



And you thought
your roommate
was weird!
This LSUS stu-
dent shares her
“haunted house”
story.
—Pg. 4

Students Sound
Off on Campus-
Wide Lab Noise

Trey Bryant
and Crystal Vandegriff
STAFF WRITERS

LSU Shreveport students often flock to the University Center’s Campus-Wide Lab for its convenient computer access and free printing. However, large, and often loud, crowds are leaving some students dissatisfied with their experience.

“I can’t stand the noise in the UC,” said Mercedes Taylor, public relations, senior. “[The UC lab’s] printer always jams up as well.”

Still, some students, such as Stacy Hyman, public relations, senior, find the Campus-Wide Lab preferable to doing their work in the library.

“The library costs money to print,” Hyman said. “The library is lonely and quiet...People go to the UC for social interactions, for white noise.”

The Campus-Wide Lab is monitored by student workers who, according to the application found on LSUS’s web site, must be full-time students who will be able to help fellow students with software problems or computer equipment. The application also states that the lab is to “share the same noise policies as the library.”

Dealing with noise complaints is not uncommon to the student lab workers tasked with keeping the lab running smoothly. Lab assistant Matthew Carlson, biology, senior, had some tips for students who want quiet time to study.

“Common hour is, predictably, the noisiest time,” Carlson said. “Night time is good for studying and so is the morning time.”

Campus-Wide Lab Manager Matthew Parks offered another solution to students dealing with

See LAB, pg. 3

LSUHSC Seeks Private Partnership



Photo by Alexandra Meachum

The LSU Health Science Center Shreveport’s graduate medical school is partnered with LSUS, as well as completing research with LSUS professors.

Alexandra Meachum
and Julie Thomas
STAFF WRITERS

LSU Health Science Center Shreveport is looking to transition into a newly financed hospital over the next two years to offset reduced federal funding. Officials are not anticipating any major changes to the hospital and plan to still provide care for the uninsured.

LSU Health Shreveport, as it is commonly known, includes three hospitals in north and central Louisiana which are a part of the LSU hospital system, as well as seven other hospitals in south Louisiana under the different title of Health Care Services Division. A change in funding will affect the hospitals differently and the public ones may partner with private companies. The Department of Health and Hospitals and state officials have asked LSU to develop different ways to fund the hospital system.

Sally Croom, Executive Director of Communications of LSUHSC, said there will

be no buyout of the hospital and emphasized that nothing has been decided at this time.

New funding is needed because in the past year the hospital has encountered direct budget reductions which have limited its ability for patient care, along with necessary repairs for operations, Croom said.

Congress passed legislation July 24 aimed at cutting budgets across the country. Louisiana at the time still was receiving a higher percentage from Medicaid post-Hurricane Katrina, known as the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentages. Congress reduced the percentage of Medicaid benefits the federal government would have paid to the state, \$651 million over the next year.

Medicaid is the one of the nation’s largest sources of funding for public hospitals, so LSU Shreveport has been hit with a \$46 million cut from the state and \$329 million will be cut from the overall budget of the LSU hospital system. These budget cuts have left hospital administrators looking for new ways to fund their institution.

Croom said that this fiscal year they were able to use one-time funding that helped the budget. The environmental services department has been privatized, but the hospital still had to reduce staff and overtime hours, to cover the decrease in funding. Hospitals that care for Medicaid and uninsured patients will continue to be reimbursed by the federal government despite the budget gap.

LSU healthcare divisions have been directed by the LSU Board of Supervisors to develop Requests for Proposal to “test the waters,” Croom said. “It is to see if any private companies have an interest in partnering in some way with the public hospitals in the LSU system.”

“There are still many months to go before anything is final. The RFPs are still being developed and are expected to take about sixty days,” she said. “Then it will have to be reviewed and accepted by different groups before it goes before the Board of Supervisors and the LSU system president.”

LSU Health Shreveport opened in 1876

See LSUHSC, pg. 3

LSUS Students Face Issues With On-Campus Parking



Photo by Paureeka Lloyd

Due to parking lot overcrowding, students often find themselves forced to park in the lot of a neighboring building.

Paureeka Lloyd
and Elizabeth Stroud
STAFF WRITERS

Continuing student complaints notwithstanding, LSUS administration reports there is always a spot for students, if they give themselves time to look for it.

“There has never been a time when we have not had parking spots for students, they just may have to park a little further away,” LSUS Police Chief Rebecca Childs said. “But there are always , always, always spots available for the students.”

Some students disagree.

“I have a Tuesday evening class, and tonight I had a hard time finding a parking

spot,” said Morgan Murphy, junior, elementary education. “I ended up parking at the end of the parking lot.”

Class schedules also can create rush hours. Parking is easily available at 8 a.m., for example, but fills up as the day progresses. Students may find themselves parking a greater distance from the building their class is held in. Sometimes, students blame the lack of a ready parking space for being late to class.

“Bronson Hall is the most congested,” said Murphy. “I think students should be allowed to park in faculty parking,”

Some faculty parking spots remain empty throughout the day, making them

See PARK, pg. 3



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LSUS Career Pilot Provides Career Opportunities

**Ta Neisha Primus
and Rebecca Randklev**
STAFF WRITERS

LSU Shreveport students and alumni may be unaware that the LSUS Career Pilot and Career Services offers an abundance of career opportunities.

LSUS Career Pilot is a free service offered to currently enrolled students and alumni, with access to 1,565 employers who offer part time and full time positions. The job locations vary, from right on campus to right across the country.

“We currently have one hundred sixty-six jobs available on Career Pilot,” Career Services Director Gina Starnes said.

The job’s function, qualifications and hours are listed under the job description.

Students also have access to the employer’s name, address and website. Not all employers display their contact information, in order to avoid being harassed.

“Some employers will let you see their contact information, but not all,” Starnes said.

Employers can directly post job listings to the site, but Starnes approves them before they go live.

In addition to job postings, Career Pilot gives students access to resume samples, interview tips, a tie-knotting guide, networking information, and other professional resources. Currently, more than 7,000 active students and alumni are in the system.

The system has been in place

since April 2008 and has recently been improved. It now offers mobile device compatibility and a new layout.

“I had no idea about the website until recently when I received an email,” said Frensha Slaughter, M.B.A. “I called the number for one of the jobs listed.”

According to Starnes, Career Services randomly picks hot jobs and disperses them to students to increase site traffic. On Sept. 28 Career Services sent an email that included hot jobs. This resulted in 327 students logging into the system over a three-day period.

Students who have yet to access the system can do so by logging onto lsucareerpilot.com and clicking the “click here to register” link. From there students can complete their profile using their LSUS email address and selecting a password and username.

“LSUS Career Pilot website is fantastic and a manageable website,” said Crystal DuRousseau, public relations, senior. “It’s easier to navigate than other job sites, such as Career Builder and Monster.”

Students can get a critique and suggestions for how to improve their resumes by dropping them off in the drop box in the Career Services office.

Students seeking job hunting advise, including help with creating professional documents, may make an appointment with Career Services by calling (318) 797-5062, or by visiting Room 230 in the Administration Building.



Photo courtesy of Gina Starnes

Gina Starnes, director of career services, said that over one-hundred jobs are currently available on Career Pilot and encouraged students to take advantage of this helpful and easy-to-use website, designed to help students find careers.



Photo courtesy of Crystal DuRousseau

Crystal DuRousseau, public relations, senior, finds the Career Pilot website to be extremely useful and easy to navigate.

Local Woman Attacked in Wal-Mart Parking Lot

**Morgan Marshall
and Alexandra Meachum**
STAFF WRITERS



I was walking out of Wal-Mart and I noticed a man walking near me, and a car coming towards me. Next thing I knew, my eyes were on fire and I couldn’t do anything.

- Victim of an attempted local abduction



According to the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Statistics, about 300,000 women are raped each year, 23 percent by someone they said they knew. Women 18 to 24 are the most likely to be abducted.

The 2005 documentary, Wal-Mart: The

High Cost of Low Price, touches on crime in the retail giant’s parking lots. The most recent figure, compiled the first seven months of 2005, listed more than 60 incidents ranging from robbery and rape to abduction and crimes resulting in death.

Unfortunately these occurrences do not only happen in one place. While Wal-Mart has been said to have “one of the most dangerous parking lots,” the dangers also are present at other commercial parking lots.

“When you go out shopping, keep some things in mind,” said the manager of a local Wal-Mart. “Be aware of your surroundings, look around and pay attention to what surrounds you. If possible, park under a light and don’t go by yourself. Also, if you do not feel safe or comfortable with walking out by yourself, do not be afraid to ask someone to walk with you.”

For women interested in self-defense training, the Shreveport Police Department offers self-defense and weapons training courses year-round. For about \$100, women can sign up for a class to study for a license to carry a weapon.

There are also many self-defense/martial arts classes offered locally. A one-credit hour martial arts class is offered at LSUS. Tankhead, on Kings Highway, offers Muay Thai and Kickboxing classes for women. Master Irwin’s House of Discipline offers classes that focus on street fighting.



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PARK cont.

tempting to late-running students. Some don't realize that faculty parking is available to students late in the afternoon, because there are no signs that indicate it.

"I didn't know that students could park there after 5," said Murphy.

Childs said the lack of signs informing students that they are allowed to park in faculty spots after 5 p.m. is because it is more of an understanding than a written rule.

There is never a time in the day that there is not a parking spot available to a stu-

dent, she said, however, it may not be the spot the student wants.

To ensure a good parking spot, Childs suggests students start for class a little bit earlier than they're accustomed to. And if that is not possible, there are always spots in the north and south parking lots. Students just need to be prepared to have to walk a little bit further to get to class.

Childs said the biggest mistake a student can make while parking is slipping into a faculty or disabled spot, because that can result in a fine.

Many students have noted that while student parking is almost always full, a majority of the parking spaces designated for use by the faculty and staff of LSUS goes unused, especially since the departure of many former faculty members.

Photos by Paureeka Lloyd



LAB cont.

noisy neighbors.

"If someone is being loud or disruptive, this should be reported to me or one of the student workers," Parks said. "We will then counsel the disruptive students to moderate their voices."

Parks also provided insight into the general rules of the lab.

"The Campus-Wide Lab is funded by student technology fees to allow currently enrolled students to have computing resources available to them on campus," Parks said. "The expectation is that [students] will be using these computers for academic purposes, however there is no direct requirement that this be the case."

Since there is no direct

regulation for computer usage, students may use the equipment for more recreational purposes, such as watching a movie or social networking. Still, Parks says that such non-academic use will not interfere with students who wish to use the lab for studying.

"During most of the day, the Campus-Wide Lab is not at maximum capacity, however there are times, for examples, Common Hour, where the lab does reach or exceed its capacity," he said. "During this time, if students cannot access a computer, they could politely ask the student watching a movie to allow them to utilize the computer or they could approach myself or one of the student workers to speak to the student."

Parks does make it clear that the lab is to be used for computing purposes and not as a social gathering place.

"For students who are just wishing to visit with their friends, there are many common areas throughout the University Center to gather and talk," he said.

Finally, Parks encouraged students to feel free to offer their suggestions on how to improve the lab.

"Students should report any concerns to me or, if I am unavailable, to the student worker on duty," he said. "My office is located inside the Campus-Wide Lab and I am more than happy to listen to their concerns so we can continue to make the Campus-Wide Lab a great place for students."

LSUS Students Take Full Advantage of On-Campus Job Opportunities

**Jared Allgood
and Joanna Kresge**
STAFF WRITERS

While many students at LSU Shreveport hold down jobs, a select few have the convenience of going to work without ever leaving the campus.

According to Gina Starnes, director of career services, there are many places on campus that hire students.

"Students are working in the library, for the radio station on campus, some in business; every dean's office will have a student worker, computer science, the labs," Starnes said. "The bookstore, the mailroom, and the Port hires student workers as well. Every person working in the Port is a student."

Often, students become aware of these positions by word of mouth.

McKenna Watkins, early childhood education, senior, heard about a job opening in the University Center offices from a friend and jumped at the opportunity to work on-campus.

"At the start of my sophomore year one of my friends told me about the opening," Watkins said. "So I worked up an application, went for an interview and was hired."

New students are encouraged by their advisors not to look for a job on-campus their freshman year. They are instead encouraged to get involved in a student organization and get acclimated with their de-

partment before pursuing a student job as a sophomore or junior.

"The worst thing to do to is a have a resume with no student organizations and no work experience," Starnes said. "I'd say the majority of student workers are sophomores or juniors."

Watkins said that having an on-campus job is very convenient and helps her save money on gas.

"Not only is it super convenient having a job on-campus but it also helps me save money on gas since I don't have to drive back and forth from school to work," Watkins said.

Students who apply for financial aid also have the option to check the box "work study" on their FAFSA application. This will give them the opportunity to become part of the work study program offered at LSUS.

Betty McCrary, director of financial aid, said that her office is often flooded with applications for the work study program.

"We had over 750 people check the work study box on their applications this year," McCrary said. "At one point we were able to enroll 80 students in this program but due to allocations cut by the federal government we now only have 21 students."

Many of the students who are hired for on-campus jobs keep the job until graduation.

"Until they find a job as a graduate, there is really no turnover rate," Starnes said.



Photos by Crystal Vandegriff



The Campus-Wide Lab remains busy even after the end of Common Hour. The lab is open from 7:30 a.m. to 12 a.m. on Monday through Thursday, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday.

Mercedes Taylor, public relations, senior, finds it difficult to cope with the noise in the UC.

LSUHSC cont.

as the first non-profit, charity hospital in the state. The hospital plays a vital role in the community, so there is concern for the future of the hospital and its top-rated medical school.

Jessica Koff, LSUHSC medical student, second level, said she is not exactly for privatizing the hospital, but times are tough so she understands.

"I wish it wasn't happening, but I don't want to lose the hospital either," Koff said.

Dalton Gosset, associate dean, professor and Chair of Biological Sciences of LSUS, and numerous other faculty members have research ties with LSUHSC. LSUS also has a partnership with the LSUHSC graduate program.

"I do not particularly like the idea, but I do understand that the medical center has to do whatever it can to balance the budget in these years of funding shortfalls," Gosset said.

Some medical students are not informed on the situation because nothing has been finalized.

According to Matthew A. Harb, medical student, third level, policies and conditions around the hospital are always chang-

ing and it is hard to keep track of what will or will not actually happen.

"I know nothing, just rumors," Harb said. "I have not been informed of anything yet."

Not being informed of critical information has led some students to believe this is not a serious situation at the moment.

"I am pretty sure that no matter what happens, the med school will still remain open. This should not affect my future job or medical education at all," Harb said.

Whether the hospital changes or not, the future success of students will remain unharmed.

"I'm confident that the administration will do what is best for the institution and the LSU community," said Nadine Kaskas, medical student at LSUHSU, second level.

Croom said the state budget cuts have made the ability to fund the medical school more difficult, but since the school also has separate funding it should not be affected like the hospital.

She added that this happens to hospitals sometimes, and other formerly public academic medical centers have changed their structure, and the medical and graduate

schools have remained public even when the hospital has not.

"The mission of education is as important as the patient care mission and will be included in our evaluation," Croom said.

The School of Medicine, the School of Allied Health and the School of Graduate Studies currently has 469 medical students, 346 allied health professional students, 75 graduate studies students, and 611 residents and fellows, according to Croom.

"The Board of Supervisors and the DHH recognize the importance of our mission of training future doctors to the state as a whole. About seventy percent of graduates of our School of Medicine and residents remain in the region to practice," she said.

If the hospital were to privatize, Croom said the plan might work similarly to the offer made to state environmental services and food service employees after privatization with the company Sodexo.

Current employees were given the option of remaining a state employee with state benefits, or to become a Sodexo employee with its benefits. Newly hired employees all become Sodexo employees and receive those benefits.

Health Management Associates is a private healthcare company that attended the meeting in September with officials from the DHH, LSU hospital systems, and state officials. The company expressed their interest in becoming private partners with LSU Health Shreveport.

A spokesperson from HMA said they could not confirm any official information about a partnership because it is still speculation. According to the spokesperson, the hospital could benefit if partnered with HMA by creating a joint-venture that creates more revenue by investing capital, broadening networks, and competing more in the healthcare industry.

The future of LSU Health Shreveport is not yet determined. Many hope it will still be able to provide care to people regardless of whether they can pay, as it has always done.

A joint-venture with a private partner is its likely future, but Croom said that they are "proactively seeking a long-term solution [that would] answer the increased need for access to care for all the healthy or elderly, the insured and the uninsured."

‘I Always Feel Like Somebody’s Watchin’ Me’

**Erika Merritt
and Julie Thomas**
STAFF WRITERS

As Halloween nears and thoughts of the paranormal start to capture our imaginations, one LSU Shreveport student says her family has to contend with living in a haunted house.

Sydney Fletcher, English, junior, said she and her family agree there may be a logical explanation for the strange things they’ve experienced over the years, but in their eyes, their house is haunted.

“I won’t even stay there anymore because it freaks me out so bad,” Fletcher said.

Paranormal events are no stranger to the Shreveport-Bossier area.

Southern Paranormal Investigations, an organization that helps those who believe they are experiencing paranormal activity, serves a wide region that includes the Ark-La-Tex, Northeast Texas, Southwest Arkansas, and Southeast Oklahoma.

Since its start in 2008, SPI lead investigator Steven Shockley said the majority of the group’s paranormal investigations have been in Shreveport or Bossier.

The Fletcher home, like other

residences believed to be haunted, has exhibited signs of alleged paranormal activity.

One morning, Fletcher’s then 8-year-old sister reportedly ran down stairs screaming, telling her family that she had woken up to see a young brunette girl holding a red ball leaning over the end of her bed. This was the Fletcher family’s first paranormal encounter, but would not be the last.

Fletcher said her family experienced roughly 50 different incidences in the house dealing with a presence, seven directly with her. Family members claim to frequently have heard talking and screaming coming from another part of the house when no one else was home.

Like Fletcher, the majority of SPI’s clients sees shadows, something moving in the house, or hears noises with no apparent source.

“One time I was at home on the computer and my stepmom was outside gardening when she came into my room saying she heard me screaming even though I swear I wasn’t,” Fletcher said.

On several occasions, members of the family and guests have seen a little girl sneaking through the living room as if she was out of bed without

permission, or looking out the window brushing her hair.

“Sometimes the presence of a spirit in a house can be attributed to a past event that took place on the premises,” Shockley said.

When Fletcher’s youngest sister was playing in the street one afternoon, a neighbor came by to warn their stepmother that the kids were playing in the street. The neighbor, a priest, told them a little girl, who lived in the house years ago, was killed by a car while chasing her ball into the street.

Once, when Fletcher’s father was recounting the strange incidents to his barber, a woman in the shop told him there was a house fire that killed a little girl.

The history of the house’s previous residents is unclear.

Because Fletcher and her family do not feel threatened by these paranormal events they have not contacted a paranormal investigator. There have been no occasions when someone in the house was hurt, only minor incidences of lights turning on or cabinet doors opening.

“This is not some demon,” Fletcher said. “It’s like she is trying to help us see when she turns on the lights at night.”



Photo by Julie Thomas

Sydney Fletcher, English, junior, believes she lives in a haunted house, as both she and her family have had several encounters with something they believe is paranormal. Fletcher says that sometimes her family will hear talking or screaming coming from another part of the house when no one else is home, as well as seeing shadows and hearing other noises with no identifiable source.

Local urban legend also holds that the Shreveport Municipal Auditorium, located on Elvis Presley Avenue and built to honor World War I veterans as well as serving as the starting location for the historic Louisiana Hayride, is haunted. Over the years, visitors have told stories of hearing clapping, faint music playing and voices speaking even when there was supposed to be no one else in the building.

A public “haunted” tour was held on Oct. 4, with another scheduled to take place on this Halloween night.

Photo by Erika Merritt



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



SGA Special Election Voting Open on MOODLE Now

Campaign signs have been popping up all over campus recently, due to the SGA Special Election currently taking place. Fifteen students are currently running for the five available senate seats. Students can vote for the candidates of their choosing on MOODLE. Voting will close Friday at noon.

Photos by Crystal Vandegriff

