



LSUS drops in on a new season with Fall Fest.  
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Pilots tip off a new season of hoops

Montana Davis  
STAFF WRITER

The fall season is bringing many things to the campus. Cozy sweaters, pumpkin flavored lattes and, of course, Pilot basketball. As the season gets underway, fans are left wondering how this season’s team will do and if they will go farther than last year’s trip to the NAIA Fab Four. After a double-digit win against Bossier Parish Community College in their first scrimmage, the team has set a positive note to the beginning of their year.

The season starts off with a nine-game home winning streak, which is nothing new seeing as the team has had twenty or more wins every single season since their return in 2003.

Since then, they have also qualified for the NAIA National Tournament for nine straight seasons. Head coach Kyle Blankenship has the impressive record of 27-7 while at LSUS.

The Pilots are returning with three previous starters from last year’s team including Brandon Davis, a NAIA All American recipient. This is the same team that made it all the way to the NAIA Fab Four and reached number four in the national rank.

Several new recruits are joining this season from the NCAA Division 1: Will Nelson (Texas A&M Corpus Christi), Tony Freeland (Long Beach State University), and

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Photo by Christopher Talerico

David and Ashley Havird visited the LSU Shreveport campus to read some of their poetry to students and faculty.

Local poets read selection of works

Christopher Talerico  
STAFF WRITER

The second of a semester-long series of poetry-related events was held in LSU Shreveport’s Bronson Hall last Wednesday.

David Havird, a Centenary English professor, and his wife Ashley performed their poetry at LSUS. David Havird has recently published a collection of poems. Ashley Havird, who won an award for her poetry, will have work published next year.

“I would like to see the English department at LSUS viewed by the community as a place where exciting things happen,” said Dr. Elisabeth Liebert, associate English professor and poetry reading organizer.

This event was the second in a series of events meant to highlight literary activities at LSUS.

“I would like to bring people from the community to LSUS rather than thinking the only way of promoting LSUS is by us going out into the community; it should work the

other way as well,” Liebert said. “What I’d like to do is build that public profile so that people in the artistic community start to associate LSUS with high-quality community events.”

The Havirds, who have performed at LSUS in years prior, believe that poetry is intrinsically meant to be heard.

“It’s an oral tradition to begin with, and I think most poets think of their work as a form of song. The sounds of the words, to be able to hear them, adds to the meaning of the work, most if not all, of the time,” Ashley

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Mini-mester trip to D.C. offers hands-on learning



Photo courtesy of Melinda Shepard

From left to right: Hunter Trombetta, Alma Hernandez, Dr. Bernadette Palombo, Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor, and Melinda Shepard.

Krista Wilson  
STAFF WRITER

During the semester, students may start to get that feeling that classes just are not as invigorating as they once were. For those students who are looking for a change, LSU Shreveport is offering that change.

Dr. William Pederson, professor and director of history/social sciences, said that the Washington semester gives students an opportunity to broaden their horizon by visiting an international city.

“This is an opportunity to experience Washington D.C. like no other,” said Melinda Shepard, who holds a bachelor’s degree in political science from LSUS. “If you expect to be there simply to visit the museums, monuments and White House, you are in for quite a surprise.”

Pederson said that LSUS had the first independent Washington semester at a pub-

lic university in the south.

“Students get to see about 90 percent more than typical tourists in DC. [What we see] most tourists don’t even know about,” Pederson said.

Shepard said that during her trip they were able to attend a Supreme Court case reenactment from the 1970s. Students were able to meet and speak with Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor at a reception held after the court.

“The privilege of meeting one of less than one hundred twenty people who have held this position in the two hundred thirty-seven years of history of the United States cannot be overstated,” Shepard said.

Shepard said there were many places she enjoyed visiting.

“Standing in the Supreme Court building, realizing how many great, and not so great, decisions had been decided inside the

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# In Memoriam: Dr. Grady Bogue, former chancellor

Dr. Grady Bogue, former chancellor of LSU Shreveport, passed away this morning. In honor of his tragic passing, flags around the LSUS campus have been lowered to half-mast.

Two services will be held in Nashville, Tenn. and Knoxville, Tenn. As of printing, the exact date of these services have not yet been announced.

Bogue served as chancellor of LSUS from 1980 to 1990 and was named chancellor emeritus of LSUS by the LSU Board of Trustees in 1991.

After retiring from LSUS, Bogue went on to

serve as a professor of leadership and policy studies at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

Bogue held a Bachelor of Science in mathematics from the University of Memphis, a Master of Science degree from the University of Memphis, and was the first recipient of a doctoral degree from the University of Memphis, earning a Ph.D. in education in 1968.

Bogue was also named a distinguished alumnus of the University of Memphis in 1986.

Bogue published 10 books during his life-

time, as well as over 60 articles in academic journals.

Bogue served as a speechwriter and public speaker for over 20 years. Several of his speeches were recognized in various trade journals of public speaking.

Bogue was married with five children.

The staff of the *Almagest* extends our deepest sympathies and condolences to the family and friends that Dr. Bogue has left behind.

## Students react to eight-week sessions

Alexandra Meachum  
MANAGING EDITOR-PRINT

The first of the newly implemented eight-week sessions concluded recently and students are weighing in with their opinions.

The program, known as the @ccelerated program, divides each fall and spring semester into two eight-week sessions. Proponents argue this will help students complete required courses in a faster amount of time, assist in double-majoring, and benefit non-traditional students working full- or part-time jobs and/or supporting a family.

“I thought it was pretty convenient because mine was online and I could do it in my own time,” said Austin Greber, freshman, education/social studies.

Greber took a required freshman seminar class online and said he anticipates future eight-week classes to have the same kind of pace.

“It seemed long, but it was fun and didn’t seem as stressful as the regular [sixteen-week class],” said Taylor Beck, junior, art history.

It was over before I noticed.  
I liked the pacing and group participation because everyone got more involved.

- Sasha Sosia, senior,  
graphic design

A slight drawback for students may be that face-to-face classes now require longer class times. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday classes meet three times a week for one hour and 40 minutes. Tuesday and Thursday classes meet twice weekly for two hours and 30 minutes.

“Since the classes were longer it allowed for more student interaction,” said Steven Pracht, freshman, business administration.

Brad Dearing, junior, criminal justice, has not yet taken any eight-week classes but as a Freshman Focus orientation leader he assists students in selecting their classes and listens to their feedback.

“To me it seems like a few liked it, while others were a little iffier about it,” Dearing said.

He explained that one student said taking multiple eight-week classes at once was difficult

I really liked the eight-week class, but really liked when it was over because it definitely took a load of stress off. I felt accomplished when it ended, though it was a little fast paced, but I would definitely take another one.

- Becca Giglio, senior,  
fine arts/studio art

compared to just taking one alongside sixteen-week classes.

The course load versus the number of classes might be a determining factor in how successful a student is in the accelerated format.

Since the courses are significantly shorter than the sixteen-week model, some students said they enjoyed the fast-paced work and completing classes is less time.

“I liked it because it was much shorter, but I still received a good amount of information throughout the class,” said George Bliss, senior, fine arts.

Other students had more difficulty adjusting to the faster pace.

“It was okay, but it moved a little fast. However, I feel like the sixteen-week classes move a little slow, so both have their advantages and disadvantages,” said William Breland, junior, graphic design.

Sasha Sosia, senior, graphic design, said he felt like he only took five classes this semester, rather than six.

“It was over before I noticed. I liked the pacing and group participation because everyone got more involved,” Sosia said.

Pacing was a big issue in whether a student enjoyed taking an eight-week course and if they would consider taking another.

“I really liked the eight-week class, but really liked when it was over because it definitely took a load of stress off,” said Becca Giglio, senior, fine arts/studio art. “I felt accomplished when it ended, though it was a little fast-paced, but I would definitely take another one.”

Breland said he liked that the class went by faster, but having to give a weekly speech with a detailed outline for a communications class was something he did not like. Still, he said he is willing to take an eight-week class again.

“It’s a lot of work concentrated in a shorter amount of time,” said Shadi Darzeidan, junior, fine arts/graphic design.

Many students may be familiar with Darzeidan because of his involvement in several school organizations, including serving as president of SOC and a member of the Just Say Anything improv group. His opinion reflects how a student heavily involved in extracurricular activities and school organizations, along with taking a full course load, might feel about an eight-week class.

“The course ended earlier than my others, which I liked, but having four assignments a week I did not like so much,” Darzeidan said. “I’d rather not take another one for an online course.”

Many students work full- or part-time jobs while also attending college full-time.

“I work forty hours a week and I honestly felt like my English class was super difficult, condensed like that all at once, because I had to turn in an assignment everyday,” said Jordan Coffey, senior, general education. “It was kind of crazy, but I liked how once it was over I didn’t have to worry about it anymore and could focus on my classes.”

It’s a lot of work concentrated in a shorter amount of time...The course ended earlier than my others, which I liked, but having four assignments a week, I did not like so much. I’d rather not take another [eight-week course] for an online course.

- Shadi Darzeidan, junior,  
fine arts/graphic design

Coffey said she thought students would like taking a shorter semester class, depending on what type of class it is.

“I can imagine taking freshmen seminar or 100-level classes wouldn’t be too difficult, but something like English or an upper-level education class would be,” Coffey said.

The accelerated format will be a continuing feature of the LSUS curriculum and it is expected that more classes will become available in this format in the coming semesters.



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# Students learn positive thinking

Crystal DuRousseau  
STAFF WRITER

Students learned the effects of positive thinking during a presentation for freshman seminar.

Jacob McDowell, freshman, economics, shared his expectations for this week’s seminar.

“I expected to learn how positive thinking can affect my grades and study habits,” McDowell said.

Paula Atkins presented positive thinking ideas and materials in a PowerPoint presentation. She shared her expectations for the seminar.

“What I hope that students get out of this seminar is a greater understanding that positive thinking is more under their control than they think it is,” Atkins said. “We have the ability to impact how we view our world.”

Cognitive interpretations of a given event are automatic thoughts. They are the visceral conclusions and judgments that people draw.

“Often times, thoughts come to us so automatically that we think that they are normal. I hope that this challenges us to remind ourselves that we have some control over our thought patterns and therefore influence our feelings and behavior,” Atkins said.

There have been several studies that have examined the effect that both positive and negative thoughts have on the human body.

“It takes a lot of energy to be a negative person. We decide if an event is pleasant or not, so we interpret the world around us,” Atkins said.

Self-help books and gurus often discourage people from repeating negative self-images.

“When we say things like ‘I am not good at math’ over and over again, we begin to believe that, and that does impact grades, because you begin to act as if you can’t learn math. You begin to avoid math. So, whether it is true or not, it becomes believable because you said it over and over,” Atkins said.

Atkins recommends that people pay attention to the meanings given to life experiences.

“We want to pay attention to the meaning we give an



Photo by Crystal DuRousseau  
Paula Atkins, director of student development and counseling

event. We can tap into the emotions we use to interpret an event, and then we can change our emotion,” Atkins said. “We can, in part, create our own reality. We have some impact in taking in information and interpreting that information realistically or unrealistically. We can direct where our moods go sometimes.”

McDowell said he found the seminar informative.

“I always thought that positive thinking was more of a personality trait rather than an actual thing you can do or learn. I didn’t know that there were strategies that you can apply to change your thought pattern,” McDowell said. “I learned that positive thinking is not something you are necessarily born with but something you learn over time.”

The next seminar will be held on building confidence in room 215 of the administration building at Common Hour Wednesday. For more information, contact Paula Atkins in Student Services.

## PELICAN BRIEFS

### LSUS to honor veterans with annual ceremony

Retired Army Maj. Ronald Chatelain will serve as the guest speaker for a commemorative ceremony to honor veterans Nov. 11 during Common Hour.

The program will be held around the flag pole located in the center of the LSU Shreveport campus.

Students and faculty are also being encouraged to participate in a donation drive sponsored by Operation Support Our Troops.

### LSUS hosts second LSU vs. Alabama tailgate

Student Activities will be hosting its second annual LSU vs. Alabama football tailgate party Nov. 9, beginning at 4 p.m. at the LSU Shreveport baseball field.

At 7 p.m., the game will be broad cast live on a large screen.

Admission is free, though attendees are encouraged to bring some change for concessions and activities. Attendees may also want to bring blankets or chairs to watch the game.

### Friday’s weekly CAS lecture has fangs

In honor of the Halloween spirit, this week’s College of Arts and Sciences lecture takes on a riveting tale of the undead.

Dr. Tom Dubose, English professor, will present the lecture, entitled “South Louisiana Sucks: Regional Divisiveness in Gabrielle Baumont’s Adaptation of Sheridan LeFanu’s Classic Vampire Tale, *Carmilla*.”

The lecture will be held in the science building, room 335, during Common Hour this Friday.

#### TRIP cont.

walls was overwhelming,” Shepard said. “Arriving in Arlington Cemetery on Memorial Day, looking around at all the grave markers and visiting the Tomb of the Unknown is almost indescribable.”

Shepard said that the classroom is good for some things, but this experience could not be delivered in a class.

“It is much more of a hands-on type of learning, with the ability to talk to with persons who are knowledgeable regarding a particular place or particular events of a place,” Shepard said.

Pederson said the semester is in May and is about 17 days. There are typically about 20 students who attend.

“The program is open to all students regardless of year in school or major,” Pederson said. “Students can take six credit hours in social science and the humanities, lower and upper division. Graduate students can earn one three-credit course.”

Pederson said for students to earn a grade, they must keep a notebook of their experiences throughout the semester.

“The nation’s capital changes every year with new things happening all the time,” Pederson said. “We try to take advantage of what is occurring in the city while we are there.”



Photo by Krista Wilson  
The Washington Semester room.

Pederson said the four major expenses on the program are: tuition, housing-(students stay in a hotel three miles from the White House), airfare, and meals.

“The location and price of the hotel are second to none and the experience is priceless,” Shepard said.

#### POETS cont.

Havird said.

David Havird seconds that thought.

“What makes poetry memorable is meter or rhyme or all of the things that have to do with meter or rhyme like assonance or alliteration, all of these aural effects,” David Havird said.

And despite both being poets as well as a married couple, Ashley Havird and David Havird approach their work from very different personal spaces.

Ashley Havird, who grew up on a tobacco farm in a swampy region of South Carolina, is interested in the connections between humanity and the natural world.

“I’m very interested in the interaction between humans and the other living creatures in the world and our kind of weird attempts to reach out to them and yet do them in with the other hand. It’s very sentimental here and very cold and dismissive on this hand...and that extends to the relationships

between humans as well, the individual and the other,” she said.

David Havird, on the other hand, is more interested in the epiphany of the part with the whole.

What I’m really interested in is the way that you’ll be doing something and whatever it is triggers a memory from way back and... the way in which those two experiences intersect or merge. You feel as you’re having your own experience that you are, in a manner of speaking, reenacting those other stories,” he said. “It’s those intersections that make you feel that the world you live in, which so fractured and seems so random, in many ways has a kind of coherence that connects you to the larger tribe.”

The next poetry-themed event to take place on the LSUS campus will be Katie Bickham’s poetry workshop in November. The event will be open to the public.

#### HOOPS cont.

Dundrecous Nelson (Jackson State University).

This year will also bring about a new Red River Athletic Conference format. Instead of the previous eight teams, only six teams will advance to this season’s post season RRAC Tournament.

Also, the number one and number two seeds will not go to the first round, they will automatically skip to the semi-finals, whereas the third seed will host the sixth, and the fourth will host the fifth. Afterwards, the two winning teams will join the number one and two seeds for a chance in the semifinals and finals.

The LSUS Pilots have recently been chosen as the number one ranking by the coaches of the RRAC in the pre-season poll. This will be the fourth season they have been involved in the RRAC.

The 2013-14 season will officially kick off in Humble, Texas as the Pilots take on St. Gregory’s University in the Small College Tip Off Classic, November 1.

Afterwards the team will drive back to The Dock and play against University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma at 7 p.m. that same day.

November 11, they will travel to Waxahachie and play SAGU, a former RRAC rival. And on November 19, Pilots take on the Centenary Gents at the Gold Dome.

The last game of the month will be November 25 game against SAGU at The Dock.

November 29-30 will be the Texas Wesleyan Classic where LSUS will play against both Teaxas Wesleyan University and Oklahoma Baptist University in Ft. Worth, Texas.



# LSUS gets vintage with 90s-themed Fall Fest

**Frank Johnson**  
STAFF WRITER

LSU Shreveport has kicked off a new season with fall fest. Food, fun, games, and student organizations took the lead in the 2013 Fall Fest.

Student organizations had 28 tables set up on Wednesday. The 90s music theme seemed to be a success. The Greek dance show brought in over 100 spectators. Fall Fest continued on Friday as well.

“Fall Fest has been a smashing success,” said Angel Martin, director of student activities. “I am ecstatic with this year’s Fall Fest. Mostly because everywhere I look, I see students smiling and enjoying themselves.”



Photos by Frank Johnson  
Angel Martin, director of student activities

Students took turns throwing footballs into a float for target practice, getting to know each other, making new friends, and reuniting with old ones.

“There’re a lot of people who have come and I’ve talked to that I never knew when I went to school, and they’re really great people, and I just love to meet everybody,” said Raelynn Brown, junior, social welfare.

As students browsed the festival, fundraising efforts were continuous as well. Causes that many people cherish were funded and supported.

“Our organization is here to help the Providence House,” Brown said. Still having a good time seemed to be interconnected with all the efforts of so many. When Brown was asked if she was having a good time, she responded with “absolutely, so much fun!”



Raelynn Brown, junior, social welfare

Amber Tinker, senior, marketing and advertng design, has been an active part of Fall Fest for four years and shares the importance of student organizations participating in the event.

“I think fall fest gives an organization the chance to get their name out there. If you have a creative booth or something popular, you can easily gain attraction and possible new members for your club. It also helps other students feel like it is easy to participate without feeling pressured,” Tinker said.

Tinker also said she looks forward to Fall Fest because of the traditional aspects.

“It is an every year occurrence and it’s something to look forward to. I like seeing what the other clubs have come up with and how they flourish from year to year,” Tinker said.

As the music sounded and the packed booths continued to support their causes, spectators walked by with arms waving to the beat and bodies swaying to the rhythm.

Activities were limited. However, and the best things about the festival will vary between different people.

“The best thing about Fall Fest is the free food and the student activities that are offered. I wish there were more activities for students.

The Student Activities office welcomes feedback,

good or bad, so that they can make future events even better. Students are also encouraged to join the Student Activities Board so they can be a part of planning events like Fall Fest and making sure they have input about what happens on their campus.

“Students have planned and executed all of the events held this week. Everything including the theme, food, movie, shirts, and prizes,” Martin said. “Events always turn out better when students are the driving force! The Student Activities Board really wanted to put on an exciting event for students and this one will be hard to top.”



The staff of the Providence House booth at Fall Fest.



Above, students were invited for football target practice—the goal was to get a football through the small opening at the opposite end of the inflatable float.

Below, student organizations set up nearly 30 booths, each offering some form of food, drink, or an activity for students to participate in.





# Athletes fight to keep athletics off the chopping block

Montana Davis  
STAFF WRITER

LSU Shreveport is no stranger to budget cuts and self-funding. The sports department, specifically, deals with money issues on a daily basis, leaving some teams underfunded or eliminated altogether. But, despite the financial scrutiny, the university's athletes and faculty have pulled together and produced a championship-winning, high-caliber product.

In 2010, Bobby Jindal began the cutting down state funding for higher education. This meant that local universities, including LSUS, were forced to cut back on their budgets. These cuts began with athletics.

The previous cuts have been more than 50 percent. This leaves the majority of universities to "fund" for themselves.

LSUS could no longer apply revenue received from the state towards athletics and sports teams. Since Jindal's budget cuts, the athletics department now operates solely off of student fees.

This is the fourth year that LSUS's athletics department has depended 100 percent on these student athlete fees.

The fee, at one point in time, was only \$9.50 per credit hour, and capped at twelve hours per semester. That meant each student athlete was paying roughly \$168.

In the spring of 2010, however, the fee was raised to \$14 per credit hour.

The decision to either raise the fee or possibly lose LSUS athletics was decided by the students in what was one of the largest turnouts of student votes LSUS has ever had on any issue on campus.

On April 30, 2010, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Randy Butterbaugh announced the results of the vote. Over a thousand students voted on the proposed increase on the athletic fee and the results ended up being 594 to 422.

"If [students had] voted no, well, I can safely say had they not voted [for the raise] that we certainly would not exist as we do today. We would not resemble the quality products we have produced over the past four years," said Chad McDowell, athletic director and cross-country coach.

July 1, 2013 marked the beginning of the new fiscal year, which meant more budget cuts. LSUS's state funding was cut for the fifth year in a row since the economic downturn.

The cut of state funding also means the teams at LSUS cannot afford to play the number of games allotted by the NAIA. Whether home or away, hosting a game costs money, so everyone involved must think of ways to save money for profit.

"We definitely had to look at all areas of our budget," said Lady Pilot basketball coach Ronnie Howell.

Another factor in the budget issues on campus is that as student enrollment decreases, the operation expenses do not. This includes all areas of students' life on and off campus.

The university has a set amount of scholarship dollars for a student to come and live off of. The problem with this is that the money given by the scholarship has not risen with the cost of living, making it harder to afford things like tuition, transportation and university housing.

Every cost increases while the set revenue decreases, resulting in what McDowell calls a "Houston, we have a problem" situation.

Because the scholarship money is still the same but doesn't go as far anymore, it can ultimately cost the teams on campus some players.

With changes in higher education and admission requirements, students are now being pointed more towards two-year schools instead of four-year universities.

Despite the financial burdens the sports teams deal with, McDowell said they remain optimistic and appreciative throughout the ups and downs.

"Mentioning all the negatives and all the drawbacks, but we as a department and me as the director, we are thankful for the money we do receive," McDowell said. "It's obvious, our coaches and student athletes have put out a first-class product with what we're given."

Dr. David Gustavson is leading the charge for a new LSUS Booster Club, which will inform alumni with news and information about the teams. It is a way to reconnect with past Pilot athletes and to increase outside revenue through donations.

The faculty and students seem to agree that having a quality athletic department brings spirit, as well as quality of life, to the LSUS campus.

As Gustavson said, "we are an enemy of our own success."

With the championships LSUS has been winning, the cost to take 40 players to Idaho or two basketball teams to Kentucky can add up.

But bringing prestige and awards to LSUS will draw more and more athletes to its doors, helping increase enrollment and decrease the fees.

Many members of the athletic department would rather not focus on what they do not have, but rather spend time using the resources and money they do have wisely.

"It would not be something the university and students could be proud of. I don't know that you would have the ability to represent the university in the first-class champion type of matter without those funds," McDowell said.

The negative financial climate serves as a constant reminder of the battle LSUS faces with a decline in student enrollment.

In the face of trouble, LSUS's athletic department does not focus on the downside to the situation. The championships the Pilot athletes are bringing in shows the hard work and perseverance the coaches and players put out there to make LSUS the nationally recognized university it is today.

# Ordinary LSUS student by day, youth pastor by night

Krista Wilson  
STAFF WRITER

Making a difference in the world is something many people want to do but rarely get an opportunity to make happen. Some students are able to do it by impacting the lives of young people.

Zach Harper, a sophomore studying secondary education with a minor in history at LSU Shreveport, is able to make a difference in young people's lives every week. Harper is able to impact young people because he is the youth pastor of Haughton United Pentecostal Church.

Harper has been heavily involved in church since he was a child, but said he realized his calling at the age of 14 while attending the North American Youth Conference.

"I was surrounded by ten thousand youth-age peers and I really felt the burden to reach students," Harper said. "Starting at [the age of] fourteen on a drama team, then fifteen in a ministry class, to seventeen on the youth staff, and, finally, offered the position of youth pastor at the age of nineteen at Haughton United Pentecostal Church."

Harper said that in order to become a youth pastor he had to be faithful and to show the church that he was faithful. He needed to have a teaching and preaching background, as well as having a good relationship with those around him. He needed a support team to keep him going. It was also important that he attend church regularly, supported his pastor, and was living for God.

"I never felt qualified or ready to be a youth pastor. I don't think anyone does at first, but I had those who told me I can do this," Harper said. "I'll never forget these words 'God doesn't choose the qualified, he qualifies the chosen.'"

The first time Harper preached was at the age of 15 at First United Pentecostal Church of Minden, and he would preach again later that same year. He joined the youth board at the age of 17, which allowed him to later become a youth pastor.

"While I was there [First United Pentecostal Church of Minden], I was on the staff and I preached whenever the youth pastor needed me to," Harper said.

Harper said he does his best to stay connected with his young people. If one young person misses an event he will get in contact with him or her and check to make sure that everything is okay.

"As a youth pastor I plan events, mentor students, make sure they have a way to events, stay connected to parents and maintain youth order during service," Harper said.

Harper hosts a Bible study every Sunday and youth events on Saturday night.

"Apart from buying drinks and snacks for youth hangouts, I always try to throw my young people a big birthday



Photo courtesy of Zach Harper

Zach Harper with two members of his youth group.

party," Harper said. "I have this special cake I make that my young people love."

Harper will even give young churchgoers a ride to an event if the young person's parents are unable to bring him or her, because he does not want anyone to miss an event.

"The best part of being a youth pastor is seeing my young people moved. It can be the hardest thing in the world to move a young person into tears, especially one who has been hurt," Harper said. "So, after months of preaching and teaching, to see that young person moved means the world—in fact, I can't put a price tag on it."

Harper said he is able to talk with many young people and feels he can help guide them in the right direction.

"We had this one young guy that started coming to our church who wanted to leave his home and [other things], and through time, I've been able to talk to him and hang out with him," Harper said. "I've been able to set aside some time to hang out with him and positively influence him, and just last week he came up to me and said, 'Brother Zach I'm thinking I want to become a youth pastor.'"

Harper said that connecting with all of the young people is difficult and it is a constant process.

"Over time just chipping away [at it] and sometimes you'll get a little break through and then the wall is built back up," Harper said. "It's a process and that's why it is so important to be consistent."

Harper said that talking in front of young people is not always difficult, but talking in front a new group of young people can be intimidating.

"There will be times when I have to talk about a tough subject, and if I know somebody parents just got into a fight or something like that, it can be a little nerve wrack-

ing," Harper said. "I want to talk to them [my young people] where they are, but I don't want to hurt them with my message, but in the end I have to do what's best for the group."

When deciding what to speak on, Harper said he prays about it.

"I'll pray, 'Lord this is what I have, if it's not what you want then change it,'" Harper said. "I'll study it and prepare something and keep on praying about it."

Harper came to LSU Shreveport because his sister graduated from LSUS and it keeps him close to Haughton United Pentecostal Church. He said he enjoys history classes because he can get a more in-depth understanding of history.

"I'm going to probably do education until God opens up a door for me to do something higher in the ministry," Harper said.

Learning to balance work, school, and his ministering has been a challenge. Harper has learned how to juggle his busy schedule and has found time to make it all work. Harper hopes to continue to work with young people and to help them with anything these young people may have going on in their lives.



Photo courtesy of Zach Harper

Zach Harper relaxes with a member of his youth group.



# Science department seeks outside funding to offset cuts

**Corey Drummond**  
STAFF WRITER

This is the first year in decades in which LSU Shreveport was not given enough money to run its departments as consistently as it has since it was founded. This was the first year in which the science departments were given a major budget cut.

Colleges and universities accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools are given an annual budget distributed by the state from the federal government to maintain their facilities. Each year, however, the budget grows increasingly smaller.

“The state has cut the money they give to the universities. Eventually the universities have to cut what they give to the departments. Obviously now we get more money from student tuition than we get from state and federal dollars,” said Dr. Dalton Gossett, chair of the department of biological sciences.

LSUS has worked the last few years to keep each department’s budget consistent, but the school was finally backed up into a corner with no way out. Cuts had to be made, and the science departments were among those on the chopping block.

The biological science department has the largest amount of majoring students at the university. With such a large portion of the school focusing on this department, more materials need to be bought to support the growing number of lab students. Without a budget, they would not have the available supplies for their programs.

“With science equipment rising in price, we haven’t had an increase in budget so we had to charge the students. We had to charge lab fees, and that makes up part of the budget we use for supplies,” Gossett said.

When the school gets its money from the federal government, it divides the money between the many departments. For sciences, the money is split between the biological sciences and chemistry. The overall budget was previously \$40,000 a year, split between the two departments for supplies.

Now, the budget has been cut down by 15 percent. Considering the sciences were already bleeding their budget dry, the cut placed them in an uncomfortable space. The prices for lab materials and supplies increase every year. In the past few years, prices have tripled while their cash flow remained the same.

“The budget has gone down over the years so our spending power has declined. This is especially true since the cost of scientific supplies goes up every year. We have access to student lab fees which help to purchase lab supplies and we keep a small amount in reserve for equipment repairs. Some of us can use small amounts of our grant monies to supplement lab supplies but we don’t always have such mon-



Photo by Corey Drummond

The science department has begun seeking grants and donations to offset the recent tide of budget cuts.

ies available,” said Dr. Cran Lucas, professor of biological sciences.

The budget they receive is not for equipment like microscopes and beakers. Instead, their money is only used for restocking the materials the departments need for labs and teaching. They do not get funds for equipment from LSUS.

To maintain, replace, and acquire new tools for labs and research, the department requires grant money. The Board of Regents and the National Science Foundation are the most important institutions for receiving grants. It is a highly competitive space for grant proposals.

The Board of Regents collected and saved a large account of money for the specific purpose of delivering grants to the schools that make the best proposal. Professors and faculty from Louisiana colleges write a grant proposal and send it to the Board, but they only choose a handful to supply the money for.

The NSF focuses solely on giving grants to science departments and programs in the U.S. Through this group, LSUS was able to afford a brand-new transmission electron microscope.

“Most of our equipment has come from grant funds. The last time we were given state dollars for equipment was

when we renovated the science building in 2000. It has been thirteen years since we were given money for equipment,” Gossett said.

Other facilities, like the Museum of Life Sciences, have no budget at all. The museum runs completely on donations from outside benefactors and fundraisers it ran years ago.

Professors and faculty in the science departments are stressed out and working harder than ever. Adding to the already busy schedule of teaching, many faculty are also working additional jobs in the labs.

“We also don’t have money for lab support such as dishwashers and lab prep. Having faculty do this puts more burden on us since we also teach lectures, run labs, serve on committees, and more,” Lucas said.

The students are also being affected by the lower federal funding for LSUS. Student tuition increases each year to keep budgets consistent without having to eliminate programs. If the budget gets another cut, the department may have to cut a lab or require students to pay more to keep everything running.

Despite being hit with a budget cut, the science department has been working hard to keep labs, research, and teaching running strong.

# Psychology degrees provide insights into student minds

**Jennifer Middleton**  
STAFF WRITER

It can be interesting to examine human psychology and behavior, and discover why people make certain choices. By obtaining a psychology degree at LSU Shreveport, students can further study this field and have many available career options.

Dr. Gary Jones, psychology professor, explained that a bachelor’s degree in psychology is often only the beginning.

“When most people think of psychology, they think of somebody that treats somebody for some kind of problem,” Jones said. “If you’re going to practice psychology, you pretty much have to have a Ph.D. So, in some ways, an undergraduate psychology degree basically is there to lay the foundations that would let you get into graduate school.”

Some aspects of the program vary between universities in different states.

“In the state of Louisiana, there’s a degree called a Licensed Professional Counselor, which is the only masters-level practicing degree that’s available,” Jones said. “It requires a master’s, and our master’s program is sixty hours. A doctoral degree varies—100 to 120 hours past the undergraduate degree. So, if a person wants to practice psychology, they’ve got to be looking at graduate school.”

Jones provided a list of jobs that are available to psychology graduates. The list included positions in social work, sales, human resources, juvenile courts, public relations, and real estate, just to name a few.

“I use that in my introductory psychology class, and it’s something that they go over in most introductory psychology textbooks,” Jones said. “If a person’s only looking at the undergraduate degree, then they’re going to be looking at the types of jobs that I have there, listed in those handouts. The books basically break it down into three general areas—social and human-service related jobs, research-related jobs,



Photo by Jennifer Middleton

Dr. Gary Jones, psychology professor

and business-related jobs.”

Jones explained that a psychology degree could be useful to people who want to go into sales and marketing,

because it would give them a better understanding of why people do the things they do.