

THE SENTRY

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AT ALEXANDRIA

October 2009

Volume 45, Issue 1

While you were out... campus makes progress this summer

While many students were out of school for the summer break, a monumental event was held on campus.

On Thursday, June 18, more than 200 people gathered on campus to mark the groundbreaking for the first new academic building on our campus in more than 25 years. The Multi Purpose Academic Center (MPAC) will be the largest building on campus with just over 70,000 square feet of space.

Officials from throughout central Louisiana, architects, contractors and campus supporters joined with the administration, faculty, staff and students to celebrate the groundbreaking for the new building.

Construction is expected to be completed before the Fall 2011 semester.



Above: The architect's rendering of the new Multi Purpose Academic Center. Right: Attendees release balloons during the groundbreaking celebration for the MPAC.



Campus mourns English faculty member



Photo by Missy LaBorde

LSU Alexandria lost a dear friend and colleague on September 30. Barbara "Barbi" Fry, instructor of English, died in an automobile accident. She will be sadly missed by her colleagues, friends and students. According to a memo from Chancellor Dave Manuel to faculty and staff, "Ms. Fry taught at LSUA in a variety of roles in English since 2001. She held the M.A. in English from UL-Monroe and was a doctoral stu-

dent in English at UL-Lafayette. Ms. Fry's colleagues have praised her teaching qualities and her selfless contributions to high quality student advising, student placement and institutional effectiveness in the Department of Arts, English and Humanities. In addition, she has been an important contributor to LSUA's efforts in the Early Start Program (Dual Enrollment.)"

Freshmen choose LSUA for various reasons

By Chris Endsley
Sentry Reporter

August 24, 2009 was the beginning of the Fall semester at LSUA. For many the scene was familiar: random welcome tents, overflowing parking lots, long bookstore and financial aid lines, and of course the many confused wanderers in search of their classes, which most likely had been relocated a time or two.

J.T. Kennedy, 18, of Alexandria, Lexi Johnson, 19, of Alexandria, Terry Muse, 18, of

Woodworth, and Jamie Curtis, 18, of Bentonville, Arkansas, were among a few of the freshmen asked about their first impressions of LSUA.

Kennedy said that he chose LSUA because he wanted to attend a smaller college that was close to home. He said he doesn't regret his decision, he just wishes that there was more eating establishments and more opportunity for hands on learning.

Lexi Johnson added that her parents wanted her to stay close to

home for the first year so she honored their request by enrolling at LSUA. When asked about her first impression, Lexi said, "it reminds me a lot of high school. I know more people than I expected to, so it's really not that bad." After being asked about her future plans, Lexi smiled and said, "we'll see."

Muse and Curtis agreed that it wasn't as much about staying close to home as it was size of the campus. They wanted to attend a smaller college, with smaller classes, in hopes to have more one on one with the

instructors, not to mention a campus that was easy to navigate. They both were pleased with their choice and excited to begin the new semester.

While Johnson and Kennedy will most likely move on after this year, Muse and Curtis are perfectly content and plan on attending LSUA for the entire four years, or at least however long it takes them to receive their degrees.

LSUA, love at first sight for some but others may need to look a second or a third time.

Student Government Election Results

President
Bonnie Longino

Vice President
John Klock

Senior Senators
Andrew McDowell
Verlie Walters
Allen LaCaze

Sophomore Senator
Jacey Cornell

Freshman Senators
Channing Gauthier
David McPherson
Tim Landry

Arts & Sciences Senator
Matthew Falgoust

After the long wait, above are the results of the Student Government election. There will be a Student Government meeting and an installation of officers Friday the 16th October 2009.

Service Learning opportunities continue to grow

By Robert McNamara
Americorps VISTA Member
Office of Service Learning

LSUA is becoming more involved in the local community this semester as seven service-learning courses are being offered by faculty this fall. Service-learning has been steadily growing within the LSUA curriculum over the past few semesters and this semester marks the most service-learning courses enacted by the faculty on campus to date. Service-learning is an experiential educational method in which students take part in service to the community as part of their course work. Service-learning projects provide students with the opportunity to learn outside the classroom by practically applying their knowledge and skills to positive ends in the community. Chancellor Manuel, a strong supporter of the service-learning initiative, stated that, "A common objective in all learning is that a person reaches new heights when they can apply what they are learning. Taking the content of the classroom and directly applying it to a real time experience reaffirms the learning process. Service learning directly ties what is being learned to a service activity that has positive benefits for all involved."

An excellent example of service-learning was enacted by Dr. Arthur Rankin last semester in his Myths, Legends, and Folklore class where his students worked with three local elementary schools. The LSUA students educated and entertained the children in the schools by presenting them with what they had learned about mythology in an engaging and enjoyable fashion. Dr. Rankin said of the project, "The most positive experience of service-learning related to my students' learning the delight of interacting with young people. I saw the rich capabilities of my students to change others' lives; their excitement toward the project energized me as a teacher."

This semester service-learning projects range from an advertising class that is creating a marketing campaign for Rapides Habitat for Humanity to psychology course in which the students are endeavoring to help LSUA students better manage their stress during finals. Whatever the course or project, service-learning provides a dynamic learning option for LSUA students who are interested in engaging in the real world application of what they learn in the classroom while also providing valuable service to the community.

Service-learning should continue to flourish at LSUA as the Office of Service-Learning was created last January to develop a service-based and engaging curriculum. Dr. Julie Gill, the Office's Coordinator, and Mr. Robert McNamara, an AmeriCorps VISTA member are currently recruiting additional faculty members to take part in this growing movement on campus. Dr. Gill believes that, "Service-learning is vital to the growth of the university, the student body, and to the faculty. Community interaction supports the university's mission of working in reciprocal relationships within the community to enrich the lives of all involved. Civic engagement ultimately encourages students to become more involved in the community and to understand the root causes of many societal issues." Through the continued growth of the service-learning movement on campus, LSUA will continue to fulfill its vision of 'fostering student and community growth through teaching, research, and service



Faculty members discuss service learning opportunities at LSU Alexandria.

Courtesy photo



LSUA'S TRICK OR TREAT STREET



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29TH 5PM-7PM

IF YOUR ORGANIZATION WOULD LIKE TO HOST A BOOTH FOR THIS EVENT, PLEASE CONTACT RENISHA BEAUDION FOR GUIDELINES AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION. COMPLETED REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE BY OCTOBER 16TH. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT RENISHA @ RBEAUDION@LSUA.EDU OR 318-427-4403.

THE SENTRY POLICIES

The Sentry newsroom is located in Room 211 of the Bolton Library. E-mail us at sentrynews@lsua.edu or call 318-767-2602.

Editorials Policy

Unsigned editorials on these pages reflect the views of The Sentry's editorial board. Signed columns and commentaries on these pages reflect the views of the writer which may not be the same as that of the editorial staff.

Letters Policy

The Sentry welcomes Letters to the Editor. Letters should be kept to 400 words or less and are subject to editing for grammar and content. The Sentry will not publish anonymous or libelous letters. Letters must be submitted via e-mail. Letters must be signed by the writer and include a phone number where the writer may be reached. Letters will be verified by The Sentry with the writer.

Contributions Policy

The Sentry accepts stories, photos and opinion pieces for publication. Submissions should be sent to the newsroom via e-mail. All materials submitted then become property of The Sentry and can be reprinted in the newspaper without notification.

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The Sentry reserves the right not to publish any advertisement it deems to be libelous, false, or in bad taste.

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 in CMST 2151, 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.

Day trip to New Orleans offered for students, community

The Chancellor's Arts and Humanities Committee is offering a Day Trip to New Orleans on Saturday, October 31, 2009 from 7 a.m. (Sat) - 2:30 a.m. (Sun).

Participants will visit the National World War II Museum in the morning. From the beaches of Normandy to the sands of Iwo Jima, The National World War II Museum's exhibitions blend personal accounts, artifacts, documents, photographs and never before seen film footage to tell the stories of the amphibious landings that made victory in World War II possible. Special Exhibitions draw on Museum collections and relevant traveling exhibitions to further explore and illustrate *the war that changed the world*.



In the evening, participants will visit the Mahalia Jackson Theater and attend a performance of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical, *CATS*. Based on T.S. Eliot's *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* (1939), *CATS* is one of the longest running shows in Broadway's history, the winner of seven Tony Awards including Best Musical, and featuring 20 of Andrew Lloyd

Webber's timeless melodies, including the hit song, "Memory."

Participants will enjoy both lunch and dinner in downtown New Orleans.

Tickets are \$45 and are available for purchase to LSUA students and to community members. Children who are seven years of age or older are welcome provided they have adult supervision. Tickets can be purchased at the Continuing Education Office (located in The Business Education Center, 1501-A Wimbledon Drive, Alexandria, phone 473-6495). Ticket price cov-

ers transportation and admission to museum and theater; food and drink are not included. LSUA students should register and purchase tickets before 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28. Community members can purchase tickets from 8 a.m., Wednesday, October 14 until 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 28. Bus leaves at 7 a.m. on Saturday from the parking lot opposite the LSUA Student Center and will return to the same location by 2:30 a.m. on Sunday.

For more information about registration and ticket purchase, contact Continuing Education at 473-6495. For trip agenda info, contact Eamon Halpin at 767-2604. This trip is sponsored by the Chancellor's Arts and Humanities Committee.

Financial Aid office working to streamline processes

By **Lionetha Hudson**
Sentry Reporter

As I walk in Abrams Hall between classes, a construction worker covered in what looks like saw dust holds the door open for me. As I walk in, I notice the window to Admissions is closed. Not thinking much of it, I walk over to the window of Financial Aid and ask if I could meet with someone to talk about Financial Aid.

Between the sounds of drills and hammering, the young woman at the window tells me that window isn't Financial Aid today, but Admissions instead. She hands me a sign in sheet and ask me to have a seat in the lobby where I join others filling out paperwork.

As I sit there, I wonder if many students share the same questions I have. Question such as where is my money? What's the hold up? Will my schedule get washed? These questions might have crossed your mind once or twice during your Financial Aid process. You have questions... I might have answers.

Students have mixed opinions about Financial Aid. Student Latrena Boykins, 36, of Marksville, La feels "they are not organized and they give you the run around. I also feel they are not on the same page with one another."

Another student and former Financial Aid student worker Natalie North, 20 of Alexandria, La also shares her views of the process. North believes, "Financial Aid has always been chaotic and not just this school year."

But, North also is "impressed" how they handled their system a week before school started this school year compared to years before.

"Start early!...Try to complete your FASFA around the same time you do your taxes which should be around February or March. If you complete your FASFA early, we will be able to tell what documents you need by May."

-Teresa Seymour
Executive Director of
Enrollment Management and Records

"They are working very hard and efficient and most students really appreciate that," concludes North.

Teresa Seymour, the Executive Director of Enrollment Management and Records at LSUA, tried to shine some light on the Financial Aid process.

"A vast majority of the hold-ups in financial aid this year was students did not turn in the required paperwork needed," says Seymour. Seymour also gives important tips to students to help their financial aid process go a lot smoother and faster.

"Start early," she said. "Try to complete your FASFA around the same time you do your taxes which should be around February or March. If you complete your FASFA early, we will be able to tell what documents you need by May," said Seymour.

Other tips Seymour shared are to check your email weekly and get your schedule early.

"The financial aid package will not be processed unless the student has a schedule," adds Seymour.

Seymour encourages student to contact the Office of Financial Aid by email.

"Students, please try not to call. For the fastest response, please email your question to us using you LSUA email account. We try to respond within two days."

Another hold up this school year with some students' Financial Aid process is the large number of appeals for Fall 2009.

Seymour encourages students to turn in all paperwork that is requested for your appeal. Required paperwork includes doctor excuses and anything else to go with your appeal.

Seymour also encourages students to take advantage of services that LSUA offers to help them if they are in trouble academically.

"Students are our priorities," Seymour said. "We work with students. We can help students get into such programs to help them do better."

Students also probably noticed they didn't receive a lot of registered mail from the Office of Financial Aid this year. Net Partner is the reason for this change.

Net Partner is a software program designed by Power Faid. Net Partner allows student to view everything from documents they may need to submit to the awards they

received. You can access Net Partner by logging into your LSUA account.

Another change in Financial Aid this school year is the process for student loans.

Student loans will initially be packaged at direct cost. Direct cost means the cost of tuition, fees, and books. Students who wish to borrow additional money must complete the additional loan form.

There you have it. The run-down on what is going on in Financial Aid. Students are encouraged to do their part EARLY and have a little patience with the new process.

"We do not expect this delay next year," assures Seymour. "My goal is to have 1200 students have their Financial Aid fully packaged by the beginning of next school year. We are here to partner with students to help them graduate. I want success in students."



**Gamma Beta Phi
canned food drive
to benefit the
Food Bank of
Central Louisiana
Donations accepted throughout
the month of October.
Look for the collection
boxes around campus.**

Campus resources available for adult learners

By Grace Farmer
Sentry Reporter

According to Teresa Seymour, Executive Director and Registrar of Enrollment Management and Records, the standard definition of an adult learner, also known as the non-traditional student, is any student over 25 years old.

"Adult Learners are a tremendous asset to this campus," Seymour said. They make up approximately 42% of the LSUA student body and take more online classes than their traditional counterpart. Out of 884 students taking online classes, 487 (55%) are age 25 or above.

Besides online courses, LSUA also offers night classes and childcare, which makes it more convenient for students, especially adult learners, to obtain their degree.

Resources, including the library and online websites, are available for all students, Seymour said. Due to the many responsibilities of the adult learner, it is important to encourage them to seek assistance when necessary so they can avoid discouragement. For instance, a reference librarian can provide ways to deal with text anxiety, as well as how to be productive after the kids are in bed. In addition, VARK (www.vark-learn.com) is a free online website that helps students discover their best learning method. For instance, rather students are visual learners or auditory learners, knowing your learning method is key to retaining information.

Although there are numerous resources available on campus, some need reviving. In the past, LSUA offered a special orientation, which focused on adult learners. During the orientation process, the students' families learned how to offer support, and to help the student become successful. Adult learners seem more confident of their decision to attend college when they have the support of their family. A vote to return this special orientation, and any other suggestions for improvements, can be e-mailed to tseymour@lsua.edu. Remember: every student, every voice. You can make a difference!

Counseling Services is also on campus to help all students and can be a valuable resource for adult learners. According to Kathryn Wimmert, Counselor, the most frequent difficulty facing adult learners is family responsibilities. Adult learners must prioritize, putting education first, which may decrease the time devoted to family and friends. The result is guilt and doubt.

Less interaction with family and friends, as well as abandoning



Photo by Deron Thaxton

A student works at a computer station in the lab. In addition to tutoring and writing assistance, LSUA helps ensure student success by providing access to technology through numerous student computing labs.

prior responsibilities to allow time for homework, can feed guilt, Wimmert said. Any struggles at home or at college can feed doubt. It is common for adult learners to question attending college as the right decision. Sometimes it is necessary to tend to basics, but drop extra responsibilities, Wimmert said. She emphasizes that prioritizing is the key. The adult learners have less time to do everything and through prioritizing, children can take on more responsibility. "Prioritizing gives children the opportunity to develop self sufficiency," said Wimmert.

Wimmert also encourages adult learners to make sure that students set realistic goals and continue to re-evaluate them. For example, if a student begins part-time, they may find that as their success builds, they can become full-time students. On the other hand, full-time students may need to change to part-time due to family, employment or other demands. Keep in mind that not everyone falls into one mold, Wimmert said. Cut yourself some slack. Determine how to function best and align priorities accordingly.

Although most people wish you success, not everyone can follow through when you need encouragement, Wimmert said. It is important to keep only those who can authentically support your goals around you, and avoid the rest.

Remember that if you are struggling with any of these issues or other difficulties, please contact

Counseling Services. Ms. Dolly Carroll or Ms. Kathryn Wimmert, both professional counselors, will be glad to help. You can contact them at (318) 473-6545.

Donnette Woodard, 29, and James Klock, 26, are both adult learners. Woodard and Klock agreed that adult learners have higher expectations from professors and class material. Adult learners expect to get their money's worth of education, Klock said. As Klock explains, when he was 19 and attended LSUA the first time, he was receiving Pell Grants and living at home, while everyone else was paying his expenses. He decided he was tired of school and joined the work force for a couple of years.

At 26, Klock returned to college with a different perspective. This time, he had to pay his own way. Because of mistakes in the past, he had a 1.0 GPA. "I am more serious, dedicated, and motivated," says Klock. Making the Dean's List almost every semester, his GPA is now up to approximately 3.0. Klock is a prime example of the traditional student versus the adult learner. He has been in both positions, and is succeeding the second time around.

According to Woodard, with age and experience, comes determination. She says that adult learners have their priorities straight and tend to avoid wasting time. One advantage over traditional students is that the necessity for higher education is understood. Another is that

Adult learners "take college more seriously.... and are more prepared," Woodard said. Generally, more time is devoted to learning the material.

Although attending college can be daunting, adult learners can feel more comfortable on campus by following a few guidelines. Students should join campus activities when they have extra time, Woodard said. Stop by their professor's office, get help if needed, and do not be afraid to ask questions. Read the Student Handbook, Course Catalog, and attend Orientation."

Klock recommends coming to campus early, hanging around with other students, and staying for a while after class. His motto: "Want to feel part of the campus, be part of the campus."

Part of "being part of the campus" includes student participation in extracurricular activities, which LSUA welcomes and encourages. It is harder for adult learners to find extra time due to their many responsibilities off campus. However, Woodard stated that through e-mails and activities on the Quad, she feels included. She states that it is also helpful when professors mandate participation by all students in courses such as Theater. Participation during class time creates a campus connection without her having to make time for extracurricular activities.

**Coming up in the next issue:
Meet Sentry Editor: David Humphrey**

There's more to Going Greek than you think

By Rob Young
Sentry Reporter

When most of us think about fraternities or sororities, the images that come to our minds are that of John Belushi, dressed in a toga, smashing a beer can against his head and Will Ferrell (aka "Frank the Tank") uttering the immortal phrase, "You my boy, Blue!" Or perhaps it's that of a house full of bleached-blond 'bobble-heads' consumed only with their clothes and makeup and oblivious to the world around them. Well, these depictions, though much loved and very funny, are in no way accurate of what a GLO is, what it stands for, and what it does.

But, since "Greek Life" is relatively new to LSUA campus, all that most of us know about fraternities and sororities, or Greek Letter Organizations, is what we've seen in these types of movies. In fact, LSUA's fraternities and sororities are far less interested in beer-soaked toga parties and mayhem than they are in community service and raising money for philanthropic endeavors and scholarships. It's important to note that there's a distinct difference between a social GLO and an academic one. Academic GLOs are based upon excellence within a particular field of academic study, such as Phi Beta Kappa, the Nation English Honors Society, which was the very first fraternity, founded in 1776 at William and Mary College. Its members are pursuing, or have attained degrees within a single, specific field of academic study. On the other hand, social GLOs' members are bound by a social 'brotherhood' or 'sisterhood', and have varied fields of academic study.

There are two ways to start a GLO on a college campus, and neither is easy. In fact, it requires a "Herculean" effort. (Pardon the pun!) There's plenty of paperwork, including, among other things, the scripting of a constitution, writing of

by-laws, and construction of a detailed account of philanthropic and scholarship goals.

The first way to start a GLO is to petition an existing GLO, at another campus, to become a chapter of that GLO. If the 'parent' GLO chooses to accept the proposal, the fledgling GLO will be named a 'colony' for a period of time until being formally recognized as a chapter. (Most of this is pertaining to the above-mentioned paperwork.) Such was the case with

LSUA's Kappa Sigma Fraternity. It was a colony for two years, and is now a chapter of the National Fraternity. According to Jeremy Morales, an officer of LSUA's chapter, Kappa Sigma is ranked 7th in the nation for philanthropic contributions, and their membership, both nationally and here at LSUA, is growing.

The other way to start a GLO is to organize a number of motivated and dedicated 'like-minded' people, choose a combination of identifying Greek letters that no other organization is using, and hash out an agreement with the university to establish the GLO. (Again, paperwork... and without the benefit of the experience of an established National GLO.) There are three such sororities on LSUA campus: Sigma Kappa Sigma, Theta Sigma, and Sigma Phi Mu. Some of these sororities may eventually seek affiliation with national GLOs such as Sigma Sigma Sigma (Tri-Sig), or Alpha Omicron Pi.



Courtesy Photo
Pictured above are the members of the 2009 Sigma Kappa Sigma pledge class as well as active members of the sorority.

The president of Sigma Phi Mu, Christine Smith, stated that what she wanted students to know about the sorority is that "they're not typical; no hazing, and they're a close sisterhood of women who are interested in community service."

Natalie North, the president of Sigma Kappa Sigma, says her sorority is "excited about starting another year, recruiting new members, and their continuing involvement with LSUA and the community." Each of these sororities has fewer than 25 members, so all students are encouraged to get involved and consider joining.

The open recruitment period, in which students express their interest in becoming a member of a GLO, is called "rush". Rush Week was Sept. 14 - Sept. 21. Students couldn't miss the booths in the Quad, with the GLOs' representatives outlining the principles of their organizations and taking names of prospective "pledges".

"Greek Life" improves college campuses and enriches the students' college 'experience'. Social networks, formed now, can become important contacts, beneficial to careers after college, and friendships that can last a lifetime. Participation in "Greek Life" not only benefits the GLO and the student, both now and in the future, but also improves the campus and our community as a whole.

Below are the names and email addresses of an officer from each of the GLOs:

KAPPA SIGMA - Jeremy Morales
(jmorales001@lsua.edu)

SIGMA KAPPA SIGMA - Natalie North
(nknorth@gmail.com)

THETA SIGMA - Tiffany Dales
(tdales001@lsua.edu)

SIGMA PHI MU - Christine Smith
(csmith005@lsua.edu)

Opinion: Campus lacking in political organizations

By Nick Hanna
Sentry Reporter

LSUA has a very diverse student body. The members who make up the student body are students of all different ethnicities, religions, and ages. The university offers Greek life, sports, and clubs. There is one area that is still lackluster at LSUA and that is politics.

I was lucky enough to get to chat with three LSUA students that are involved in politics to see what they are involved in and why they enjoy politics.

David Tubbs is the current LSUA Student Government president and a member of the LSUA

debate team. He is a history major and plans to attend law school after he graduates.

Tubbs said that he would love to see more students be involved in politics on all levels.

When asked about some ways students can become involved in the realm of politics he said that students must want to do something in order for anything to happen.

Caina Munson, who is a member of the Psychology Club and the Debate Team, took the time to let me in on a new student organization in the making.

When asked about any organizations she is a member of that she

would like to plug she told me about the potential college democrats. "I'd like to plug our potential Young Democrats of America organization," she said. "I make no secret of my liberal ideology and feel it is important for young people to be vocal on issues such as health care, civil and humans rights, as well as equal protection under the law, the environment and women's rights."

Thomas Broadwell, a senior psychology major who was a political organizer for the Mary Landreau Senate race and Terry McAuliffe elections, along with Tubbs and Munson, is currently attempting to organize Young Democrats of

America organization at LSUA.

Why should students care about politics? "It affects people in more ways than one," Broadwell said. "Politics impact students in many ways and should be taken seriously."

There are so many student organizations around this country. Students must be proactive in getting information on new organizations and get the ball rolling.

Students will make up a minority among minorities in the future so now is the time to get active. The time is now!

Masterplan provides guide for campus planning

By Natalie North
Sentry Reporter

The LSUA Campus Master Plan reveals the importance of higher education for a successful future for Louisiana. LSUA is the only university in Central Louisiana that serves to 9 parishes in the state. In 2002 and 2003 Patrick Moore Landscaping Architect firm, now known as Moore Planning Group, designed and researched the importance of our local university and the purpose it serves. The firm designed a "Master Plan" which is a guide for future building and growth of the institution. The goal of the LSUA Master Plan is to create a plan for the future growth of the campus that is both realistic and visionary. The plan provides clear guidance for university officials in the near and far future.

The three criteria were used to test the Master Plan design decisions: Safety, Function, and Aesthetics. Safety issues are important because LSUA is a public institution whose programs invite the community with involvement in the campus. Therefore, the first goals of the Master Plan are to ensure the safety of the students, faculty, and community. Once safety is no longer an issue, the functional aspects of the school are taken into consideration. A campus whose sole purpose is the education of its students, must implement the order in which education takes place at its highest efficiency. Whenever safety meets functionality then the aesthetics quality can be considered. Moore planning Group stated that, "Theories of traditional campus design, harmony, regional and historic influence, simplicity, and diversity should be encouraged."

Nathan Gaspard, lead planner



and project manager of the LSUA Master Plan for Moore Planning Group, explains how the design of the Master Plan implements efficiency for the campus by eliminating the roads through campus and relocating parking to the outside of the campus, thus creating a pedestrian-friendly environment. The next issue was drainage systems or lack thereof. Finding a solution for the drainage problem was solved when considering the LSU Ag Center as a part of the campus. The plan features multiple ponds/drainage systems throughout the populated areas in the campus to serve as a learning tool for the Ag center and serve as a beautiful place for students to retreat. Gaspard also noted the rich culture behind the campus that should act as a teaching tool for stu-

dents as well as preserving our history and heritage as a community.

Randalle Hunt Moore, Moore Planning Group Principal, describes her work on the master plan to be a very unique process. "The LSU Ag Center and LSUA partnering together was indicative to the master planning process. By looking at a region and not just a site, it helps set a long term vision for both LSUA and LSU Ag Center." She noted the environmental aspect of the master plan helped raise awareness in the community which is acted as an important example for the students of LSUA. The important aspect of the master plan was tying in the community with LSUA and the LSU Ag Center, which is vital to the growth of LSUA. Mrs. Moore noted that it is important for students to be aware

of the master plan because, "Students help embolden leadership and have tremendous power in youth and they should embrace what excites them about the plan to work with the leaders of their school to make it happen."

It is very important for every student to be aware of the history of LSUA as well as your schools importance and potential. We can make a difference to see that this plan is implemented and continues to be an important goal in the growth of LSUA. Moore Planning Group shows a tremendous amount of effort and talent that crafted the master plan into a vision for LSUA. If you would like to learn more about the LSUA Campus Master Plan, visit the Moore Planning Group website at www.mooreplanninggroup.com.

You got questions? We got answers...well maybe.

By Kristin Richmond
Sentry Reporter

With the start of a new fall semester comes new freshmen with lots of questions. But freshmen are not the only students who have questions. Most students, no matter what year, don't know we have a gym for student use, Italian restaurant, or counseling services. You asked your questions, I found out the answers!

Who can use the gym and when? All students can use the gym facility. The gym is open Monday through Friday. The hours are 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Students can also use the pool on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Wednesday and Friday from 3 to 4:30 p.m. The gym includes a full basketball court, pool, locker room, tennis court, walking trail, weight/

cardio room, and martial arts/dance studio room. So before you get you get up in the gym just working on your fitness make sure you bring your Oakard and sign in at the front desk! Speaking of Oakards.

What can you use it for and how do you put money on it? Students can use their Oakard for vending machines, bookstore purchases, cafeteria, prints and copies, and admission into school events. There is a machine located in the library where you can load money on your card. Why carry around change for your morning diet coke when you could just carry around the card you already have with you?

What are the parking rules? Now that the first weeks of classes are over students will be issued parking tickets. First, your car must be registered with LSUA and have

a parking decal located on the left rear bumped or bottom left of the back glass. According to the LSUA website, motorcycles, buses, or large vehicles must be parked in designated areas. Parking tickets will be issued to students who park on the street or grass. Tickets will also be given to students who pull through or back into a spot. So if you do pull into the science parking lot at 8:05 for your 8 a.m. class and it's full and you feel like you have to park on the street, you can pay the ticket in Accounting located in Abrams Hall.

Where can I go to get tutored? If you need tutoring in math, biology, chemistry, or English you can go to the TLC lab in the student success center. Visit the tutoring link on the current students tab on the LSUA website for times and a con-

tact list. Put that money to use that you spent on that class and get tutored instead of dropping! You can do it!

Is there anywhere else to eat on campus besides the cafeteria? Yes! Niko's is located in the LSUA golf club house. Their hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekly. They have awesome pizza that's ready to pick up and available in five dollar combos! Perfect for our budget! They also have pasta and calzones. My sister Katie worked at Niko's previous location in Pineville. Trust me! The pizza is just as good as the great service!

Now hopefully you know a little bit more about your school than you knew before. Now you can enjoy your time that you spend at LSUA a little bit more. Go out and enjoy your school!

Need help with a written assignment? Check out the new Writing Center

The new, expanded Writing Center is now open in the Bolton Library.

Our new location is on the first floor of the library, in the back, right corner.

Hours for the center are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. (closed Wednesdays 12:15-12:50 for tutor meeting). Friday hours are 9 a.m. until noon.

The Writing Center will also be open on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 4-6 p.m. before Fall Break and from 4-8 p.m. after Fall Break.

What is the Writing Center?

The LSUA Writing Center is a service provided for LSUA students by LSUA students. It employs skilled student writers who have been recommended by their professors as potential tutors and who participate in a weekly training practicum throughout the semester. Therefore, students who visit the WC benefit from working with knowledgeable peers in a low-stress setting.

Students can also use one of the five computer workstations for writing and researching with a tutor "on call" to help in the new Writing Center.

How can the Writing Center help you?

During tutoring conferences, WC consultants work with students on specific writing assignments. Tutors help students learn to use all aspects of the composing process.

Visit the Writing Center to get help with your writing at any stage, including the following: getting started on a class assignment, planning and outlining, drafting and revising for effectiveness, using documentation (MLA, APA, CM or other style), proofreading and finalizing. The WC also helps students practice reading and interpretation skills and locate and use text and electronic resources.

How can you schedule an appointment?

You may make an appointment in advance by signing the appoint-

ment book in the Writing Center. Or, you may simply stop by for a walk-in session. Scheduled appointments last 30 minutes, and walk-in sessions are 15 minutes (or 30 min. if the WC is not busy). Appointments may not be made by telephone or email.

What should you bring to a conference?

In order for a consultant to help you with an assignment, have a copy of any notes or handouts from class describing the assignment, your textbooks, and any working drafts or notes for the paper.

How much does it cost?

Writing Center services are free and available to all LSUA students. It is supported by funding from SG Student Services, the AEH Department, and the Louisiana Board of Regents.

For more information, contact Dr. Elizabeth Beard, Writing Center coordinator (ebeard@lsua.edu).

What's new at the Magnolia Cafe?

By Kim Cowan
Sentry Reporter

Many things have been changing around the student center cafeteria. Not everyone knows the cafeteria has a name; it's the Magnolia Café.

In the past years, LSUA has had a contract with ABL, a company that supplied all the food, employees, and services to the cafeteria at LSUA.

"Budget cuts were made so we were no longer able to renew the contract with ABL," says Karen Norman, manager of Auxiliary Services. To save on money, LSUA has now decided to supply cafeteria with food, employees, and equipment.

Many changes have been going on in the Magnolia Café, with the most obvious being the renovations. The new additions include new fryers, grills and hot plates for all the food served in the café.

All the countertops are brand new, along with the new register sta-

tions made to deal with quicker checkouts. The fountain drink station and salad bar has also been added for easier access. At the salad bar you can get a pre-made salads or you can fix your own.

Many students have been bummed out that breakfast was taken away from the mornings, but it has returned with some grab and go breakfast meals. Grab and go meals are pre-made meals wrapped

up for your convenience to make a quick pick up and straight to the check out counter.

Menus are sent out every month by email so if you're not sure whether or not you want to eat on a certain day, check your email.

Judy Lacombe, manager of the Magnolia Café says she only has one student worker working for her so if you are looking for a job, talk to her in the cafeteria or call her at 473-6430.

Vinatype Photography Exhibit scheduled

University Gallery will present a vintage photography exhibit of the historic public buildings of Rapides Parish throughout the month of October.

The opening reception will be held on Friday, October 23, from 6 until 8 p.m. An informal concert of piano music will be presented from 6 to 6:30 p.m. with a Gallery Talk from 6:30 to 7 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

For those who are Alexandria natives, the exhibit will provide many memories. For others, this should provide particular insight into the development of Alexandria.

Campus beautification work day set for Sat.

Please join LSUA on Saturday, October 17, beginning at 9 a.m. in front of the fountain for a campus beautification work day.

Lunch will be served around 11:30 a.m. across from the fountain.

Faculty are asked to please encourage students to participate. If faculty plan to give incentive for student participation, the faculty member should plan to attend the event to take attendance.

Student organization participation in this work day is encouraged and welcomed. Participants may bring their own tools/gloves, but items should be labeled.

This is a lot of fun and a nice way to help keep our campus beautiful!

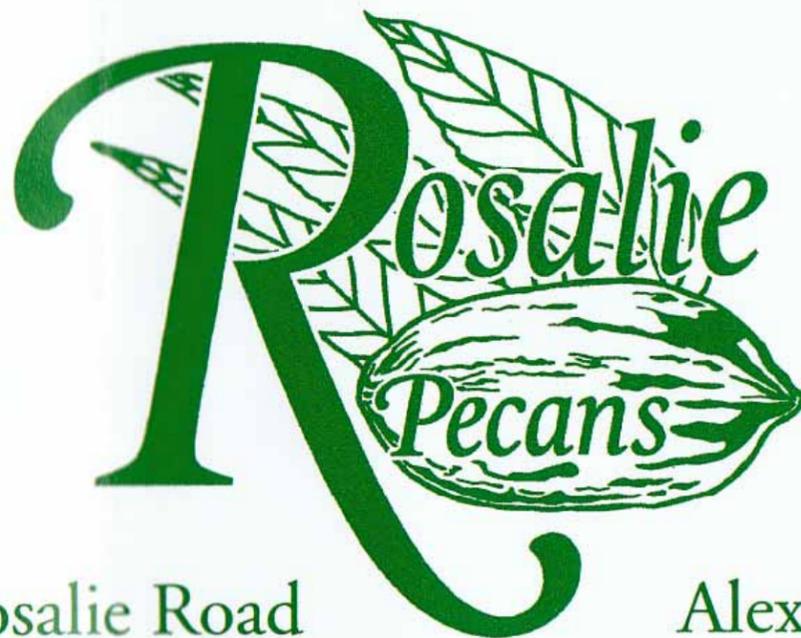
October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Encourage the women in your life to get annual screenings and to conduct monthly self exams.

Got news?

Send it to

The Sentry at

sentrynews@lsua.edu



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Intramural Leagues, Activities, and Tournaments offer something for everyone

By **Tim Oliver**
Sentry Reporter

With the beginning of the fall semester comes many new responsibilities and potential headaches. Students must think of schedules, finances, homework, and exams. Luckily, the fall brings something else. Something stress free, healthy, and fun—intramurals.

LSUA's intramural leagues and tournaments cater to the student, giving people one less thing to worry about, and one more thing to look forward to. LSUA offers five intramural sports leagues, as well as several game tournaments.

Flag football begins league play each fall semester. John Barkdull, coordinator of intramurals at LSUA, really makes an effort to have the league run smoothly.

"We meet with students interested in playing to determine a time



Courtesy Photo
These men are participating in the fall flag football league at LSU Alexandria. Games are played on Mondays and Tuesdays at 2:45 p.m. All students, faculty and staff are welcome to play.

when everyone is available, last year it was around two o'clock several times a week", Barkdull said.

The league is open to all LSUA students, faculty, and staff members. Barkdull uses a season long scoring system to determine which players will make up the school's flag football team that will compete at the state tournament.

Jeremy Campbell, a player and

referee, spoke about the competitive nature of the league.

"Its fun, and the games can get very, very, competitive."

He also sang the praises of the leagues stress free set up.

"The games are only a few hours a week, but you can practice on your own if you want to put in more time".

If flag football isn't your cup

of tea, LSUA has a wide variety of other activities.

With over ten leagues and tournaments there will be several activities every month. A table tennis tournament will follow the start of flag football, with Dance Dance Revolution and Billiards tournaments after that. Anyone interested in participating can email the intramurals coordinator, John Barkdull Jr., at jbarkdull@lsua.edu.

ESP sets fall schedule, looking for volunteers

By **Lauren Campbell**
Sentry Reporter

Professor Richard Gwartney and those aspiring to join the Empty Space Players should look forward to this semester. In addition to the ESP, Alexandria's City Park Players (CPP) and the Actors Alliance Repertory Theatre Troupe offer a lineup of shows to keep everyone on their toes.

The Actor's Alliance Repertory Theatre troupe is an affiliation of actors in Alexandria. Professor Richard Gwartney, the director of the theater on campus, and Kody Walker, an LSUA student and theater major, are members of this group. Continuing LSUA students may remember their performance of *A Tuna Christmas*, last fall semester. They are a sensational pair who work well together, each compliments the other. The AART have just finished the last showings of their latest production, *The Big Bang*. The production was hosted in the Kress Theater, in downtown Alexandria on the corner of Johnston and Third St., in late September.

This semester, the ESP will be presenting a production of *Angels in America: Part I, Millennium Approaches*, by Tony Kushner. Productions have been set for October 28-31 and November 4-7 at 7:30 p.m., as well as matinee performances at 2:30 p.m. on November 1 and 8. This show is recommended

for mature, adult audiences, due to language, sexual themes, religious innuendo, and blood. Reservations are required. The show will also be hosted at the Kress Theater in downtown Alexandria. To get information of make reservations for *Angels in America*, please call (318)427-4469.

The theatre faculty would also like to encourage students to volun-

teer with the performance. Volunteer work would include set construction and back stage crew. For information involving volunteer opportunities please contact Richard Gwartney or Catherine Pears at the Alexandria Museum of Art, (318)443-3458.

City Park Players is one of Alexandria's local theater troupes. Several of their members are actu-

ally LSUA students, and not all are theater majors. When the ESP puts on a performance, more often than not, City Park Players has contributed actors and materials. This semester City Park Players will be performing *Black Jack—Thief of Possession* at the Kress Theater on October 8-18. To get information or make reservations for *Black Jack—Thief of Possession*, please contact (318)442-1800.

Generals looking for great start in 09-10

By **Landon Johnson**
Sentry Reporter

In their third year back on the diamond, the Generals are looking to improve.

After a solid second-year campaign in 2009, your LSU Alexandria Generals will be looking to progress on their 20-32 season and their 1-2 Conference Tournament showing. "All in all both teams—baseball and softball—both teams had decent years, but we are still taking steps to get to where we want to be but by no means, where we need and want to be at," Athletic Director/head baseball coach Dan Purvis said.

This should not be too difficult of a task for the boys at LSUA,

with only losing 4 starters off last year's squad. The four players lost due to transfer or eligibility being used up were Wes Hotard, Cody Laprarie, Jordan Marks, and Tyler Price.

Coach Purvis said his team will be "50/50, half our team will be old faces, half will be new faces with half of those new face being transfers the other half freshman."

One of the old faces the generals will be looking to for help in the 2010 season will be Academic All-American Adam Tucker who will be helping out at catcher, first base, and designated hitter. Tucker, a senior, should and will be a big cog in the LSUA lineup this upcoming year.

One improvement for the 2010 season that will have no direct effect on the Generals win loss totals, but should help is the addition of the new baseball/softball sports complex on the northeast side of campus. Coach Purvis is looking forward "to a collegiate atmosphere, where students can stop off at games after class."

"A lot of the work we do ourselves," Coach Purvis said of the complex that the team will be taking care of. He hopes that caring for the field and complex throughout the year will build lots of pride, and ownership in this complex and program.

Save the date:

**Generals Booster Club banquet
Feb. 1, 2010 Speaker: Skip Bertman**