



Which new student organization is attempting to take flight?

—Pg. 4

“IT DOES NOT MATTER HOW SLOWLY YOU GO AS LONG AS YOU DO NOT STOP.” - Confucius

## LSUS Screens *Switch*, Energy Documentary

Elizabeth Stroud  
STAFF WRITER

LSU Shreveport, along with the BPCCC Student Oil and Gas Organization, the Shreveport Geological Society and the Louisiana Oil and Gas Association sponsored a screening of the energy documentary *Switch*. The screening was held in the Performing Arts Theatre on BPCCC's campus and many LSUS students were in attendance to view the documentary.

The documentary follows geologist Dr. Scott Tinker, director of the *Bureau of Economic Geology* and the State Geologist of Texas, as he goes to 11 different countries to learn more about the world's different forms of energy production. Throughout the film, Tinker visits 27 of the world's leading energy sites for every energy type and interviews over 50 experts in the field of energy production.

*Switch* is a part of the Switch Energy Project, a multi-prong project that aims to build a more knowledgeable and balanced understanding of energy production in the U.S. by educating people through lectures and films in schools.

Gary Hanson, LSUS Hydrologist in Residence and Director of the LSUS Red River Watershed Management Institute, was the moderator of the event, which took place on Nov. 14. Hanson was also part of the panel that answered questions from the audience after the film was screened.

Bryant Moore, marketing, senior, attended the screening because of an interest in alternative forms of energy.

“I think it is really good to

See SWITCH, pg. 3

# The Finals Countdown Begins

Ta Neisha Primus  
STAFF WRITER

With finals week around the corner, it is time for students to begin preparing for their final tests. The Student Development and Career Center held a “preparing for final exams” workshop Nov. 14 during Common Hour to help students prep.

There are five basic steps to preparing for finals: assessing the task, planning the time, adjusting testing environment, using test-taking strategies and staying healthy.

Piper Shaw, student development and career counseling intern, believes finals are different from any other tests during the semester.

“It's a solid week of testing, unlike the other tests that are scattered throughout the semester,” Shaw said. “That's why we concentrate on finals because it can be stressful.”

As students begin assessing the tasks, they should be aware of the final exam schedule, gather notes and handouts, and review the syllabus. It is also important to know their

grade before going into the final and the grade they want to make in the class to assess the difficult subjects and determine the study time.

“This will be my first time taking finals as a college student,” said Emily Wright, mass communications theatre, freshman. “I have already began reviewing materials and studying.”

During finals, study time will increase. Students may decrease time spent on extracurricular activities and work in order to dedicate more time to studying.

“It's important for students to plan for some down time,” Shaw said. “Studying for finals doesn't mean you're locked in your room for two weeks straight.”

Students were given a five-day study plan to outline how to space out learning, about two hours each day for two weeks. The plan also help students use different self-testing and learning strategies such as notecards and learning materials in chunks. It also suggests that the key to having a successful finals week is repetition and frequency.

Shaw believes that organization helps

the brain remember and that it helps to use active learning strategies.

On testing day, Shaw suggested wearing comfortable clothing. Taking deep breaths and closing your eyes helps with refocusing if anxiety levels rise during the test.

“Don't get to class too early, anxiety typically rises and you may not start really well on the test,” Shaw said. “Also, don't go over material with other students before the class, it can be confusing and not the way you studied, interfere with what you remember and increase your anxiety.”

Staying healthy during finals week helps the brain be more alert. Students at the workshop were told to eat right, snack smart and stay hydrated, especially on exam day. Also, it is important to take breaks and rest.

“I am going to apply what I learn from this workshop and continue to review the material well so I am comfortable about the subject,” Wright said. “When test time comes, I am going to have faith that I've done everything and the grade I get, I deserved because of what I studied.”

Regular Class Time	MWF - 7:00 a.m.	MWF - 8:00 a.m.	MWF - 9:00 a.m.	MWF - 10:00 a.m.	MWF - 12:00 p.m.
Final Exam Day/Time	M, Dec. 3 - 8:00 a.m.	F, Dec. 7 - 8:00 a.m.	W, Dec. 5 - 8:00 a.m.	M, Dec. 3 - 10:30 a.m.	W, Dec. 5 - 10:30 a.m.
Regular Class Time	MWF - 1:00 p.m.	MW - 2:00 p.m.	MW - 3:30 p.m.	TR - 8:00 a.m.	TR - 9:30 a.m.
Final Exam Day/Time	M, Dec. 3 - 1:00 p.m.	W, Dec. 5 - 1:00 p.m.	W, Dec. 5 - 3:00 p.m.	T, Dec. 4 - 8:00 a.m.	R, Dec. 6 - 8:00 a.m.
Regular Class Time	TR - 11:00 a.m.	TR - 12:30 p.m.	TR - 2:00 p.m.	TR - 3:30 p.m.	M - 4:30/5/5:30
Final Exam Day/Time	T, Dec. 4 - 10:30 a.m.	R, Dec. 6 - 10:30 a.m.	R, Dec. 6 - 3:00 p.m.	T, Dec. 4 - 3:00 p.m.	M, Dec. 3 - 5:00 p.m.
Regular Class Time	T or R - 4:30/5/5:30	W - 4:30/5/5:30	MW - 4:30/5/5:30	R - 4:30/5/5:30	MW - 6:00 p.m. M - 6:00/6:30 p.m.
Final Exam Day/Time	T, Dec. 4 - 5:00 p.m.	W, Dec. 5 - 5:00 p.m.	W, Dec. 5 - 5:00 p.m.	R, Dec. 6 - 5:00 p.m.	M, Dec. 3 - 7:00 p.m.
Regular Class Time	TR - 6:00 p.m. T - 6:00/6:30 p.m.	MW - 7:30 p.m. W - 6:00/6:30 p.m.	TR - 7:30 p.m. R - 6:00/6:30 p.m.		
Final Exam Day/Time	T, Dec. 4 - 7:00 p.m.	W, Dec. 5 - 7:00 p.m.	R, Dec. 6 - 7:00 p.m.		

## The Neopolitans Serve Up Some Musical Flavor



Photos by Paureeka Lloyd

From left to right, Jacob Hooper-Shaffer, Thomas Keys, and Sara Patronella perform in the Port.

Paureeka Lloyd  
STAFF WRITER

Musician Thomas Keys and his band The Neopolitans played at LSU Shreveport's Coffee House in the UC Port Nov. 15. The group covered songs such as “Beautiful Girl” by Sean Kingston, “Billy Jean” by Michael Jackson and “Boyfriend” by Justin Bieber.

The band also performed a mash-up with Destiny Child's “Bills, Bills, Bills,” “Say My Name” and “No Scrubs” by TLC. A mash-up is created by blending two or more songs together seamlessly making them sound like one song.

Keys is originally from New Orleans. He moved to Shreveport after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. He currently attends Centenary College and plays the harmonica and drum.

Keys has been playing music and singing most of his life.

See BAND, pg. 3



For their finale, The Neopolitans took audience requests.



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# Jenna Glorioso Bids Almagest Farewell



**Jenna Glorioso**

**From the Editor's Desk**

This is my last issue ever as Executive Editor of the Almagest Student News and as my last editorial it is customary to sum up what I have learned both at LSUS and at the Almagest specifically.

The thing is, that's what you, the reader, get every semester from an outgoing editor. We learn how to work better with others, better writing style, and the importance of meeting a deadline. But there is a lot on my mind as I near graduation and the majority of what is floating around inside my head is questions, fears and half-understandings.

I'd say that I've been underwhelmed by my education here at LSUS. I've been hurt by the lack of concern that some professors have for their students and their subjects. I've questioned numerous decisions made by the faculty and the

administration. I've dreaded coming to class. I've felt unprepared for the "real world" everyone says is right there waiting as we graduates exit the CenturyLink Center this Dec. 16.

And I'd say that I have grown to appreciate all of this angst that has grown in me. Somewhere along the way I began to realize that some of my ideas (even if only a few) are actually better than those of my superiors. I've seen that hard work and determination doesn't always win the prize but it does strengthen the competitor. In short, I've seen that things aren't perfect here.

And, honestly now thinking back, I suppose that the academy did do a fair job of preparing me for the "real world" by not preparing me. I've learned how to learn, how to question, how to evaluate for myself and even though my choices and beliefs may not meld with the mainstream or my superiors that it is ok.

The "real world" doesn't start after college ends. It started years ago. When Conner Iles was my first dance in 4th grade. Those nervous feelings are the same ones I felt when I began my relationship with my current boyfriend. That guttural pain of knowing I misspelled those words on my 6th grade vocabulary test is the same pain I feel when I don't make the grade I want in French.

The teenage loneliness I felt at 17 despite being a "popular girl" is the same lost feeling that shows it's head when I even begin to contemplate

what I will be doing with my life— heck, what I will be doing Dec. 17.

The "real world" is just that, the real world we live in and have lived in. If I had any advice it would be to expect less of others and more of yourself. Learn to pass the class but also to know the material. Or don't. Because this is your life. College does not break it into segments any more than relationships or jobs do. They are all markers along a journey that is only yours. It is ok to feel like an institution, professor, friend or coworker has failed you. It is ok to fail. But to fail yourself will ruin your self.

Last issue, I encouraged you to go out and enjoy your city. But more than that I encourage you to enjoy your life. See what is under your control and make what you want with it. The things that aren't, simply aren't— don't worry over them.

Years from now I may have forgotten the room number for the Almagest. I may never be able to make an A in French. But I was given four years to better know myself. And that is all that I can continue to do. Learn who you are, what you want and go for it. No one will ever do it for you. Many won't care what you've done. But do it. For yourself. Not because it's the "right thing" or the "next step." But because this is your life and like everyone else yours will end in death. Make a mess, go kicking and screaming into it. Never listen to no. And always listen to you.

## SPORTS

### LSUS Tennis Team Gets Ready to Create a Racket

**Alexandra Meachum**  
STAFF WRITER

LSU Shreveport Women's Tennis welcomes three new members to the team for the upcoming semester: Nea Sunila, Jaynie Stewart, and Sandra Quintero.

Sunila moved to Louisiana from Finland to attend LSUS and pursue a community health degree. It is her first year playing tennis and she said it is very different than soccer, her favorite sport.

"Tennis is a lot of fun, but very different than soccer because it's using your upper body instead of your lower body," Sunila said.

Sunila said she had always wanted to travel to the United States and decided to pay the cost of college even though it would have been free for her in Finland. She chose LSUS because she said it was very affordable and she received an

athletic scholarship. Dragana Colic Moran is working as the team's graduate tennis assistant.

"I was born with a racket in my hand," Moran said.

Moran was born in Bosnia and Herzegovina and rose to be one of the best players in her country. She said her great results helped her come to the United States five years ago. Northwestern State University recruited her to play for their Division One team and awarded her with a full tennis scholarship. She graduated from NSU in 2011 with a business administration and computer information system degree, and then came to LSUS for a MBA as a graduate tennis assistant and is working towards an accounting degree.

Moran said she wants to become a public accountant but will always play tennis in her free time, because it "runs in my blood."

Heather McCutchen and Kelly Boss have played for the LSUS soccer team for several years now and have recently transitioned into tennis as well.

Boss, marketing, senior said she played soccer since she was four and loves it, but tennis can "make her head hurt sometimes."

"It's a completely different challenge because the tactics and strategy behind tennis are so different," Boss said.

McCutchen, elementary education, junior, has been recognized for her skills as a soccer player and is now on her second year on the tennis team.

"I like [tennis] a lot, but it does take some getting use to," McCutchen said.

The team will spend the remainder of the semester preparing for a competition held in January at Southern Trace.

### LSUS Basketball Team Steps Back Onto the Court

**Jared Allgood**  
STAFF WRITER

The ball has been tipped and it is time for LSU Shreveport students to cheer on the Pilots at the basketball season kicks off.

The men's team this year consists of 15 total players, two of which are red-shirt freshman who will not play until next season and three who are ineligible.

There were some worries by many of the fans this year because the Pilots lost five of last season's starting players and they are faced with a new coach but players are still optimistic.

"We have the potential to be very good this season," said Jake Greene, secondary education-social studies, senior, and starting guard for the Pi-

lots. "Even with the loss of our starters, this new coach has brought a lot of good players and we all work well together."

Greene joined the team his freshman year. The Pilots play 26 regular-season games, conference tournament and, if all goes well, they will move into the national tournament.

The Pilots have already played three regular season games and their record for the season stands at 2-1. Their next home game will be Dec. 1 against Langston University.

"One of the main things I love about playing for them is we get to travel and see other colleges around the nation," Greene said.

Many of the students at LSUS are looking forward to cheering the Pilot's on to victory in the upcoming games.

"I love going to the games and cheering for the team," said Jason Mouton, graphic design, junior. "I know we aren't a very big school but we can still get really loud at these games."

Many students share Mouton's enthusiasm and show up to cheer for the pilots. Empty seats were scarce at last week's game.

The Pilots usually play games on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays starting at 7:30, however, the occasional 4 o'clock game is sometimes thrown in.

Admission to home games is free to any student with a valid LSUS student ID as well as children six and under. For the general public and LSUS faculty and staff, admission is \$5. There are also season passes available for purchase through the athletic department.

### Get to Know LSU Shreveport Interim Chancellor Paul Sisson

**Jared Allgood**  
STAFF WRITER

Last summer LSU Shreveport's Chancellor of 17 years retired and Dr. Paul Sisson was named Interim Chancellor.

Sisson attended college at New Mexico Tech where he doubled majored in math and physics. He then moved to South Carolina and achieved his doctorate in mathematics in 1993. He has been teaching at LSUS ever since.

Along with chancellor status, Sisson still volunteers to teach a math class every semester at LSUS. This semester he is teaching the history of math.

"My training is as a mathematician, this is my passion and this is what I love to do," Sisson said. "My teaching is strictly voluntary, so I do not get paid for it."

Becoming a part of the administration was not the original plan Sisson had for himself.

When Sisson started working at LSUS in the early-90s he realized technology was becoming a big part of the teaching atmosphere. He wrote two grants in hopes of receiving funds to help build a math lab to give students a place to study.

"I wrote two grants because I thought

it would be a miracle if even one was accepted," Sisson said. "It turned out both were, so I built two math labs with the funding we received."

These two labs are still in use in the math department at LSUS.

Writing grants gave Sisson a chance to know the accounting offices, the purchasing offices, human resources and every other department at LSUS he normally would not have been involved with.

Becoming involved with these departments made Sisson a great candidate to become the new chair of the math department when the position opened up. He said this is what led him to be where he is today.

Many students at LSUS are pleased with the decision made by Interim LSU System President William L. Jenkins, to offer Sisson the interim chancellorship for the time being.

"I've only met him in passing but I've had friends who have had his class and they have nothing but great things to say about him," said Jason Mouton, graphic design, junior. "From the things I have heard, I'm really hoping he is chosen as full time chancellor in the future."

The search to find a new chancellor for LSUS begins next semester.

### LSUS Students Can Play Santa Without Breaking Their Budget

**Paureeka Lloyd**  
STAFF WRITER

College students at LSU Shreveport may have a hard time staying within their budget when it comes to Christmas shopping.

I buy my presents throughout the year. I hate waiting until the last minute to get gifts, because I usually won't have money around Christmas time.

- Danielle Holz

Many college students have limited income and are forced to rely on things such as credit cards to purchase gifts for friends and family. However that there are many things students can do during the Christmas season to buy items without over-spending. One idea is to buy presents throughout

the year. Stores continually discount items all year long so instead of waiting until December to purchase gifts, students can buy items as they go on sale.

"I buy my presents throughout the year," Danielle Holz said. "I hate waiting until the last minute to get gifts, because I usually won't have the money around Christmas time."

Layaway is another option for students on a budget. TJ Maxx, Marshall's, K-Mart and even Walmart have a layaway plan for customers to purchase items at that moment but then pay the full amount within 30, 60, or 90 days.

"I love layaway!" said Haley Blake. "I used it for more than just Christmas. I layaway a lot of things."

The internet is also a great place for students to bargain shop. Students can use sites like Amazon, eBay or OverStock.com to get great deals on items.

Black Friday is also an option for students on a budget. It is held the Friday after Thanksgiving and allows shoppers to purchase big ticket items at lower prices.

"I always buy my kids toys on Black Friday," Holz said. "I can't afford them at [the] regular price, so I save up my money until then."

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# Look Out, Hogwarts! LSUS Conjures Up Quidditch

**Morgan Marshall**  
STAFF WRITER

Students at LSU Shreveport might find one of the latest student organizations a bit magical. For the first time, LSUS students are donning their broomsticks and putting together a Quidditch team.

Ray Williams, journalism, sophomore, recently transferred to LSUS, and decided to bring a little bit of his previous school with him.

"I played Quidditch at my old school in Fayetteville, Alabama. [They] had a team there and my girlfriend attended LSUS," Williams said. "When I transferred we decided to set up a team of our own. We put up a lot of flyers and went through all the paperwork. We've had four practices so far as a team. It's a fun game that's played all over the world."

Upon first hearing the name, many would probably ask "what is quidditch? What kind of game is it?". Quidditch is the term used to describe the main sport of the in JK Rowling's Harry Potter books and films in the magical, wizarding world. Many schools over the nation and in different parts of the world have adapted this game to our ordinary world to "foster a culture of creativity, build, connect, and enhance communities, and facilitate competition", according to the International Quidditch Association Rulebook.

"I joined the team to have fun with my friends," said Katelyn Quackenbush, psychology, junior. "I compare it to a mix of rugby, dodge ball, soccer, and a little bit of basketball. It's a pretty different sport, kind of difficult because you only use one hand. But it builds great hand and eye coordination and it allows me to get in some physical activity. The most beneficial thing from joining, in my opinion, is that we get to enjoy what we love, create new friendships, and form new

bonds."

Quackenbush, who is also the team secretary, tallied up that so far they have a total of thirteen official participants. Quackenbush and Williams, the team captain, hope to get more soon.

Other than just practice, the team also gets together for activities to strengthen their bond.

"We've gone to planned events as a team," says Williams. "We went zip lining earlier this semester. We like to do activities together. I feel that the better friends we are the better team we will be."

Quidditch is played in many states in the United States, including Kansas, Texas, and even a couple colleges here in Louisiana: Centenary and LSU. They are divided up in different conferences and have tournaments that lead to the World Cup. Williams compared it to college rugby. LSUS is considered to be in the south western conference, which in the team's opinion is the toughest conference. And it can be dangerous.

"Most people don't know, but Quidditch is a full contact sport," Quackenbush said. "When joining the team one has to fill out the necessary paperwork, which includes a waiver. We haven't had any serious injuries so far, which is good. Just a few bumps and bruises, which is just part of the game."

Since the LSUS team is still new, they have not participated in any tournaments yet. Williams wants to get everyone better acquainted with the sport and the rules.

"We hope to have a tournament eventually," says Williams. "Right now we only have nine people that show up every Sunday. A game takes nine people on each team, so we need to build our numbers. I don't think that we're quite ready to take on other teams yet, but it's not too far off."



Photo by Joanna Kresge  
LSU Shreveport Quidditch team captain Ray Williams catches the quaffle thrown by William McCutcheon during quidditch practice.



Photo by Joanna Kresge  
The tallest quidditch goal post stands tall against an ominous gray sky Sunday, as the LSU Shreveport Quidditch Team concludes their practice. The team meets every Sunday at 6 p.m. on the field behind the Health and Physical Education building.



Quidditch team participants pose for a group shot after a long practice.

Photo by Morgan Marshall



Photo by Joanna Kresge  
The LSU Shreveport Quidditch Team engages in a bludger drill as part of their weekly practice outside the Health and Physical Education building Sunday. Bludgers are used by an opposing team to throw at a player to distract them from scoring a goal. These bludgers are usually simulated by using underinflated dodge balls.