



Noel Memorial Library recognizes published faculty members, alumni. —Pg. 4

English class hosts literary competition

Jennifer Middleton
STAFF WRITER

On Friday, Dr. Elisabeth Liebert’s English 205 class at LSU Shreveport took part in a poetry recitation contest in lieu of an exam. Liebert, associate professor of English, said that she wanted to give her Intro to British Literature class something a little more engaging than a written test. The competition, she said, requires the students to work in groups. “It requires them to gain a different form of familiarity with literature than simply reading and analyzing,” Liebert said. When students simply read the text, “they’re probably thinking more about themes and structures than about the language itself.” The competition was comprised of four categories—narrative, lyric, sonnet, and memorization. For the first three categories, the competitors read their chosen poems from books or papers in front of them. In the last category, each competitor had to recite a poem from memory. William Shakespeare’s works featured prominently in the last two categories, with Sonnet 130 being the apparent favorite of the day. At least five students chose to read or recite it. After all four categories were completed, judges ranked the students according to their performance. See CLASS, pg. 3

Squad brings sports cheer

Montana Davis
STAFF WRITER

LSU Shreveport made history with the announcement of its first official co-ed cheer team. The cheer squad, which includes the dance team and Pete the Pilot, recently completed the spirit team program and promises to spread Pilot pride throughout the community. Throughout the duration of LSUS athletics there have only been two spirit groups: the Pilot dance team and the school mascot. But recently a student named Meagan Carter took matters into her own hands and started what is now the university’s first cheer team. Carter decided to branch out from the school’s dance team, who cheered on the sidelines and performed during halftime. Word spread quickly throughout the campus and students, male and female, began expressing interest in joining. Now the Pilot cheer squad consists of 17 students, 12 of whom perform stunts and lifts. Each member has his or her own unique reasons for trying out, but are in agreement their goal is to boost LSUS pride and spirit as much as possible. Most members come from other athletic backgrounds, such as weightlifting or gymnastics, and started cheerleading through those sports. Other Pilot cheerleaders said it was family members that motivated them to join. The requirements to make the team are the standards for most cheer-based groups. The participants need to meet a certain GPA requirement, have a cheerleading or gymnastics background, execute jumps and moves sharply, and be able to perform cheers loudly. After tryouts, Carter found herself with 17 new Pilot cheerleaders and no coach. She decided to have the older, more experienced members of the team help her mold the fresh squad into an organized product. Emily Camp, sophomore, business, dis-



Meagan Carter in a stunt with Kollin Cockrell as Julio Aleman, Daniel Jordan and Andrew Coffman spot. Photo by Montana Davis

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Board of Regents eliminates political science degree

Alexandra Meachum
MANAGING EDITOR-PRINT

In the upcoming spring semester, political science will be eliminated as an undergraduate degree offering at LSU Shreveport. Classes will remain available for students seeking a concentration in the study. Students currently enrolled in the major will be able to complete the four-year degree, but spring will mark the official end for new enrollment. Instead of a degree in political science, students will be able to seek a degree in criminal justice or history with a concentration in political science. The decision to end the political science program was made in April by the Board of Regents. LSUS faculty members were alerted a month prior to prepare a case to present to the Board in order to continue the program. Jeffrey Sadow, associate professor of political science, has taught at LSUS for 23 years and was one of the faculty members in preparation to defend the program. Sitting in his office on the third floor of Bronson Hall, with book stacked high along the walls, Sadow explains his department’s efforts

to keep the program. Sadow said one defense was the program’s cost-efficiency, which the department offered to further by offering the degree through 100 percent online classes. “Total savings was not a lot in this case,” Sadow said. “The program was actually one of the most cost-effective here by having one of the highest student-credit-hour-production rates.” He said political science was among several degrees throughout Louisiana colleges that the Board of Regents considered discontinuing. The Board deemed that political science had a low completion rate, thus failing to meet state requirements. “The completion rate is calculated through averaging and the requirement is six, and we averaged to about a 5.2,” Sadow said. This shortcoming was enough for the Board to end the degree as an available major. Speaking from experience, Sadow observed that once a major is cut, it rarely comes back again. Still, portions of the program were salvaged. Many of

the 100- and 200-level courses will still be offered as a part of the history or criminal justice departments. Classifications will become a history or criminal justice major with a concentration in political science. Similarly, most faculty members will not be lost either. Sadow, along with Dr. William Pederson, professor of political science, will continue teaching at LSUS. Though the future is uncertain, Sadow said he doesn’t imagine overall enrollment at LSUS will decrease due to the elimination of the program. By way of example, Sadow points out that political science is not as common of a major choice, especially among traditional students, as general studies. For students hoping to obtain a political science degree to pursue further education, Sadow points out alternatives. “Political science can be a jumping-off point to law school, areas of grad school, public administration, banking, and local government,” Sadow said. “But having what’s called a liberal arts degree can lead to any number of these areas as well.” Keely Harrison, senior, political science and legal stud-

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Shreveport Metropolitan Concert Band perform fall concert



The Shreveport Metropolitan Concert Band performed their annual fall concert on the steps of the LSU Shreveport administration building last Sunday. Attendees were encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs to set up in the administration building's courtyard. This is the first year that the concert has been held in this location. Luckily for the band and those in attendance, there was no rain despite the ominous looking sky.

Photos by Jessica Ingram



CHEER cont.



Photo by Montana Davis

Emily Camp practicing lifting with Julio Aleman.

cussed the early lack of leadership the team has to deal with until a captain or coach is chosen, saying that the cheer team originally ended up with too many leaders and not enough followers.

The reason the cheer team lacks a coach or instructor is due to financial burdens. The team, similarly to the other LSUS athletics, is completely self-funding. Money for uniforms and equipment is paid out of pocket by the members or through fundraisers and donations.

Despite not having an official leader, the squad manages to conduct practice five days a week, two hours at a time, in order to prepare for the upcoming basketball seasons. They all put effort into helping one another with stunts and using constructive criticism to improve each other's skills.

The cheer team plans to create new fundraisers in order to raise money to compete in national cheer competitions, and become another championship winning team for LSUS.

Students and faculty can watch the debut of the new Pilot cheer squad as they perform and cheer at the first home basketball game in the spring of 2014.

CLASS cont.

mance. First, second, and third place were awarded to competitors in each category.

In narrative, Hannah Harris, sophomore, psychology, won first place. Jared Perkins, sophomore, history, was awarded first place in lyric poetry. Harris also won in the sonnet category—she tied with Caylyn Thompson, junior, biology, for first place. Thompson also took first in the memorization category.

The event, overall, was excellent, according to Liebert.

“I liked the competitiveness in this class,” she said. “It’s always a surprise when you know students who sit fairly quietly in class and perhaps occasionally answer a question, and you don’t realize the abilities that they have in terms of public speaking or in terms of understanding literature until they get up in front of the class and they start reading, and it can be impressive.”

Liebert also said that she was impressed by some of the poetry selections.

“I also liked the fact that many students chose poems that we hadn’t studied in class,” she said. “That shows admirable independence, that they were able to find poems that they liked. They read them carefully, and they understood them. And these are not easy poems to understand, because

they were all written at least four hundred years ago.”

Elizabeth Kemp, sophomore, political science, took part in the competition and tied for second place in memorization for her recitation of Shakespeare’s Sonnet 106. Kemp admitted that going up and reciting poetry in front of a group of her peers was a little nerve-wracking.

“It was a lot of stress,” Kemp said, “but it felt good once I was up there in the middle of it. It was really a lot of fun, and I learned a lot more than I would have if I was just being tested on what [the] poem [was] about, names, and structure.”

Liebert explained that one of the reasons for the competition was to help connect students to the time period the course focuses on.

“During the period that we’ve been studying—the Middle Ages and the Renaissance—poetry was a fairly major form of entertainment,” Liebert said. “They would perform and recite poetry. And if we go right back to Beowulf, we also notice that verbal dexterity was important to the hero. You had to be able to boast. So the ability to speak well, to tell stories well in front of an audience, was a fairly essential characteristic of a hero.”

DEGREE cont.

ies, still expressed some trepidation about the elimination of the program.

“I knew in high school that I wanted to study political science in college, and if LSUS had not offered it, I may have rethought my options,” Harrison said.

Harrison plans on pursuing paralegal work after she graduates in December, and said she felt sad when she heard about the outcome of the major.

“It’s a shame, really, because of all the political information one is exposed to and wouldn’t [notice] under other circumstances,” Harrison said.

Still, she said she is hopeful that students will not be missing out as long as political science can still be a concentration.

“I took a lot of classes with Dr. Pederson and went on the Washington Semester twice. These experiences gave me inspira-

tion and insight that I will forever use,” Harrison said.

James Brown graduated last spring after obtaining an undergraduate degree in political science, and now works in Dallas for an international logistics company called DHL.

He said his undergraduate coursework “undoubtedly played a role in shaping the lens through which I understand and perceive the realm of politics, law, government, economics, and even business.” But, he said, he is also keenly aware of the financial necessity of focusing on other programs.

“Ultimately, the likes of Dr. Pederson and Sadow will still be around to continue titillating the eager minds of LSUS students seeking to fulfill a prerequisite or minor study in the field, and for that, one should find relief,” Brown said.



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Mikaberidze lectures at international conference

Krista Wilson
STAFF WRITER

LSU Shreveport associate professor Dr. Alexander Mikaberidze’s expertise on Napoleonic history recently took him to London to participate in an international conference. “This was a major international conference organized jointly by the King’s College and Waterloo 200, a British non-profit organization set up to co-ordinate the commemoration of the end of the Napoleonic Wars,” Mikaberidze said. “The conference discussed the impact of the Napoleonic Wars on the world in the nineteenth century and beyond.” Mikaberidze was selected to participate in the London conference that was held at King’s College, a premier university. Mikaberidze said that in order to be selected, the conference organizers considered scholars based on their research and publications, and invited the best from each field. They



Photo courtesy of Alexander Mikaberidze
The historic Apsley house.

selected about twelve people to participate in this conference. “I was surprised [to be selected] since this was a high level conference and I did not consider myself sufficiently well-known to be considered for it,” Mikaberidze said. Mikaberidze has had plenty of experience organizing and presenting at conferences over the years. While this was a major conference for Mikaberidze, he has done a lot of research for it. “I gave a lecture on the impact of the Napoleonic Wars on the Eastern Europe, and Russia in particular,” Mikaberidze said. The participants stayed for three days for the conference, providing a unique experience. “We were welcomed to a reception at the historic Apsley House by the current Duke of Wellington,” Mikaberidze said. “Wellington’s ancestor, the first Duke of Wellington, defeated Napoleon at Waterloo and later served as prime minister of Britain.” Mikaberidze said the Duke’s house has assembled a great collection of art and is now used a museum. However, the Wellington family still uses it as a part-time residence. “So the family invited us to a reception held at the same room where, back in 1815, Wellington and his officers celebrated their victory over Napoleon,” Mikaberidze said. Mikaberidze said the entrance of the museum has a 9-foot-tall statue of Napoleon as Mars the Peacemaker created by the Italian artist Antonio Canova. “[The statue], once on display in the Louvre in Paris, was purchased in 1816 by the British government, which granted it to the Duke of Wellington,” Mikaberidze said. “Being a Francophile, I decided to wear a special lapel pin to this reception - it is shaped like Napoleon’s hat.” Mikaberidze said there are several conferences scheduled to mark the bicentennials of different events of the Napoleonic Wars. Mikaberidze plans to be involved with one



Photo courtesy of Alexander Mikaberidze
Dr. Alexander Mikaberidze with the statue of Napoleon as Mars the Peacemaker.

held in Oxford, Miss. “[This month] there is a conference in Germany on the battle of Leipzig that ended French hegemony in Germany,” Mikaberidze said. “Next year there will be several conferences on the end of the Napoleonic Wars then in 2015 there will be a major commemoration of the battle of Waterloo.”

Future teachers get district preview

Ebonie Nelson
STAFF WRITER

23 student-teachers recently received the opportunity to question potential employers. Representatives from Bossier, Caddo, Red River Parish schools, as well as Magnolia Charter gathered at LSU Shreveport to impart first-hand information about their school districts. Another class of student-teachers prepares to enter the workforce as early as January 2014. Because the task of completing school board applications and interviewing is right around the corner, the education department at LSUS invited different districts to preview their district to the group. Each representative spoke for seven to eight minutes, presenting their school district to the candidates in a forum-style presentation. Presenters listed the perks of their district and what they have to offer incoming teachers. Although all desire to hire the best teachers, the districts still differ in several ways. Red River representative Charles Rester, a junior high principal, focused on the small-town aspect of the parish. He polled the room to see who was raised in a small town. “If you enjoyed that atmosphere, then Red River is the place for you,” Rester said.



Student-teachers prepare for the presentation.



Photos by Ebonie Nelson
District representatives addressed student-teachers with important information about the respective districts.

One key factor Rester pointed out was the supplements offered to employees to make up the difference between other districts’ and Red River’s salaries. Caddo and Bossier Parish are larger districts looking for skilled and qualified teachers. Caddo suggested that the candidates complete their application before contacting principals, whereas Bossier suggested that contacting principals first would be more beneficial. However, all districts do agree that working as a substitute teacher before being hired as a certified teacher is the best route when awaiting a job. This gives ample teaching and classroom experience that some first-time teachers do not have. It also puts the candidate’s foot in the door with the principal in the event a position becomes available. Director of Alternate Certification and Field Experiences Tracey Burrell said that this preview seminar helps the candidates get a better look on what is out there and what to expect when looking for a job. “This is the first time in a long time where we were able to offer this district preview seminar to the student-teachers and alternate certification candidates who are preparing to enter the classroom,” Burrell said. “We are so excited about this opportunity.” After all the representatives spoke on behalf of their district, the floor was open for questions and answers from the student-teachers and alternate certification candidates. The students expressed interest in the different districts and asked several questions about future careers. At the close of the seminar, each district left information for the students to look over, as well as contact information.

PELICAN BRIEFS

Honors program hosts public reading, signing

PRESS RELEASE: Author Nicole Peeler will give a public reading in the Noel Library at LSUS on Thursday, October 31, at 4:00 pm. Peeler wrote the popular six volume fantasy romance series featuring Jane True and her adventures in a world of fantastic beings who live among us. A question-and-answer session will follow the reading then Peeler will sign copies of her books in the Noel atrium during the cookies-and-punch reception following the reading. Peeler’s campus visit includes a world-building workshop for the sophomore Honors Program students over lunch at 12:30 pm. Students will receive copies of the first book in the series as part of the day’s program. Peeler is an assistant professor at Seton Hill University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where she teaches popular fiction. She taught at LSUS from 2008-2010 while writing the second book in the series. Copies of her books will be available for sale at the signing or you may bring copies you already own. For further information, please contact Dr. Linda Webster at 797-5376 or linda.webster@lsus.edu.

Campus Federal hosts financial literacy event

Campus Federal representatives will be on campus Oct. 25 during Common Hour. The representatives will host a financial literacy seminar in the Red River Room of the University Center. The event, hosted in conjunction with LSU Shreveport Career Services, is designed to teach students how to maintain a budget, as well as manage student loans and credit card expenses. The event is open to all students. Students are encouraged to bring their lunch and to come enjoy the seminar. For questions or more information, contact SaraMargaret Mladenka, assistant director of student development, at 318-797-5365.

Noel Memorial Library celebrates LSUS Authors



Photos by Jessica Ingram

Last Wednesday, the Noel Memorial Library hosted its annual *LSUS Authors* open-house display. The event drew a crowd ranging from students to faculty and staff members. *LSUS Authors* is an annual bibliographical publication chronicling works published by LSU Shreveport alumni, faculty, and staff. The display included hard-copies of all the publications, or bibliographical references if hard-copies were unavailable. The event, held on the third floor, also offered light refreshments for attendees.



Faculty, students come face-to-face with cancer

Frank Johnson
STAFF WRITER

The LSU Shreveport family has risen above the disease of cancer like a phoenix emerging from the ashes of despair with bravery, compassion, and vigor.

According to the 2010 statistics by the American Cancer Society, cancer rates have been on a steady decline in this country since the early 1990s. People are living longer due to better technological advances and preventative actions being taken by more educated Americans.

However, the probability of developing cancer in your lifetime in the United States is 44 percent for men and 38 percent for women. Women are generally diagnosed with cancer at younger ages than men, according to the statistics.

Another sad reality from The American Cancer Society is that in 2010, around 1,500 deaths a day can be contributed to this disease.

These statistics hit home for communications instructor and Director of Debate and Leadership Studies Trey Gibson. His father was taken from him by cancer on Sept. 24, 1997.

Gibson was working as an adjunct at the time while he finished his master’s degree. His father had been doing well in business and had decided to get medical insurance. Unfortunately, two and a half weeks after the agent sold him a temporary policy, which they honored, he was diagnosed with cancer and given seven months to live, a prediction that, sadly, came true.



Photo courtesy of Trey Gibson
Trey Gibson, communications instructor and director of debate and leadership studies

“I was really close to my father, so there was not a day went by that I didn’t think about him,” Gibson said.

Societies deal with loss in a variety of ways, and there will always be things that happen that will cause people to reflect on the ones that have passed away.

“When special events happened, I definitely thought about him,” Gibson said. “A great deal of remorse and sadness, but time goes by and lessons the pain, work is a good thing, and we have a close family that helps.”

All across the world there are people who share different characteristics, some are strong and some are weaker, and some have absolutely no problem with facing adversity when it arrives.

“My dad was a fighter,” Gibson said.

Encouragement is also a valuable device that fuels this LSUS family. Gibson didn’t take much time off from work except for funeral arrangements, but he confesses that this experience was a major wake-up call for him.

“Here I am at 26 years old; I’ve never been the one who had to do. I was a follower, not a leader, at that point in time, it’s one of those points where you look back and say, I’m no longer the child,” Gibson said.

Gibson gives one piece of advice for anyone dealing with a family member going through this terrible disease that robs so many, “you never have a second chance at family, family first.”

This terrible malady also touched some of the LSUS family personally.



Photo by Frank Johnson
Carol Meyer, communications instructor

Carol Meyer has been a member of the LSUS family for eight years and in 2010 was diagnosed with breast cancer.



Reginald Williams, sophomore, graphic design

She, like so many other women, was going about her day-to-day activities when she discovered something new and disturbing.

“I felt a lump, it was just something that itched, and when I scratched it, I knew. The minute I touched it, I knew what it was,” said Carol Meyer, instructor of communications.

Meyer, who has a family that has been plagued by cancer, was concerned and made the necessary doctor’s appointments and kept them, but she still worried about her prognosis.

“I went home and brooded about it,” Meyer said.

Fortunately, Meyer’s brooding didn’t last. She adopted the philosophy of so many who have faith.

You have to really be prepared for things like this and know where to go because stuff like this can happen at any time, and if you’re not prepared and don’t know what to do, it can really crush you.

- Reginald Williams, sophomore

“Everything was almost like a miracle from the beginning; it was like something was supposed to happen so that I could wake up and smell the roses, I don’t think I was a bad person, but I took for granted every day,” Meyer said.

However, Meyer did have her faith put to the test with surgery, radiation and chemotherapy treatments.

“To get through the day was a real job,” Meyer said.

Support groups for cancer victims or family members struggling through this time are relatively easy to find, and in most cases are just a few key strokes away. Still, there are many difficulties victims may not anticipate.

“The hardest thing was being so tired, so afraid of not being there for my girls, and I was so afraid I’d be a hardship for my family,” Meyer said.

Cancer victims often fall prey to a mountain of worries: the constant thought of being a burden is beyond comparison, but since November 2011 Meyer has been free of radiation and full of enthusiasm.

Meyer’s family, both biological and the adopted kind here at LSUS, has been a constant in her life that has strengthened her through her trials.

“I have a wonderful family, at school everyone was so

good to me, watched out for me, cared for me, and I felt like God was my co-pilot,” Meyer said.

After the doctors had done all they could do, and Meyer’s conflict with the worst was behind her, she still needed to be proactive in her life with cancer.

“I take chemo at night, but it’s just a little pill, and it blocks hormones. Hormones seem to be a food supply for cancer, and I’ll do this for five years and I go back to the doctor every three months,” Meyer said.

It is important to note that woman who take hormones or are going through menopause are at a higher risk of getting cancer.

Faculty members are not the only ones affected by cancer here at LSUS, students here are dealing with the turmoil of this disease every day as well.

Reginald Williams, 22, a full-time student, has been coping with his aunt’s cancer and its effects on his home life for some time now. She has been going through her second battle with this debilitating disease, and radiation and chemotherapy has been tough, to say the least, on their family.

“In my household it’s affected me because it’s my dad’s first priority because it’s his sister,” said Reginald Williams, sophomore, graphic design.

Enduring all of the tasks that are placed on students with a full load of hours, coupled with work and studying is daunting enough, but buckled with the hardship of family troubles is a house of cards in a tornado.

“I have to step up and lend an extra hand and take care of things around the house,” Williams said.

While withdrawing and coming back in the future is an option for some, some students, especially nontraditional students, have been living their life and doing their best to not only survive life on life’s terms, but they have been running out of that valuable commodity of time as well, getting older day-by-day, and striving for the coveted sought after college degree.

“Things do happen and you have to handle them as an adult,” Williams said.

Being able to adapt to life and the circumstances as they arrive are part of being an adult, meeting life with the drive of a fighter, like Gibson’s father, or embracing faith, like Meyer, are both beneficial tools that help when facing adversity.

“You have to really be prepared for things like this and know where to go because stuff like this can happen at any time, and if you’re not prepared and don’t know what to do, it can really crush you,” Williams said.

Three top concerns Williams had with his situation are, family concerns, uncertainty, and atmosphere. The uncertainty of not knowing the future is a familiarity that all humanity can share, and with the possibility of death on the horizon, the moods of all parties involved can be tense. The atmosphere that surrounds people with cancer can be depressing, but it is a realization that must be faced, preferably by loved ones around.

“Don’t stay down! Pray about it, don’t let this stress you, don’t worry about it, it is what it is, you’ve got to be strong,” Williams said.

Meyer also offers words of encouragement for those struggling in their day-to-day life.

“Everybody is stronger than they think they are,” Meyer said.

Marketing degrees allow students to shop for career

Don't know what to do with your degree after college? This weekly series is dedicated to helping you find out.

Iris MacLean
STAFF WRITER

Students desiring a dynamic, multi-faceted degree that ensures a fulfilling career would do well to consider a business degree in marketing.

“I believe that the greatest number of people who become CEOs of companies come from a background in marketing,” said Raymond Taylor, professor of marketing and management.

Taylor said his belief stems from the skills graduates with a marketing degree possess that enable them to sell themselves and reach the top of any business. Taylor said the marketing program at LSU Shreveport is very flexible and allows business students to go into a number of professional directions.

Some of the skills learned from marketing classes include the ability to develop marketing programs and target different consumer groups, promotional advertising, handling and beating different competitors the best way, as well as how to position yourself for success.

Marketing students also learn research and analysis skills important to understanding target audiences, how to build rapport with potential buyers, and how to sell a product based on research gathered.

LSUS offers classes that also focus on the importance of website development and the use of social media. Marketing 490 teaches students how to work with small businesses to have strong websites and a presence in social network marketing.

The marketing department at LSUS offers classes that enhance the learning experience by providing students with hands-on, interactive practical application of the skills they learn through technology. Students have access to the latest online surveying tools, research databases, and design software.

Career choices for graduates with a degree in marketing are plentiful. A few options include business-to-business and industrial sales, search engine marketing, account management and optimization, retail management and buying,



Raymond Taylor, professor of marketing and management

Photo courtesy of Raymond Taylor

distribution management, and event marketing.

“I chose to become a marketing major after my experience in Marketing 301,” said Amber Tinker, senior, marketing with advertising design. “I found out that the professors really cared for their students and took time for them.”

Tinker said her interest in both creativity and art, as well as in business, could be catered to with a marketing degree.

Eman Bader, junior, marketing with a minor in pub-

lic relations, chose marketing for a slightly different reason. Bader liked the benefits marketing provides for all aspects of your future.

“No matter what career you choose or what organizations you join, there has to be a marketing team promoting what you do,” Bader said. “Whether you are trying to make a sale or soliciting donations, or just raising awareness, you have to acquire these skills to be most effective.”

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