crown.

"I was completely shocked," Richard said. "I drew a blank for a short while, you know, the can't breathe type of thing."

Britni Campbell, communication studies freshman, took First Runner-up, received a \$500 scholarship and the People's Choice award. Amy Theriot, nursing sophomore, took Second Runner-up and won Ms. Photogenic, the Scholastic Achievement Award and Top Ad Sales honors. Erica Shipp, psychology senior, received Ms. Congeniality and Kayla Ducote, biology freshman, took home the Director's Award.

The evening started with a welcome by Missy LaBorde, mistress of ceremonies. The contestants, together with Brandy Roberts, Ms. LSUA

2007, performed "Putin' on the Ritz-With a Modern Twist." The contestants, wearing black vests, neckties and using umbrellas as props, danced to "Putin' on the Ritz" adding a modern twist by including "Umbrella" by Rhianna.

As the contestants presented themselves in casual wear, the crowd cheered, chanted names and displayed an array of homemade signs. During the evening wear round guests came to their feet.

As the judges scores were tallied, Ms. LSUA 2007 Brandy Roberts was bid farewell with "The Way We Were: Recognition of Former Ms. LSUA Queen".

Richard said she is looking forward to her reign in spite of all the responsibilities of being a student and representing the university.

"It is truly an honor to actively grow with and represent LSUA," Richard said.

"It's so overwhelming," said Anita Guillory, Richard's mother. "It's a blessing and all the girls were so beautiful."

The evening ended with a reception to honor Richard.

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# OP-ED

## Column

### Ben Mahoney...Knows you are, but what is he?

By Ben Mahoney  
Staff Columnist

This article is pretty indicative of my attitude these days. It's 3:30 p.m. about three weeks after the deadline, and I'm staring at my computer wondering what I can write about that could possibly be interesting and give my column the proper send-off it doesn't deserve. So for those of you among the half-dozen that read my column, let me get my standard fare out of the way: blah, blah, blah, inappropriate sexual innuendo, blah, blah, blah, get involved, blah, blah, blah, Student Government, blah, blah, blah, the word "penis," blah, blah, blah, muffins. (I've never written about muffins, but I'm holding one right now).

Is what I'm feeling right now symptomatic of what is called "senioritis?" I think so, my friends. Every class is 50 minutes of unbearable torture, wherein the best I can do is summon every ounce of spiritual energy I have available in my being and will my hands not to make high-speed impact with people who prolong class with ridiculous actions like "asking questions" or "being interested in learning." I take about 13 bathroom breaks from every class, and spend the rest of my time staring off and twitching nervously. Basically, I'm marking my days like the world's fattest speed addict.

Naturally, my professors have noticed. I think they can see the desperate look in my eyes (and the spit leaking out of my mouth). They used to say things like "Strive for excellence!" and "You can do it!"

Now I mostly hear, "Just hold on" and "Quit hitting me!" They've also become severely insensitive, saying things like, "This paper is eight weeks late, so I'm taking twenty points off," or "If you miss my class one more time I am going to fail you." Is that how grown-ups speak to each other?

"Ben Mahoney," you're saying, "this column is lame and humorless. Please stop." I won't, my friends, and let me tell you why: my little dog and pony show needs 600 words a story before the *Sentry* will cut me a check. Did you know I get paid for this? It's something you'll definitely want to have SG check into. And, by the way, if I never have, let me thank you for the \$.02 each of you pays in student fees to keep me employed. I am wishing, however, that I had spent the money on Ritalin, so I could stay on topic...

What will I miss about school? I'll miss the warm, comforting blanket of academia. I've been warned that I will transition into the professional world where someone called "The Man" demands something called "results." I'll miss the non-accumulation of interest on my student loans. I'll miss the fascinating people I've met, I'll miss writing this column, and I would miss my parking decal, except the sun has chemically etched it into the rear window of my car.

What won't I miss? Financial Aid. No seriously. Financial Aid, get it together. I know there are lots of pieces of paper involved with whatever it is you do over there, but somehow you always manage to lose the pieces related to me.

Also, you have this fun little trick that involves me saying, "Is there annyyyyyttthiiiiinnngggggg else I need to fill out in order to complete the student loan process?" and you saying, "No." Then when I call back six months later to say, "Hey, how about that check?" you say, "Oh you never filled out form 29-B712," with a cocky edge in your voice suggesting you warned me, but I flagrantly disregarded your advice about filling out 29-B712 just to be a rebel. A rebel without a check.

If you've been counting, and I know my computer has, you will notice I am now 50 words past my paycheck. That means the rest of what I write is a freebie (or, as I call it, "community service"). So I suppose it's time to consider saying goodbye. How do I do it? I'm not big on goodbyes. Even when I say goodbye to my friends and family, it doesn't involve warm feelings, hugs, and kisses. Usually, in the middle of someone's sentence I will say, "Well, bye!" and leave. I think it's charming. Also, it's nice to know some people will be there for you no matter when and how you have to go. But I think in this case, I do want to say something that is sort of sentimental. Barring the chance I am not allowed to graduate, I will miss all of you, and I will miss writing this column. You've been an excellent and receptive group of readers (all 6 of you!) and every writer should be so lucky.

"Awww, Ben Mahoney," you say, "I feel exactly the sa—"

Well, bye.



Photo by Trayce Snow

The editorial staff at *the Sentry* would like to thank Faculty Advisor Elizabeth Beard for all of her hard work.



Photo by Trayce Snow

Students get a free lunch from Conrad Spottsville and Lei Prenell in front of a sign for James Klock and Billy Pilgrim.



Photo by Ben Howerton

Trayce Snow, Senior Editor of the *Sentry*, having her face painted at Spring Fling.

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### Mission Statement

*The Sentry* is a voice for LSUA students and will remain in service to them by representing their values, focus, and experiences. As a public forum for free expression and debate, the newspaper strives to provide fair, objective, accurate, and unbiased coverage of issues relevant, informative, interesting, and entertaining to the LSUA student body. Faculty, staff and community members are welcome readers.

*The Sentry*, designed and edited by students, is an official publication of LSUA and offers a hands-on learning experience for students regardless of their career goals. Editorials reflect the majority opinion of the Editorial Board; columns reflect the opinion of the author not *The Sentry* or of the university.

# OPINIONS

## Editorial

With another semester coming to an end, students are feeling the stress of catching up on late assignments and preparing for finals. Many are also preparing for graduation and what they will be doing after school.

Four of the *Sentry's* own will be among those who will don cap and gown and make the walk that leads them from the academic world to the professional one.

Many have enjoyed Ben Mahoney's witty humor, or the news coverage by Michelle Brouillette and Philip Fanara. Under the guidance of Editor-in-chief Trayce Snow, the *Sentry* has grown and developed in ways that may not have come about without her leadership.

JS Printing, the company that publishes the paper, has awarded the *Sentry* with a Certificate of Excellence for submitting what they considered a "perfect publication with no technical difficulties."

While some may question why the newspaper is not published on a more frequent basis, they need to consider that all of the work that goes into production is done by students who are not only feeling the stress of meeting deadline, but also trying to keep up with their own studies as well. Without the hard work of students, there would be no newspaper on campus, and we thank them for their dedication.

As a publication that relies on students for its existence, we look forward to feedback from students and welcome letters to the editor with comments or suggestions.

Even those students who have no interest in the newspaper should consider getting involved on campus somehow. The poor turnout during recent SG elections makes it appear that many students are not interested in what happens on campus and feel that their involvement makes little difference.

Without the feedback of students, there is no way for administration to know what students want to see done on campus. How are they to know if students feel that more lights are needed to feel safe after night classes, or how students want to see a portion of their fees spent? Only by getting involved can students make their voices heard.

Congratulations to all of the graduates and good luck!

## Letter to the editor: Student success

To the students of LSUA:

Success is a word that is more often used than truly achieved. Webster's dictionary defines success as the attainment of something or an event that accomplishes its intended purpose. We are all out to accomplish different things on the road to academia, but there is one thing we should all be striving for – success. By that I mean truly achieving goals. Friends, I know from experience there are many things to hinder us from our success; therefore, we must become masters of our everyday duties.

The Student Success Seminars I attended emphasized basic principles that must be applied in order to accomplish academic career goals. X-box, the Internet and friends are things we must have in life, but if we let these things control our lives we will attain nothing.

This is experience speaking, and I am asking you to refocus your goals in the year of 2008. Put first things first and work toward your life and career goals, not toward a new difficulty level on video games.

I know things are crazy in all our lives at this point in time, but we must not lose sight of our purpose. That's why I encourage you all to attend the Student Success Seminars. They will help sharpen your skills to become a truly successful college student in any field you endeavor.

It has been an honor to represent you through Student Government and to be an LSUA student. It makes me sad I will not be joining you in the academic year of 2008-2009, but I must chase my dreams and goals. You, too, should chase yours by focusing on success. Words cannot explain the fine experiences and moments of enlightenment I have had at this campus; I wish I could personally thank each of you. These things I will not soon forget.

"Success comes before work only in the dictionary," Anonymous.

**To success,  
Shannon Stanley  
Sophomore Senator**

## Commentary: SG election fallout

By Victor Riscili  
Editor-in-Chief

While elections should be about putting the best person in office, they sometimes bring out the worst in all involved. In a perfect world, all of the facts important to the election would be readily accessible to voters without them having to differentiate between truth and fiction. They would then be able to make an informed decision.

The reality is that politicians seem to do whatever it takes to win an election. During the recent SG elections, several people were heard comparing James Klock and Conrad Spottsville to Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama. While it is a good thing that students know who these national candidates are, the similarities have little to do with the racial differences but rather the manner in which both sides appeared to conduct themselves.

Tension between candidates started early. During the Election Board meeting to determine eligibility, both candidates made efforts to get the other disqualified on technicalities.

Campaign materials were another area of dispute. Spottsville and Lei Prenell wanted to present students with a questionnaire concerning their feelings on the way SG is currently handling affairs on campus. One of the questions was leveled at the lack of senate seats being filled. Klock noted that Spottsville and Prenell are just as responsible for whatever problems there may be since they were both in office as well. Klock's own material, though, made note of some of the positive things the current administration has helped to accomplish, yet did

not credit Spottsville and Prenell for also being in office when these events took place.

The attempts at disqualification actually got to the point that SG Faculty Advisor and Multi-cultural Affairs Director Dessie Williams voiced her disapproval of the tactics.

"I just think that's petty," Williams said in the meeting.

The pettiness continued throughout much of the campaign too. I found it odd that Klock chose to place his largest sign right next to the barbecue pit that Spottsville and Prenell set up to serve lunch to students. How many grabbed a burger, looked at the sign because they had no idea who just fed them and went and voted?

While SG candidates are not allowed to tamper with one another's signs, that apparently did not stop some of the supporters from taking action. The Klock sign was taken down several times until campus police had to be called out due to the disruption on the quad.

When all was said and done, according to the Election Board only 331 students voted in the election. Prenell was elected vice-president, and Spottsville received enough votes to put him in the presidential seat, but Klock was not ready to concede that easily.

According to a complaint entered with the election board by Klock, Spottsville and Prenell were heard informing students that the information in Klock's campaign flyers was not exactly true. While I do not know what might have been said, the Election Board found enough merit in the protest that they called for a second vote for the seat of the president. The second election went somewhat smoother and at-

tracted 442 voters. At this time Klock has unofficially received enough votes to remain president, but the Election Board and the bylaws have provided three school days for submission of appeals.

How can we avoid these kinds of childish elections in the future? A quick look at the *We Asked* section on the front page shows several students found the tactics used by candidates to be bad enough they refused to vote for either candidate. Obviously something needs to be done to prevent this from happening again.

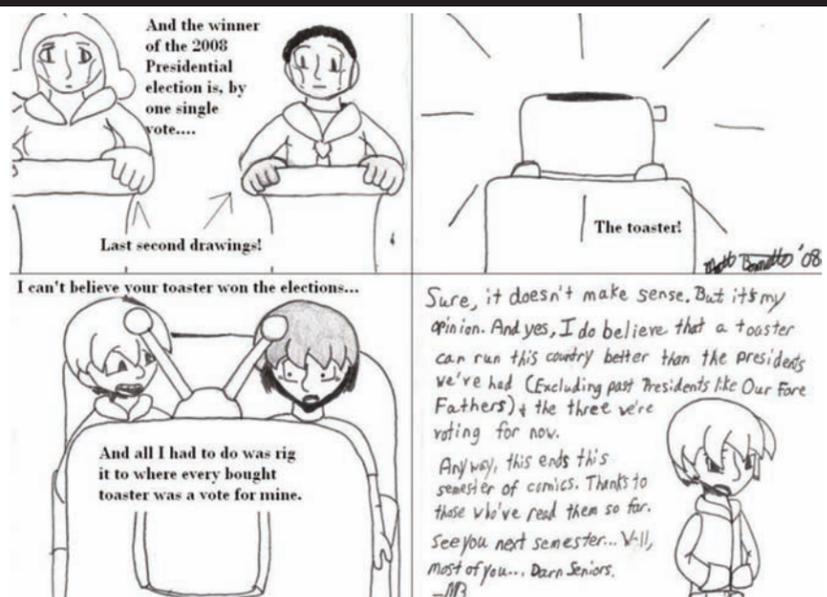
While Clinton and Obama have ample time to attempt to garner public support, SG candidates are not allowed to begin campaigning until after the Election Board has given its approval. Elections then took place over the course of the next two days.

The problem with this system is that students have no time to learn who the candidates are or to question their abilities. Candidates have no opportunity to openly dispute the claims made by their opponent. Because of the short campaign period, candidates and their supporters did what they could to try to convince students to vote for them. This leads to some students voting without knowing why they made their choice. If campaigning took place over a longer period, more students might vote. After all, SG is supposed to be there to meet our needs, but if the students do not make their desires known, then we should not expect to have any right to complain when we are not happy with something. We must make ourselves heard through who we put in office whether that is SG or the White House.

**"Success comes before work only in the dictionary."  
~ Anonymous**

## Editorial Cartoon

by Matt Bonnette



# NEWS

## Honor Program offered for fall

By **Melanie Jacobs**  
Staff Reporter

Starting fall semester 2008, LSUA will have an Honors Program for students with outstanding academic achievements. Elisabeth Elder, Honors Program director, and the Honors committee are excited to offer this program.

"The Honors Program will be an asset to the University," said Elder. "We will have outside speakers, extracurricular activities, travel opportunities, plus students can interact with a dynamic faculty in small classes. This is for students who have strong academic ability and welcome academic challenges."

The Honors Program will be presented to students who have:

- An excellent high school record in the college preparatory curriculum
- Acceptance to LSUA
- A composite score of 25 on the American College Test

(ACT) or 1130-1160 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

- A written essay and interview with the Honors committee

- Two letters of reference from a high school teacher, counselor, principal, or others who can speak to the academic ability of the applicant.

The program is open to all students. Faculty members can nominate currently enrolled students that meet high academic standards. In addition, students may request that faculty vouch for them to enter the program. Students recommended by faculty will be interviewed to assess their level of enthusiasm and to discuss general points of their essay.

"These are outstanding faculty who are developing these courses," Elder said. "It provides a great opportunity for interaction between faculty and students."

Courses offered will be multi-disciplinary and team-taught to get students more actively involved. These courses

### Qualifications for the Honors Program:

- Excellent high school record in the college preparatory curriculum

- Acceptance to LSUA
- Composite score of 25 on the ACT or 1130-1160 on the SAT

- Written essay and interview with the Honors committee

- Two letters of reference from a high school teacher, counselor, principal, or others who can speak to the academic ability of the applicant

may be counted as general education courses and electives and are available to all majors.

For more information on the Honors Program, contact Elisabeth Elder at [eelder@lsua.edu](mailto:eelder@lsua.edu) or 318-473-6518. Application forms are available through the Office of Admissions and Records. More information will be available in the 2008-2009 Catalog or on-line at [www.lsua.edu/](http://www.lsua.edu/).



Photo by Deron Thaxton

LSUA administrators and Alexandria community leaders participate in ceremonial ground breaking at the Student Center.

## Renovations can begin

By **Philip Fanara**  
Copy Editor

LSUA is growing rapidly. There are new apartments, new degree programs and more expansions are coming soon.

The Student Center is to be renovated and expanded past Jerry Myrick Drive said Director of Auxiliary Services Robert Bash. The kitchen and dining area will be expanded, Student Government offices will be relocated there, a game room will go in upstairs and the Bayou Robert room will be expanded into meeting rooms and classrooms said Bash.

"Students will have more classrooms, better food service operation and a better cafeteria," Bash said. "There will be more things to do and a better place to do them. The project is estimated at \$2 million and will take approximately a year to complete."

The groundbreaking ceremony coincided with a crawfish boil on April 30.

Also being constructed is a sports complex for the Generals. Bash said the amount of

seating available will depend on the construction price for the complex. The entire project is also estimated at \$2 million.

The bulk of the money to pay for the projects will come from bonds LSUA sold. According to Bash, the remainder of the projects' cost is being paid from student fee accounts. One is collected for the Student Center, another for the sports complex. Bash says the Student Center account has about \$100,000 saved and the entire fund will be used in the project.

The Student Center fee, currently at \$27, will increase each semester capping at \$55. Bash says students will continue to pay the fee for the 25-year life of the bond life for maintenance of the facilities.

Bash believes more sports teams could come to LSUA, and that basketball, golf, tennis and swimming are the least costly to implement.

"We would like to add more sports according to what the students want," Bash said. "The students voted for baseball and softball teams and the fees to pay for them. We are here for the students."

## Chemistry students London bound

By **Lenetta Hall**  
Guest Contributor

Six LSUA students are visiting London from May 13-22. Their trip will include tours of sights such as the British Museum, the Old Operating Theatre, and the Royal College of Surgeons.

The trip was offered to students and the public by Wayne McGraw, professor of chem-

istry.

"Through the help of some of my contacts in London and my professorship, we are going to the hospitals and museums," McGraw said. "Even though there is an itinerary, some of the things may change. We will definitely try to get sightseeing in there."

Michelle Dupin, senior communication studies major, says she is the only non-sci-

ence student going.

"The opportunity to actually see what we are discussing in class is a true experience I am looking forward to," Dupin said. "I could only wish that more people were attending."

Six non-students will also be taking the trip, and for those who missed it this year, McGraw assures the opportunity will come again next year and anticipates a bigger group.



Since 1923

# Roy O Martin

# NEWS

## Manuel Q&A from pg.1

to enhance student life. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of student input into the quality of the non-academic life of the University and I hope that SG and other student-led groups will assist the administration and me in enhancing existing activities and designing new initiatives.

**-With the advent of Internet research capabilities some have said the need for a library is diminishing, what do you feel is the role of the library?**

This is a very good question that deserves a lot of good thinking from many parts of the University. My sense is that the need and role of the traditional library is not necessarily diminishing, but it certainly is changing. Academic libraries have become much more intense centers of information sciences and thus require a new level of information competency of our faculty and students. Of course, then, the roles of professional librarians are changing and their expertise becoming even more demanding. It seems to me that we should not diminish the need for our students' acquisition of high quality research skills; what that demands of us is a

21st Century approach to using the library resources and the technological tools available.

**-Do you have an open door policy to students?**

Yes, I plan to meet with students frequently and regularly. It will be important for me to learn how earlier chancellors established relationships with students and the processes that are in place to field student input and advice. If a student needs to meet with me, I will do everything possible to make that happen, provided that the calendar allows it; it is important to also understand that we want to respect the tiers of authority in the University and to be prepared to work through the organization so that the proper decisions are made at the proper level (department, office, faculty member). I look forward to meeting as many students as possible and to learning about their experiences at LSUA, about their successes, their challenges, and their goals.

**-Are you a traditional or nontraditional thinker?**

I guess I would like to know a little more about the questioner's definitions of the two. In spite of that, I try to approach issues that require solu-

tions as opportunities to use the best thinking and tools. Sometimes that simply calls for good problem-solving abilities; other times it may call for new insights and skills. For example, I am not shy about asking colleagues for their ideas and input, and I frequently encourage persons in one discipline to examine solutions in other disciplines so that 'best practices' can be optimized.

**-Will you require teachers to conduct research/publish?**

First I have to learn about the current requirements of faculty as determined by the faculty handbook and other University processes; then, we will be able to engage in dialogue and conversation about what is expected of faculty. What type of "culture of scholarship" does the University wish to build as an emerging "public baccalaureate institution of choice?" The answer to that question will be an important piece in the "quality brand" of LSUA.

**-How do you feel about the arts?**

The arts have always played a special role in my life and I believe they are integral to a holistically educated person. I look forward to learning

more about the arts at LSUA, but my first impressions are very positive; for example, the Renaissance Festival, the AMoA and LSUA's role in its vibrancy, drama and musical performances, and the University Gallery on campus. There is clearly a strong foundation in the arts that invites us to leverage into more artistic endeavors.

**-What are your hobbies, your favorite type of music, and do you like sports?**

Hobbies for me are varied: cooking with my wife (who is a terrific cook); fly fishing with our two sons and fly tying when I have time and want to relax; cultivating my bonsai trees (now numbering 16).

I have very eclectic tastes in music: classical (you may hear it in my office) and opera have been long time favorites; James Taylor, Kenny Loggins, and Neal Schon (back up for Santana) are always handy in my car; our sons keep me plugged into Jorge Drexler, The Bad Plus, The DMB, Devendra Banhart and Ben Harper; and, of course, my Cajun favorites are Beausoleil and D. L. Menard (we share the hometown of Erath, LA.)

Most of my sports involve-

ment today is as a spectator (in my younger days I really enjoyed tennis). I'm looking forward to seeing the Generals and the Lady Generals play and especially in the new campus facilities; are we selling hot dogs?

**-Dr. Cavanaugh would make rounds on campus to feed the squirrels, will you feed the squirrels?**

The squirrels in our yard seem quite content and the doves look like flying pigs; so I think the answer is 'yes.'

**-The flag flying at the front entrance of the campus is in bad shape, will you buy a new flag?**

There are many doors to the campus; the website is a virtual door to new students and parents and the front drive of the campus is the physical front door. Both of these must be attractive and inviting. Yes, we will replace the flag and we will work together to create inviting and welcoming front doors to LSUA.

Thank you for asking these questions. I hope my answers offer insight into who I am. My wife, Betty Coe, and I are really excited about joining the LSUA community and to our upcoming journey together.

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Artist rendering of the Multi-Purpose Academic Center designed and provided by Jim Weinzettle, AIA, of Ashe, Broussard and Weinzettle Architects.

## MPAC from pg. 1

Also within the capital outlay bill is the recommendation for \$29.9 million in support of the state's emergency shelter already under construction at the LSU Agriculture Dean Lee Research Center just south of

the LSUA campus and \$500,000 for a drainage outfall project at LSUA and the Dean Lee Research Center.

The 70,147 square foot MPAC will house 58 faculty offices, 17 classrooms of varying sizes, a computer lab with separate study room, a paint-

ing/drawing studio, a ceramics studio, a photography suite, storage for LSUA's permanent art collection, a choral room, four music practice rooms, a Black Box theatre with support spaces, three offices for arts instructors and four academic department suites.

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