

The Almagest

a publication of LSU Shreveport



No mad science here! The Chemistry Club cooks up something special for Fall Fest!

—Pg. 3

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“THE PRICE OF ANYTHING IS THE AMOUNT OF LIFE YOU EXCHANGE FOR IT.” - Henry David Thoreau

Big Chill: State Budget Cuts Hit LSUS

Crystal Vandegriff
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

State budget cuts have caused LSU Shreveport to place a freeze on hiring new faculty members. This freeze will reportedly continue for the foreseeable future.

“What we have right now is best described as a soft freeze, we can usually obtain approval to fill critical positions, but we have to make the case for both the need and the ability to fit the hiring into a very tight budget,” said Interim Chancellor Paul Sisson. “That’s not to say there haven’t been hard freezes in the past, and we may face them again in the future.”

Michael Ferrell, vice chancellor of business affairs, further explained what a “soft freeze” will mean for the university.

“A soft freeze means that any vacancies that come up are immediately frozen and only ‘Mission Critical’ positions will be replaced,” he said. “Until state funding stabilizes and total revenues begin an increase, the freeze will remain.”

Sisson further explains what would constitute a “Mission Critical” position.

“Where we might have had duplicated or reserve expertise in the past, we now often have just one person supplying that expertise,” he said. “When that one person retires or leaves for some reason, that’s when we are able to make the case that replacing that person is critical.”

Replacing such Mission Critical positions has enabled LSUS to maintain the number of courses offered to students, leaving the catalog virtually unchanged – at least in regards to the freeze.

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“ONE LSU” Plan Recommended by Board

Alexandra Meachum
STAFF WRITER

Restructuring the LSU System would bring the clout of the flagship university and better ranking to LSUS, according to the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB), which made the recommendation last week to the LSU Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors will meet again Friday to consider the proposal.

The idea was first purposed in August as one of the scenarios offered in the LSU Commitment Plan. A realignment of campuses would create a “ONE LSU” system that would merge the position of president of the LSU system with chancellor of LSU; streamline admissions and accreditation; improve the rankings of individual regional campuses, as well as let them benefit from LSU marketing plans; bolster alumni development; and expand the LSU Commitment Plan.

“On many levels we will start to gain the clout of LSU, and researchers can go out to gain money for LSUS with the full force of [the brand] LSU behind them,” said Faculty Senator Trey Gibson, who attended the meeting.

Students could benefit from the collaboration in several ways. There would be one application process for all campuses so students

would not have to re-apply to transfer within the system. Individual campuses would still keep their own enrollment requirements in place.

“

There are still so many things we need to talk about and I hope the Board of Supervisors will hear our questions and provide clear answers.

- Mary Jarzabek,
Faculty Senate President

”

A common curriculum and course numbering system would be implemented to make degree completion easier within the system.

LSUS students could possibly gain more of a collegiate experience from becoming a part of LSU. ONE LSUS would likely improve fundraising as well.

Gibson said compared to the Tech merger this is a better idea because LSUS would not lose its chancellor, personnel, mascots, or athletic teams. It would gain more with regional accreditation.

“We would not lose our autonomy, we could gain more opportunities,” he said.

Gibson also suggested that enrollment from out-of-state students would increase. If students wanted to go to LSU but did not meet the requirements then they could come to LSUS and still have the credentials of LSU on their diploma.

The idea is to build revenue, increase the student body, and offer more programs. But Gibson said he is “cautiously optimistic” about the plan.

Faculty Senate President Mary Jarzabek also attended the meeting and said she has a similar feeling of being “optimistically skeptical” because, she said, there are still questions to address.

“There are still so many things we need to talk about and I hope the Board of Supervisors will hear our questions and provide clear answers,” she said.

A forum of faculty, staff and representatives of the SGA was held at 11 a.m. Oct. 31 in the Science Lecture Auditorium to address the proposal.



Proponents say that if the “ONE LSU” plan is enacted, admissions and accreditation would be more streamlined, LSUS would benefit more from LSU marketing plans, and the LSU Commitment Plan would be expanded. The plan would also make transferring between campuses easier for students.

Photo by Crystal Vandegriff

Pell Grant Changes Leave Students Searching for Options



Photo by Alexandra Meachum

Linda Wimbley, assistant financial aid director at LSUS, helps students remain on their degree plan while keeping their Pell Grants.

Alexandra Meachum
STAFF WRITER

The Federal Pell Grant affects college students with a new limit. Originally students were able to receive a Pell Grant for up to 18 semesters. Since July 2012, a limitation has been placed on the grant, and can only be received for up to 12 semesters.

Semesters students have been receiving grants will count towards their 12 semester limit.

Ashley Davis, secondary education, junior, went to BPCC for two years on a Pell Grant then transferred to LSU Shreveport. Her plan was to complete a four-year degree but is now

unsure of how to pay for the remaining years.

“It freaked me out at first because I felt like I had to hurry up and graduate, but I really can’t take on a fifteen to eighteen hour curriculum while having to work along with raising a child,” Davis said.

Davis hoped to wait on taking out a student loan until she went to graduate school.

Linda Wimbley, assistant financial aid director at LSUS said their offices are open to help students stay on their degree plan and graduate successfully in the appropriate amount of time.

Wimbley suggests working part-time rather than living off of loans in

order to graduate debt-free.

“Students will have to look at their options between borrowing and loan eligibility in addition to seeking scholarships,” Wimbley said.

She also emphasized that students do research for available scholarships. Along with internet sources, students may seek scholarship information through campus departments. However, Wimbley warns of giving money to websites because those are not legitimate sources.

Although these changes may pose difficulties, graduation within four to five years is still attainable. The students most effected by this limit will be those who transferred from another

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Transfer Students Find a Place at LSUS

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. This is the final part of the three part series.

Morgan Marshall
STAFF WRITER

Having proved itself quite an exceptional place, LSU Shreveport draws the attention from many different people, some deciding that LSUS is where their true calling awaits.

According to Cody Walsworth, criminal justice, senior, LSUS was the place for him.

"I attended North Western State University in Shreveport majoring in nursing before I transferred here to LSUS. Personally I didn't want to do nursing anymore because if I felt like it wasn't allowing me to really flourish in life. I felt restricted to just school and school work, there was nothing outside of it," Walsworth said.

Walsworth mentioned a few reasons as to why he decided on LSUS. The fact that it's affordable, has the degree he wishes to pursue, and the fact it focuses on more than just one aspect of people's lives is what caught his attention the most.

"It offers the school life atmosphere, allowing me to be more involved with school. Right now, I participate in Kappa Sigma Fraternity and have been a part of the Student Government Association. I feel like I'm much more involved with

people and not so much on my own anymore," Walsworth said.



[LSUS] offers the school life atmosphere, allowing me to be more involved with school. Right now, I participate in Kappa Sigma Fraternity and have been a part of the Student Government Association. I feel like I'm more involved with people and not so much on my own anymore.

- Cody Walsworth,



Other students, like Walsworth, are drawn to LSUS as well because it offers aspects that their previous schools did not. Whether it is the ability to grow as a person and make friends, the chance to be independent, or the opportunity to be a

part of something big. Like May Thompson, who transferred from East Tennessee State University.

"I transferred for this fall semester after hearing about LSUS through weightlifting. I chose LSUS for their weightlifting program," Thompson said. "Compared to my last school LSUS is much smaller, and thus more personal. Personally I feel that moving so far away from home has been great for me in the sense that I'm becoming much more independent."

Transfer students tend to come from many different areas, all being a new and different contribution to the LSUS population. Walsworth is from Louisiana, Thompson from Tennessee, and others come from all over the United States and even outside the states as well; each feeling that their future waits at LSUS, and deciding to make the switch.

"Being so far away from home and not knowing anything about this city is kind of fun! It forces me to figure things out on my own," Thompson said.

LSUS strives to offer a wide range of opportunities to all kinds of people, whether you are a new freshman, have been here for many years, or are a new member of the LSUS population. This has drawn many students who now consider LSUS their "home away from home".

Student Performs Self-Taught Poi



Edwin Noland, general studies, senior, performs poi during common hour outside of Bronson Hall at LSU Shreveport, Monday. Poi is a form of performance art, which uses tethered weights in assorted swinging motions in the form of geometric patterns or rhythmic dance. Nolan proclaims to be self taught. "I came across a video on YouTube, when I realized I had the coordination necessary to do it, I started to search for more poi videos and I just learned from the internet."

Photos by Joanna Kresge



LSUS Makes Fall Festive

Trey Bryant
STAFF WRITER

Fall Fest 2012 gave students from around campus an opportunity colleges and organizations an opportunity to see what is on offer throughout LSUS.

In addition to the educational aspect of the festival, students were treated to fun, games, and tasty treats including the LSU Shreveport College of Science's home-made ice-cream.

"It's made using liquid nitrogen," said Phillip Palyok, biochemistry, senior.

"It's actually healthier. Ice-cream made this way doesn't have all of the artificial preservatives."

The activities didn't stop at food. Disc Jockey Stan spun music in the mall for festival-goers.

"I play everything," Stan said; ". . . hip-hop, R & B, techno, Mos Def. . . everyone enjoys the music."

DJ Stan, a staple at LSU events, added, "I always enjoy coming to LSUS."

The music also provided the back drop for Zeta Phi Beta sorority's step routine. LaKenya Deberry, school psy-

chology graduate student, represented the sorority sisters.

"This is fun to be a part of," she said. "We are able to promote our sorority's goals — scholarship, service, sisterly love and final womanhood."

The ideals are supported by fellow sorority sister Tiffany Christian, secondary education junior, "We are moving the community progressively forward."

Students not involved directly with the festival's production were equally excited about the event. "It is a great time," said Eloisa Jimenez, molecular biology junior, sporting her Power Ranger's t-shirt.

Debra Cordell, molecular biology junior, seconded her friend's remark with, "Everything was fun."

Fall Fest 2012 might have been just what the collegiate doctors ordered to cure mid-term burn-out. As the festival came to a close, so did the middle of the semester. For students, faculty, and event-goers the overall opinion of the festival is that it was a success. Students can expect to look forward to next year's Fall Fest 2013, but if next fall is too long for students to wait there is always Spring Fling next semester.



DJ Stan is a regular at LSUS events. He played a variety of music to keep students moving during Fall Fest activities.



A "Michael Jackson Dance-Off" was held for teams of students on Oct. 24 during Common Hour.



Students checked out the competition as the "Michael Jackson Dance-Off" began.



Photos by Trey Bryant

The LSUS Chemistry Club provided students with snacks and spectacle - they made home-made ice cream using liquid nitrogen. Philip Palyok, biochemistry, senior, said that this method actually produces healthier ice cream.

Seniors Get One Step Closer

Ta Neisha Primus
STAFF WRITER

The Fall 2012 commencement ceremony is right around the corner. The Louisiana State University Shreveport Admissions and Records office held a graduation fair Oct. 22-23 to prepare students for their commencement.

Announcements, caps, gowns, masters' hoods, invitations, diploma frames and senior rings were made available for purchase. There was also an enrollment service coordinator to inform students about what additional steps they need to complete before the Nov. 14 deadline.

Tamra Ezernack, enrollment service coordinator, said that the fall commencement graduation checklist is available on the LSUS website for students as a reference.

"Students also have to fill out a survey online with career services and pay a \$30 fee," Ezernack said. "They just want to make sure they get all the paperwork done before graduation."

Some students are unaware of the graduation checklist and the graduation fair.

"I didn't see that they were having a graduation fair, a classmate had to tell me in class," said Jessica Strange, MBA, senior. "Since I now know, I will write everything in my planner."

If graduating seniors didn't make it to the graduation fair, they can still purchase their items but not at the discounted rate the graduation fair offered.

"I'm glad I came to the fair, I was able to complete everything at once," said Michael Pitre, fine arts graphic design, senior.

The Admissions and Records office will not post the students degree on their transcript and their diploma will not be released until all the requirements on the checklist have been met.

If students don't meet the Nov. 14 deadline, they also run the risk of not being included on the program for the ceremony.

"We would contact the dean and/or the student to see what is going on and why they haven't gotten their information completed," Ezernack said.

The graduation will be held at 2 p.m. on Dec. 16 at the CenturyLink center in Bossier City. All graduates should arrive an hour early for lineup and placement.

With graduation fast approaching, students have two weeks to have all their graduation requirements met.

"Every senior should be in a hurry to complete their information and remember the years and what it took to get here," Pitre said. "I'm excited that this time has come and I'm almost finished."

PELICAN BRIEFS LSUS to Host Tailgate Party

LSU Shreveport students have the chance to see the Fighting Tigers (7-1) go head-to-head with the undefeated Rolling Tide. Tailgating will begin this Saturday at 4 p.m. at the LSUS baseball fields.

The tailgate is being hosted by the LSUS recreational department and is open to any who would like to come.

Students are urged to bring their own blanket and chair because the game will be watched on the outdoor projection screen.

GRANTS cont. college with a two-year degree program, and those who have switched majors.

"I've switched majors twice now, and I know I will lose my Pell Grant in the next two years," said Dylan McWhinney, business administration, junior. He also said he wasn't too concerned over losing it because he relies mostly on his TOPS scholarship.

The standard course load is 15 to 16 hours each spring and fall semester so for a total of four years students are able to complete the 120 required hours to graduate. Depending on circumstances, not every student is able to complete the standard course curriculum each semester. Relying solely on Pell Grants may no longer be an option. However, state grants remain the same and scholarships along with loans are always available as sources of financial aid.



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Interim Chancellor Dr. Paul Sisson is confident that the hiring freeze has not affected the quality of education.

Photo courtesy of Paul Sisson

The Walking Dead Parade the Streets of Shreveport

Morgan Marshall
STAFF WRITER

Monsters, ghouls, and zombies, oh my! On Oct. 27, zombies took to the streets of Shreveport, Louisiana for the 5th Annual Shreveport Zombie Walk.

Every year the zombie walk is put on as a way to donate food, give people a chance at winning a variety of contests, and bring the community together. This year the zombie walk was held from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Festival Plaza's west end in downtown Shreveport. People of the community group together, dress as zombies, and participate in the

events of the walk.

Individuals enter into costume contests to show off their zombie creating skills and bring non-perishable food for the food drive. Last year, the streets were littered with thousands of zombies and ended with hundreds of pounds of food donated.

"I went last year and really enjoyed it," said Thomas Dickson, fine arts, junior. "This year it took me about an hour to get dressed up. I went as a character from the game Left for Dead. There were a lot of costumes, some scary and some ridiculous, but it was a lot of fun.

This year hundreds of zombies hit the street to benefit

the North Western Louisiana food bank and to raise awareness for hunger in the state.

Throughout the year, this frightening event takes place all over the United States ranging from California to South Carolina.

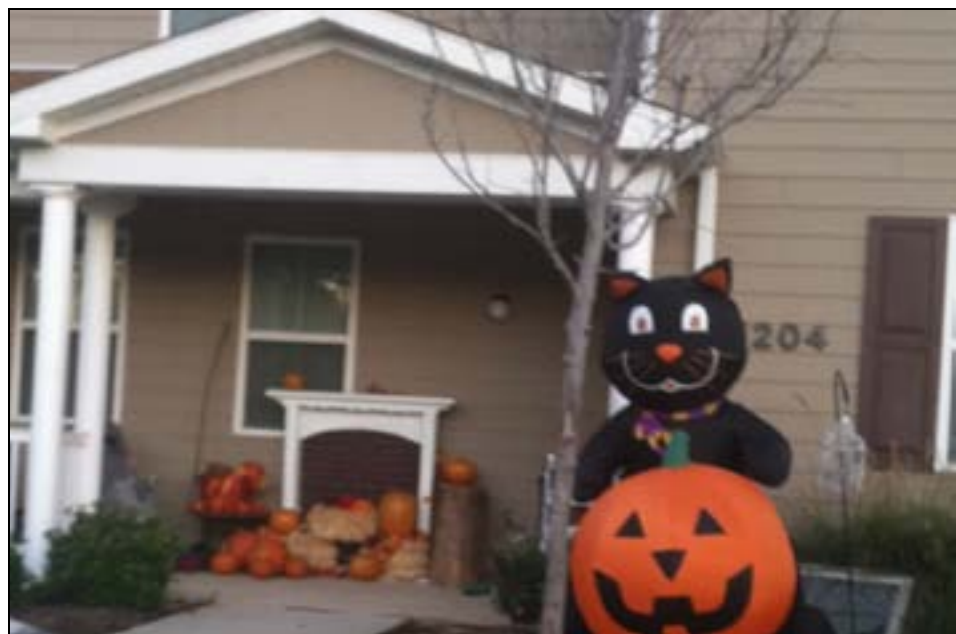
"I always enjoy the zombie walk," said Lauralee Kemper, criminal justice, junior. "The costumes don't scare me, but I saw one that looked like a character from Resident Evil, my favorite zombie movie. My favorite part of the walk was at the end when we all grouped together and made noise for awareness. It was pretty awesome, I can't wait until next year."

Get Treated to Staying Safe This Halloween



Photos by Rebecca Randklev

Director of the LSUS University Police Department Rebecca Chiles said students should use common sense during the holiday season.



Rebecca Chiles also recommends that students who plan on trick-or-treating go in groups to trusted neighborhoods.

Rebecca Randklev
STAFF WRITER

It's that time of year again, when both kids and adults are able to embrace Halloween and all the tricks and treats it entails. LSU Shreveport students can practice simple safety measures to keep the holiday safe and fun for themselves, their friends, family members and the community.

Director of the LSUS University Police Department Rebecca Chiles said students can stay safe partaking in Halloween and other holiday related activities by drinking responsibly.

"Use common sense, don't drink too much and make sure you are in a safe place with safe people that you trust," she said.



Don't walk alone, don't be texting while you're walking, be aware of your surroundings and be sure to look people in the eye.

- Rebecca Chiles



Chiles also recommends that students who are planning to drink alcoholic beverages designate a driver before they go out for the evening.

Students who will be celebrating holiday festivities in downtown Shreveport should take special precautions while walking from one place to another.

"Don't walk alone, don't be texting while you're walking, be aware of your surroundings and be sure to look people in the eye," Chiles said.

The downtown area is usually equipped with police officers on foot and bicycles to

ensure safety for pedestrians.

Students who will be taking children trick-or-treating around the Shreveport-Bossier area should also follow safety guidelines.

"Trick or treat with people you know and take advantage of the reputable businesses in the area that offer events," Chiles said.

Families are encouraged to trick-or-treat in trusted neighborhoods, wear reflective gear, bright costumes or carry a flashlight to ensure they are visible to oncoming traffic.

Many neighborhoods enforce a curfew of either 8 p.m. or 8:30 p.m. for trick-or-treaters. Those not wishing to participate, should leave their porch lights out as a signal. Chiles advises against opening the door past 8:30 p.m. or 9 p.m. to strangers.

Even those who are not celebrating Halloween should take measures to drive safely and watch for those who may be trick-or-treating.

LSU Shreveport students should also remember that taking someone else's pumpkin or other Halloween decor and "smashing" it can be classified as property damage, according to Chiles.

Stacey Boggs, secondary social studies, junior, said the best defense for Halloween safety is common sense.

"Don't take a drink from a stranger and don't drink and drive," she said.

Boggs is also a full-time volunteer at a local fire department and will be volunteering on Halloween evening to aid in the community's safety. From her experience at the department she has learned that people can avoid altercations by practicing good judgement.

"Halloween is a really fun holiday, but don't be stupid," she said.

Dress to Impress, Even on a College Budget

Julie Thomas
STAFF WRITER

Within the world of fashion three types of styles exist: the "I do not care what I look like," the "I am satisfied with being casual" and lastly the "Fashionista." The Fashionista is the most stylish, up to date with the latest fashion and never seems to wear the same thing twice. Can a college student on a budget be a Fashionista? Yes, they can.

Fashionistas on a budget know how to shop and where to go for a good price. Finding deals and steals are a Fashionista's bread and butter. The 70/30 rule may help Fashionistas on a budget: 70 percent of a closet should be classic pieces suitable for wear during any fashion season and 30 percent trendy pieces, because those items have a shorter fashion lifespan.

When dressing on a budget, a shopper should have a style in mind. Having a list of what is needed can reduce impulsive sludge shopping.

The internet is an easy place to find deals. Boutiques and retail stores advertise special event sales on Facebook on a regular basis.

"I like to shop online at Jetsetter. The online deals are always really good," said Austin Wiseman, business, sophomore.

Shopping at outlet retail stores is a cheaper way to find favorite name-brand clothing without paying full price.

The Louisiana Boardwalk is lined with name-brand clothing stores such as Banana Republic, Nine West, Lane Bryant, Guess, and others. T.J. Max, Ross, and Marshalls also carry classic and trendy name-brand and off-brand clothing at a discounted price.

"Whenever I go into T.J. Maxx, sometimes I have to look around for a while but I always find something good for really cheap which is why I love it so much," said Laura Adams, education, junior.

For individuals who like to "Do It Yourself" Pinterest is an online site and smartphone apps full of ideas that are easy and affordable. Goodwill can be a goldmine for items waiting to be transformed.

Styles come and go and sometimes make their way back around. Recycling old clothing items may save an abundance of money in a long run.

"I have some old clothing that my mom never got rid of that I wear since Boho style is in again," said Rachel Temple, accounting, freshman.

If clothing items must be gotten rid of, Plato's Closet pays for gently-used, brand-name, no older than one year old clothing. The store also carried cheap classics and trendy pieces that fit into the 70/30 rule.

Dressing to impress on a budget does not have to cost an arm or a leg. Style lies in the eye of the beholder.



Photo by Julie Thomas

Austin Wiseman, business, sophomore, enjoys shopping online at Jetsetter.