

# The Almagest

a publication of LSU Shreveport



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"Who Killed the  
Constitution?"

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"EDUCATION IS THE PROGRESSIVE REALIZATION OF OUR IGNORANCE." - Albert Einstein

## SGA Seeks New Senators in Special Election

Crystal Vandegriff  
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

LSU Shreveport students will soon be seeing campaign signs popping up around campus. LSU's Student Government Association is holding a special election to fill five vacant senator seats.

Candidates gathered Friday in the SGA's University Center office to go over campaign questions with SGA President Casey Thomas, psychology/criminal justice, senior. Thomas announced that 15 students completed the intent-to-run forms and would be eligible for election. Attending candidates also received a schedule for the special election.

Thomas went over the campaign rules outlined in the SGA constitution, such as no campaigning in the classroom and no posters placed in building stairwells due to a fire code, as well as giving some advice to first-time candidates.

"During this fall, what I encourage all of you to do is to get your name out there, especially if you're new on campus and not many people know you," Thomas said. "Put up your signs, you can use your Facebook page, you can create a Facebook page just for this, just be aware and be sure to follow the election rules."

Thomas also encouraged candidate questions to clarify any campaign rules.

Afterwards, a few candidates spoke about what motivated them

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GOT SOMETHING THE STUDENT BODY NEEDS TO HEAR ABOUT? GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT BY EMAILING US AT ALMAGEST@LSUS.EDU

## LSUS Reaches Out to Incoming Freshmen

LSU Shreveport is a university with an academic setting that is conducive to education for a range of students. The *Almagest Student News* has taken a closer look at the make up of our student body in this three part series.

Morgan Marshall  
STAFF WRITER

Now introducing the freshmen class of 2016! Each school year, LSU Shreveport welcomes these freshmen who have decided that LSUS is the school for them. Why LSUS, though? What factors come into play when guiding freshmen in their selection?

According to student recruitment coordinator Ashley Wood, there are many factors set in place to draw new students in.

"One of the biggest sell points is that LSU Shreveport offers the most affordable net price for public four-year institutions in the state of Louisiana," Wood said. "LSUS offers students an outstanding education at a competitive low cost. Our students are being taught in small class sizes by incredibly quali-

fied faculty members."

When looking for schools, this is one of the most important deciding factors that both parents and students take into consideration.

"It was the best option around," said Jared Redfearn, business, freshman. "I feel that it's somewhere that will allow me to be outgoing, have fun, attend in-depth classes, and just make the most of it. Somewhere I can start new."

Along with price and size being one of the main reasons new students choose LSUS, the institution also offers a variety of other incentives for incoming freshmen.

"Beginning this fall semester in conjunction with LSU, LSUS is now offering Petroleum Engineering and Construction Management. LSUS also offers guaranteed scholarships to first-time freshmen students

who qualify," Wood said. "From our National ranked NAIA Division Athletic teams to our over 70 clubs and organizations, LSUS is an exceptional university to attend and to experience college life."

Russell Antee, fine arts, freshman, agrees.

"I came to LSUS primarily because it is a good place for art, meaning it has a great animated and visual effects program, but also because it offers me so much," he said. "Compared to high school it has structure and order, making it easier for me to focus on my school work and be more dedicated. Not to mention the teachers are more laid back. I love it! Other than just school, it has a lot of choices of activities to participate in as well. I played soccer in high school, so I'm hoping to play soccer here as well."

## LSUS Recycling Gets Dumped

Rebecca Randklev  
and Erika Merritt  
STAFF WRITERS

Students at LSU Shreveport are losing the opportunity to recycle due to budget cuts.

Don Bloxom, director of facility services, said that before budget cuts, LSUS recycled around 10 tons of paper annually. After budget cuts, LSUS recycles virtually none.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, the recycling of paper saves landfill space, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and reduces energy consumption. Recycling one ton of paper saves 7,000 gallons of water and 3.3 cubic yards of landfill space.

But for LSUS budget cuts have reduced the number of facility services staff by almost half.

"When you're faced with severe budget shortages, you really have to prioritize what you do," Bloxom said.

Instead of spending the extra time and manpower to empty recycling receptacles, cleaning classrooms and restrooms has taken priority.

"We'd love to do it [recycle],

if we could come up with the people and the money, mostly people," he said.

Although the sight of recycling bins on campus is sparse, the campus-wide lab still strives to recycle as much paper as possible.

Steven Natiello, former SGA president pro-tem, said the campus-wide lab has a voluntary recycling program for paper and cardboard products.

"Every once in a while, myself or one of the guys here will take the two blue bins we have and take them to the recycling bin," Natiello said.

The recycling bin is provided by a private company that picks up the recyclables free of charge to LSUS.

Natiello tried to expand the campus recycling program by obtaining a recycling bin to place outside of the Port. However, in order to place the bin, it would have to be on top of a concrete slab that meets regulations. The concrete slab would cost around \$10,000.

"LSUS can't spend the money," Natiello said.

Still, according to Natiello, despite the budget cuts, professors and faculty have been doing their own forms of recycling.



Mychael Grames, biochemistry, sophomore, said he wishes students had the opportunity to recycle more on campus.

"I'm in a news media class and my professor has us do our assignments online to save paper," he said.

Matt Kay, SGA senator at large, said the SGA is currently trying to advocate for recycling on campus and is in contact with Pratt Industries and other local recycling programs.

Mychael Grames, biochemistry, sophomore, said although he is not a recycling enthusiast, he would at least like the opportunity to recycle on campus.

"Recycling does have its benefits," Grames said.

Bloxom suggests that a student organization adopt recycling as part of

their philanthropy.

"We've gotten away from cans in our vending machine, so a need that would be there would be the recycling of plastic, which would be fairly easy to take on," Bloxom said.

**"We'd love to do it [recycle], if we could come up with the people and the money, mostly people."**

- Don Bloxom



Photos by Erika Merritt

One of the last remaining recycling bins on LSU Shreveport's campus is located in the University Center campus wide lab. The campus wide lab currently has a voluntary recycling program for paper products.

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# LSUS Ponders "Who Killed the Constitution?"



Photos by Joanna Kresge

Jane Ryder and Demeria Johnson rehearse a scene from the play "Who Killed the Constitution?" in the Black Box Theatre, Tuesday. Ryder plays a typical turn-of-the-century law professor at Columbia Law University, who is admonishing a student, Johnson, in the scene being rehearsed.

**Joanna Kresge  
and Morgan Marshall**  
STAFF WRITERS

The production "Who Killed the Constitution?" will run at LSU Shreveport's Black Box Theatre Oct. 18 and 19.

The dates of the production were set to coincide with the International Lincoln Association conference being held here on those dates. The association was founded to "foster and promote worldwide education about the life, values and works of the sixteenth president of the United States."

Lincoln isn't the only historical figure portrayed in the production; President Theodore Roosevelt and Sherlock Holmes are two of the central characters in the show. The play explores the Constitution of the United States throughout history leading up to modern day and challenges its relevance in today's society.

While the information presented is historical in nature, director and recent LSU graduate Audra Caitlyn Moss assures that audiences will still be entertained.

"It's very much a comedy like a dinner theatre who-done-it play but because of its historical content it's more educational than you'd expect," said Moss.

According to Moss, the 14-page script is not long enough to fill the time slot, so creative freedom was taken to make the pages last more than 30 minutes of stage time.

"We've had to add our own stuff with-

out taking away from the great story that is there, it's been a challenge but I think it's going to be great," she said.

The eight-person cast ranges from first time LSUS student actors to local professional actors, such as Rich Arnold.

"I was formerly a professor at LSUS and am something of a history buff, so the play appeals to me," said Arnold. "The play has historical value with some laughs and comedy thrown in. It has been a very long time since I was last in a play, but I like to perform. I'm glad to have the opportunity to be in this play after many years."

Jane Ryder, who plays a typical turn of the century law professor during 1895 at Columbia Law University, is excited about the play as well.

"I'm also a history buff," said Ryder. "I love the historical aspect of the play and the comedy that goes with it. I've been in a number of plays prior to this one, one of which I won a Bravo award for best supporting actress. I'm excited to be in this play and it's a lot of fun."

Moss, who has acted in numerous LSUS stage performances and directed for the camera in the past, will be directing for the stage for the first time and she is eager to introduce the show to the local audience.

"Come see it! I really think everyone will enjoy it and have a really great time. It's going to challenge what they know about the constitution and it's going to be fun," she said.



**I love the historical aspect of the play and the comedy that goes with it...I'm excited to be in this play and it's a**

**- Jane Ryder**



Actors from the play "Who Killed the Constitution?" practice their lines during a rehearsal session in the Black Box Theatre, Tuesday. The play will run Oct. 18 and 19; the show is free and open to the public.



Jane Ryder rehearses a scene with Demeria Johnson. Ryder has been in numerous productions and has been nominated for a Bravo award for Best Supporting Actress.

**SGA cont.**

to get involved with the SGA.

"I just wanted to help students," said Noah Elman, physical therapy, freshman.

Regina Simmons, general business, junior, echoed the sentiment.

"I'm always into running for a senate position or just something to make a difference in the LSU system," Simmons said. "There's actually a few things I have noticed, like with the rules and saving students money that I definitely want to be a part of, so that I can be effective."

Fellow candidate Aubrie Boyle, general studies, senior, told a story that sounded a bit like political kismet.

"I actually have kind of a funny story," Boyle said. "I was thinking about running in the spring and then I didn't do it and I was talking to my mom recently about how I wished I would have run. The next day, I got the email about the special elections, so I just had to do it!"

Thomas explained the need for special elections.

"Special elections are actually not very unusual for SGA, typically our regular elections are held in the spring," Thomas said. "Typically, over the summer, you'll see that several people either drop from the senate for going under hours - you have to be a full-time student to participate - or

one of our senators, for example, just found that he was over-committed to too many organizations. Our constitution says that we have to wait until four vacancies have opened before we can hold a special election."

Thomas was also excited about the number of candidates running for the five open positions.

"I'm thrilled," Thomas said. "That's actually what's a bit unusual, that there's fifteen people running for just these five spots... Usually, it's just about even with the same number of people running with how many spots are open."

Voting will be held on MOODLE beginning Oct. 8 and ending Oct. 12.



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