



Rebecca Mouton turns paper into masterpieces. —Pg. 5

Author Nicole Peeler coming to LSUS

Iris MacLean
STAFF WRITER

The Honors Program will be hosting former LSU Shreveport English professor, author Nicole Peeler as a distinguished speaker on Oct. 31 for a public reading in the Noel Memorial Library. Peeler is the author of a popular fantasy/romance series following the adventures of Jane True. After the reading, Peeler will hold a question-and-answer session and sign copies of her books. Part of her visit to LSUS will be a world-building workshop for the sophomore Honors Program students during lunch. During the lunch, students will receive copies of the first book in Peeler's series. Peeler's visit is a part of the distinguished speaker series that began last October with author Mark Spencer, who shared his real-life ghost stories with students and talked about publishing and creative writing. The goal of the program is to expose honors students to successful writers and provide them with a workshop and lecture, and then hold a separate event for the public to enjoy. "Years ago, before the advent of electronic media, people would

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Photo by Corey Drummond

Students and SJF representatives gathered for a roundtable discussion of the demands and necessary qualifications of professional journalism.

SJF hosts roundtable discussion

Corey Drummond
STAFF WRITER

The Shreveport Journalism Foundation arrived at the LSU Shreveport campus to discuss life in the journalism industry and the future being paved by incoming student journalists. At a panel hosted by Mary Jarzabek, director of electronic media journalism at LSUS, veterans in the industry met with editors and writers in the university news to give advice and insight to the way of life in journalism

and some of the difficulties surrounding the medium. "We as professionals should always keep learning from each other. Most professional organizations understand that you always learn. If I lose the idea that I can learn from you guys, then I shouldn't be a teacher anymore," Jarzabek said. The panel of SJF members included Gregg Trusty, president of SJF, Sonja Bailes, assistant to the president and public relations liaison for the Bossier Parish school board,

Scott Anderson, former writer for the Shreveport Times, and John Lee, senior vice president of SJF. The meeting progressed as a reverse-panel discussion allowing the students of LSUS and Bossier Parish Community College to describe their hopes and fears while asking the members of SJF for advice and guidance on specific topics. Calvin Hamilton, mass communications major at BPCC, discussed obstacles he has had to tackle in the field of journalism.

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Four students prove school spirit goes to the Core



Photo courtesy of Nathan Gurinsky

The Core Four—Nathan Gurinsky, Alan Bryant, Cody King, and Sam Weinburg—hope to jumpstart LSU Shreveport's school spirit.

Montana Davis
STAFF WRITER

A new student organization, The Core Four, is making its way onto the campus this fall. Operated by four sports-loving students, this group is using every aspect of social media in order to keep others informed of LSU Shreveport athletic news. The Core Four started out with humble beginnings, but is now blowing up to be one of the hottest topics on campus. The group started with the idea of one student, Nathan Gurinsky, who was asked to write an athletic blog for LSUS by Chelsea Lawson and Brooke Rinuado. Gurinsky said that he really enjoyed writing the blog and was soon asked to "tweet" about athletic games on campus. "I am very school-spirited and I love athletics so when they asked me to do it, I felt it was a great opportunity to encourage my fellow Pilots to support our athletes," Gurinsky said.

Gurinsky, along with the help of three other students, Cody King, Alan Bryant and Sam Weinburg, made an official Twitter account just for game and sports updates. "I joined because I felt this was a creative option to not only boost awareness about LSUS athletics but to also increase student life on campus," said Cody King, SGA president and vice president of Tau Kappa Epsilon. Shortly after, the four came up with the idea to combine the sports updates with the new LSUS student section, also beginning this fall. "We are four LSUS students who are spearheading a Pilot Student Section and will keep all of our followers up to date on LSUS athletics," King said of the group's purpose. The Core Four's official duties include covering the games and keeping students up to date with live stats and reminders of when the games are. When asked about the future, the group stated that, although they just started as four, it could very well expand or even

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LSUS celebrates Pink-tober with Pink-out Day



In honor of National Breast Cancer Awareness month, LSU Shreveport hosted “Pink-out Day” last Wednesday in the University Center.

The Student Activities Board provided pink snacks and pink drinks, and encouraged everyone to wear their pinkest attire to bring awareness to the cause of breast cancer research.

Left, some participating students and faculty gather for a group shot. Below, the Student Activities Board hosts a table providing pink refreshments.

Photos by Jessica Ingram



PEELER cont.

flock to public lectures and those who lectured would actually work a circuit,” said Dr. Linda Webster, professor and chair of the department of arts and media. “It was considered entertainment and enlightening, so we’re doing the same.”

The Honors Program is designed to give students more of a challenge and creative approach to college. The program offers a challenging curriculum, an exclusive lounge, small classes and unique program activities including workshops, guest speakers, and interactive lectures from well-known

authors and speakers.

The program is open to graduating high school seniors heading to college who meet the requirements of a minimum ACT score of 24 and an unweighted high school GPA of 3.00. Current students with less than 75 hours are also welcome to apply.

For more information about the distinguished speaker series, Nicole Peeler’s visit, or the Honors Program, contact Dr. Linda Webster at 797-5376 or linda.webster@lsus.edu.

FOUR cont.

change the name.

King said they would all like to pass the torch to another four, as the original team gets closer to graduating.

The organization has received mostly positive feedback from athletes but they say there has been a small splash of negative feedback, too. Some people believe the four should be focusing on the school as a whole and not just the athletics.

Despite the few criticisms they have faced, the group remains true to their mission statement and goal to motivate students to be more school-spirited.

Students and faculty can follow the Core Four on Twitter at @LSUSCoreFour for live-tweets during games, on Instagram at [lsuscorefour](https://www.instagram.com/lsuscorefour) for instant picture updates and on Facebook as well.



Photo courtesy of Nathan Gurinsky

Nathan Gurinsky developed the idea for the Core Four after writing an LSUS athletics weekly blog.

SJF cont.

“Using vocabulary in writing, and also when speaking, articulation is always on my mind when choosing specific words in certain stories,” Hamilton said.

The SJF members shared their collective experiences in journalism and related occupations. Each panelist wished to help any aspiring, future journalists find their footing in a fast-paced, stressful field.

“My degree is in print journalism and I started working in broadcast. You can’t just all-of-a-sudden learn how to write a story. A journalism degree is the most important part of securing a job in the field. I applied for a reporter position at KTBS and they said I wasn’t ready. I had to work on my articulation,” Bailes said.

SJF has been around for a few decades and has been trying to guide students to success in the journalism industry.

The nonprofit organization was founded in 1984 and provides professional development and offers annual scholarships to college juniors and seniors in the fields of journalism and public relations.

With the hopes of building a more creative and successful future for the industry, SJF offers scholarships dedicated to Kerry Garland and Orlando Dodson, two important figures in Shreveport journalism, to push students to excel.

SJF has awarded scholarships to students of LSUS, Centenary College of Shreveport, Louisiana Tech University, Northwestern State University, and LSU A&M since it was founded and continues to drive local development of the journalism industry.



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Workshop tackles online image

Frank Johnson
STAFF WRITER

Social media and a personal online image have become increasingly important for future employers and employees; the time, effort, and care a person puts into their online image can yield rewards.

An online personal image for employers to reference can be intimidating for some who prefer to remain private, but, as the years go by, employers are finding it more beneficial to use social media profiles in the employee screening process.

“If all of your employees have positive online images, then that says a lot about you and your organization,” said Sara Margaret Mladenka, assistant director of student development.

Mladenka guides students through a variety of workshops LSU Shreveport offers throughout each semester. The latest was focusing on how to evaluate, change, and improve online image.

She gave clear, concise instructions on how a person should view the impression they are portraying to the world through social media, as well as being able to focus on the ongoing changes.

Personalizing a URL, memorable headlines, and noting a person’s recommendations are among some key strategic tactics when setting out to improve an online image.

There are more social media venues sprouting up every day, but the most famous are Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Pinterest.

The spectrum of what medium is chosen is vast as individual likes and dislikes. Kevin Gallion, sophomore, general business, said he uses Twitter because of its ability to relay more information using hash tags. Gallion said he also generally spends a few hours a day checking out sports and what his friends are up to.

“I just pull out my phone and get on it,” Gallion said.

However, this convenience is not without concerns or security threats.

“People try to steal your information, hackers get into it, the whole ‘catfishing’ craze these days, there are some fears involved,” Gallion said.



Photo courtesy of SaraMargaret Mladenka
SaraMargaret Mladenka, assistant director of student development, presented the workshop.

The social media craze has been in place now for at least five years, and as people become more digitally associated, Mladenka warns, “are your friends really your friends? Be careful who you give your recommendations to.”

The debate continues in this country about privacy concerns and what employers should be able to use when evaluating potential employers.

“I think that as long as employers go in understanding that people are going to be people, you’re allowed a social life, within boundaries. I think that if it’s out there, that’s who you are, and they can accept that,” Mladenka said.

LSUS focuses on concentration, memory

Crystal DuRousseau
STAFF WRITER

Students received pointers on improving concentration and memory at a seminar held by Student Services. Paula Atkins, a counselor at LSU Shreveport for 15 years, hosted the workshop in the administration building.

“Concentration is a prerequisite for memory. In order to concentrate you first have to evaluate your study environment,” Paula Atkins said. “If you think about it we get into these behavioral habits, and memories are created contextually. If I procrastinate, eat dinner, or sleep in a space that is what your body is going to get used to, and concentration goes down.”

Atkins recommended having a space specifically for studying.

“You want a good space that is conducive to concentration,” Atkins said. “Taking care of yourself helps your ability to concentrate. If you are not eating well, sleeping well, managing your stress well, you will not be able to concentrate.”

It is recommended that students have a structure to their study sessions.

“Have planned time with a specific goal, plan your activities commit to intense study activities,” Atkins said. “Don’t just read the book or passively look through your notes.”

Atkins recommends that students have a variety of study techniques like making flash cards, orally reciting important points, and walking around while reciting your notes. Atkins also recommended studying for 35 to 45 minutes and then taking a break.

“Take a small break. This is not go watch a movie time. I am going to come back and review what I just did,” Atkins said. “Did I accomplish my goal? Whatever the goal was you re-evaluate it because if you go on to the next tasks without accomplishing the goal then you are not studying effectively.”

Devoting your study space to studying, as well as having good lighting, ventilation, and a clutter-free environment makes your study space more effective.

“If you haven’t got a good study space, get one. If you do have one, re-evaluate it to make sure it is still meeting your needs,” Atkins said.

Jacob McDowell, freshman, economics, said that the workshops were helpful.



Photos by Crystal DuRousseau
Paula Atkins, director of the student development and counseling center, presented the workshop.

“I learned that in order to improve my memory I need to relearn it over and over again,” McDowell said. “Even if it means going back over material I think I have already learned.”

For more information on other workshops and seminars, contact Paula Atkins in Student Services.



Jacob McDowell, freshman, economics

PELICAN BRIEFS

Workshop encourages positive thinking

College students often get bogged down with stress, especially as the semester begins to wind down. To counter this, the department of student development will host a workshop offering tips about staying positive tomorrow from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in administration room 215.

The workshop is part of the weekly personal development series developed by the department of student development.

The workshop is free and open to all students.

For more information, contact the student development department at 318-797-5365 or stop by administration room 230.

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.

Workshop explores degree, career options

It’s not uncommon for college students to change majors or study for entire semesters without knowing what they want to major in.

In an upcoming career development workshop, the department of career services steps in to help students analyze and evaluate their options in both majors and future career fields.

The program will be presented as a series of steps for students to take to determine the major and career that will best suit them and their skill-set. The program will also inform students of the aid that career services can provide to students with regard to career preparation.

The workshop will be held next Tuesday from 3 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. in administration room 218.

The workshop is part of a weekly series of career development workshops hosted by the department of career services.

For more information, contact the student development department by phone at 318-797-5365 or by email at lsus-career@lsus.edu.

LSUS students get social with new online blog

Ebonie Nelson
STAFF WRITER

The blogging phenomenon is spreading like wildfire across the world, but for LSU Shreveport it has just begun. The Social Blog at LSUS started in the summer of 2013 and consists of three writers: Kristen Howard, junior, public relations; Chelsea Lawson, senior, psychology; and Chaz Coleman, senior, psychology. Each blogger writes about what they feel is important to students.

“In our blogs we try to reach not only the current students, but the prospective and incoming students,” Lawson said.

Lawson and Howard said that blogging is definitely different from anything they have done before, but they are enjoying every minute of it.

“We blog because it’s fun,” Howard said.

Howard said blogging is different from your everyday news. The blog formats are more conversational and flexible as compared to a standard news article. Bloggers want the readers to feel as though they are talking to them.

The three bloggers volunteer their time weekly to post about different subjects that they are familiar with. The Social Blog also tries to add guest bloggers to give a little more diversity to the site.



Howard and Coleman discuss the topics of their upcoming blogs.



The LSUS student blogging team: Kirsten Howard, junior, public relations; Chaz Coleman, senior, psychology; Chelsea Lawson, senior psychology.

Lawson blogs about study habits, stress relief tips, and job related stories. Coleman’s blogs consist of LSUS recreational sports and The Walking Dead television series. Howard’s blogs cover social and everyday lifestyle.

The Social Blog is overseen by Brooke Rinaudo, director of media and public relations. She reviews the content before it is posted, but for the most part the student bloggers

have free rein to blog about anything.

“Even though I do not plan on making this my career, being an elite writer definitely looks good on my resume,” Lawson said, “and will help in my future career as a lawyer.”

For more information, or to read the blogs, visit www.lsusblog.com

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Mouton shows off incredible talent for origami

Jennifer Middleton
STAFF WRITER

It starts with a small rectangle of thick blue paper. She lays the paper against the plastic clipboard in her lap and smoothes it over. She folds the paper in half length-wise, then folds each half over on itself. Then the process of folding and twisting and creasing gets a little faster and a lot more complicated. An artist is creating a masterpiece.

With short, teal-colored hair and several facial piercings, Rebecca Mouton is quite easily recognizable. But perhaps more memorable than her appearance is her talent for making origami. Mouton started her hobby about four years ago. She began because she needed an outlet, a distraction, something to keep her busy. Now a freshman at LSU Shreveport, majoring in psychology, Mouton continues to hone her craft, using books and online tutorials to learn more patterns and develop new techniques.

Mouton holds a purple pen in one hand. “With thick paper I have to use a pen to crease it,” she explains, running the writing tool sideways over the strip of paper she just folded. The pen makes a clack-clack sound as it travels the length of the paper and knocks against the clipboard.

Fold, clack-clack, crease. Fold, clack-clack, crease. It’s almost rhythmic.

She finishes the last fold and sets the paper on the arm of the chair. Then she takes a second strip from the stack beside her and begins the process over again. This particular origami requires twelve pieces of paper total. Mouton finishes the second repetition in silence.

Fold, clack-clack, crease. Fold, clack-clack, crease. “This will take about ten minutes,” she says as she begins folding the third piece.

While she works, Mouton explains a little of the history of origami.

“I actually don’t know a lot about it. I know that early on, one of the things was paper cranes, because there was the idea that if you made a thousand paper cranes, you got a wish,” she explained. There was this girl who was dying, she made them, and she never finished. It was a really big story. I don’t remember what it’s called though, but there’s a book about it.”

The story Mouton referred to is the story of Sadako Sasaki, a girl who survived the atomic bomb in Hiroshima, only to develop leukemia from the radiation later on. While battling the disease, Sasaki made somewhere between one and two thousand paper cranes before she died in 1955. Sasaki’s story is known throughout the world, and the paper crane has since become a symbol of peace. Her family just recently donated one of the cranes to the visitors’ center at Pearl Harbor, and another to the Ground Zero in New York City, where the World Trade Center attacks happened in 2001.

As Mouton finishes the third piece of paper, she notices it’s a little different from the first two. There’s an extra fold.

“Ah, there’s something I haven’t been doing,” she murmurs. Picking up the first two, she adds the fold that she had forgotten.

While she makes the correction, Mouton explains what she does with the origami pieces she creates.

“I sell it at makers’ fairs and anime conventions,” she says. “I recently made like, five hundred dollars at a convention.”

If she wanted to, Mouton could turn selling her pieces into a full-time job, but she explains that she would rather it



Photos by Jenna Glorioso

Samples of Rebecca Mouton’s work from last semester’s Spring Fling.

remain a hobby. When she finishes correcting the first two, she places all three completed strips on the arm of the chair and moves on to the fourth one.

Fold, clack-clack, crease. Fold, clack-clack, crease. The first four strips of paper are all light blue. Now, as Mouton sets aside the fourth completed one, she changes colors, selecting a pastel green piece for the next sequence.

Fold, clack-clack, crease. Fold, clack-clack, crease. Mouton rarely does commissioned work. When people do ask her to make something, she says, it’s usually her friends that make the request, and usually, “they want something for someone’s birthday, and they’re like, ‘Make this in this color.’”

“But that’s only happened a few times,” she continues. “Most of the time people just like to pick from what I have.”

What she has is an extensive collection of paper flowers, ornate-looking cubes, and kusudamas, her most complicated piece. Kusudama is a Japanese word.

“It means flower-ball,” she says, holding up one of the aptly-named pieces. “And it takes about two hours to make one.”

As Mouton explained earlier, she takes her origami to conventions, where she sells it to the other attendees.

“The kusudamas sell for fifteen dollars,” she says. “But an artist in the booth next to me at the convention said that I should be selling them for thirty. But I’m fine with selling them for fifteen.”

Having completed the fifth piece of paper, Mouton sets it with the others and moves onto the sixth.

“It sounds like a lot,” she says, referring to the kusudamas. “But a lot of time goes into [making them].”

Fold, clack-clack, crease. Fold, clack-clack, crease. Mouton moves onto the seventh piece of paper. *Fold, clack-clack, crease. Fold, clack-clack, crease.*

She picks up the eighth piece, the last green one. The remaining four strips are all white.

Fold, clack-clack, crease. Fold, clack-clack, crease. The folded blue and green paper lies waiting on the arm of the chair as Mouton begins the repetition with the ninth strip, the first white one.

Fold, clack-clack, crease. Fold, clack-clack, crease. While she works, she describes the piece she will make with the twelve folded strips.

“It’s called ‘cube with windows,’” she says. “I recently bought some books on origami, and it was one of the designs. I’m making some Christmas ornaments out of them.”

She removes a much smaller one from her bag to show what the finished product will look like. The strips of paper are fitted together to form a cube with a diamond-shaped hole in each of its six sides. This particular cube is made of shiny pink and green paper. A gold cord hangs from one corner, giving it the appearance of an ornament to be hung on a Christmas tree.

She puts it back in her bag so she can continue the project in front of her, and finishes the tenth piece.

Fold, clack-clack, crease. Fold, clack-clack, crease. Mouton explains that when she began making origami, she started with basics. “[I made] paper cranes, flowers, that kind of stuff.”

For a long time, her primary resource was the internet. “I’ve only recently bought any books,” she says. “The internet is a great resource for it.”

She picks up the next strip of white paper and repeats the sequence she’s been doing for the past eight minutes.

Fold, clack-clack, crease. Fold, clack-clack, crease. “One more piece,” she says at last.

Fold, clack-clack, crease. Fold, clack-clack, crease. Finally, all twelve pieces of paper are folded in the precise pattern needed to make the cube.

“Alright,” Mouton says, “now I assemble it.”

She picks up two of the folded strips and skillfully begins fitting them together. As she adds the other pieces, the cube quickly begins to take shape. She makes it look easy, but Mouton says it takes a while to learn how to do it.

“The assembly was tricky at first,” she says. The three colors that make up the cube look good together. There is nothing special about the way Mouton chooses which colors to use. She simply goes with whatever she thinks would look good.

“Sometimes my sister will help me pick color patterns,” Mouton says. “She’s good with that. She wanted to be a makeup artist.”

Mouton fits the last piece into place and holds up the finished product. “And that’s it.”

Save for color and size differences, the cube looks exactly like its Christmas-ornament counterpart. It’s a very impressive work of art. All of the pieces have been expertly fitted together by Mouton’s skilled hands.

Everyone has something they’re good at. For Rebecca Mouton, it’s origami. For other students, it could be anything that captures their attention. For those considering taking up a hobby, Mouton has this advice.

“Make sure you’re having fun,” she says. “Because it’s gonna be...not fun...if you’re not enjoying yourself.”



Tiny origami swans in small bottles sold by Rebecca Mouton at last semester’s Spring Fling.

Red River Radio: LSU Shreveport’s hidden gem

Elizabeth Murray
SPECIAL TO THE ALMAGEST

There is a place on the edge of campus many students do not know about. That place is Red River Radio Station, located just south of the LSU Shreveport Youree Drive entrance.

Entering the building, you step onto clean dark-wood floors. There is a glare from dangling CDs decorating a small foyer. Another step and to the left there is a modern, white leather couch with today’s newspaper on the smooth, white coffee table. Across from the couch are two matching chairs.

The wall beyond the chairs is a ceiling-to-floor window, through which there is a small audience of empty chairs in a dimly lit room waiting to be entertained by the invisible pianist behind a shiny grand piano. To the right there is a tall, light-wood desk. The head of a bearded man pops up from behind the desk.

“Hello, and welcome to Red River Radio,” he said, pushing his glasses to the bridge of his nose.

That man is Daniel Gordy, LSUS student and assistant radio producer. Gordy also acts as an assistant production for radio personality Bill Beckett for off-location jobs. Gordy began working at Red River Radio just before the station relocated from its original location behind the Pioneer Heritage Center off East Kings Highway in December 2012.

“It’s awesome,” Gordy, still standing behind the desk, said about the new location. “It gives us a lot more flexibility to do what a public radio should—involve the community in radio and produce local artists.”

Red River Radio allows musicians perform on-air for a live audience in the studio behind the glass wall. Through work, Gordy met local musicians like Maggie Koerner and Nick Bromley. Gordy has even mingled with big-name music video producers, and songwriter Michael Garbin whose work includes the song “Waiting For Tonight,” performed by Jennifer Lopez.

Gordy currently produces ‘This Week In Science,’ a news segment where Gordy talks about the week’s scientific breakthroughs and news, and a call-in show Health Matters, that allows listeners can call in and ask a professional about various health topics.

“Red River Radio allows LSUS students and listeners throughout the region to experience a diverse music selection,” Gordy said.

Red River Radio’s slogan—“Great Music, In-Depth News and More”—describes what the member-funded station provides for its listeners since its opening on December 19, 1984. It opened after four years of fundraising by a committee made up of the Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, among others. The LSUS location is Red River Radio KDAQ, the flagship station—where the broadcast is created—and it passes the signal to Red River Radio KLSA, which serves the Alexandria area.

When the station first opened, there were only five full-time employees with about a 50-mile radius of broadcast and around 5,000 listeners. Today, the station covers all of northwest Louisiana from KDAQ to KLSA, six staff members, and has about 150,000 listeners.

Red River Radio spent \$800,000 relocating to a new building across campus. Former LSUS Chancellor Dr. Vincent Marsala offered the building to Red River Radio if the

station was able to raise money to do the renovations.

General Manager Kermit Poling began working at the station in 1985 and watched the station grow.

“The old studios were in poor condition... It had limited production and office space and the equipment was falling apart after 28 years of hard use,” Poling said. “The new studios double the space, provide a much more expanded workspace for production and broadcasting plus office space... The funds were all raised from private contributions and from foundations like the Community Foundation and the Noel Foundation. No state or university funds were used for the renovation or move.”

Red River Radio is an independent branch of National Public Radio (NPR). About two-thirds of the 975 NPR radio stations are affiliated with universities. NPR stations exist to serve the people.

“Commercial stations serve the agenda of their owners and advertisers and ultimately their job is to make a profit for their owners,” Poling said. “In our case, we are a non-profit and since the mission of public radio and most universities have a similar intent—providing a rich source of information, education and culture for their communities—there has always been a natural tie-in for these relationships. The practical reality is that we are ‘owned’ by LSUS (actually the Board of Supervisors of LSU) and we operate both as a department of LSUS and as a separate organization in that we raise all of our own funds. Since the radio station is a university department, this is our space as long as we all exist.”

Poling is not your typical NPR general manager. Poling was born in Cleveland and went to school in Boston. He came here to entertain, but from a different platform.

“I moved to Shreveport in 1985 as the assistant conductor and concertmaster (first violinist) with the symphony,” Poling said. “Initially, radio was a hobby, and I volunteered a lot of time both here and at other stations depending on where I lived.”

He is still associate conductor and the music director of the South Arkansas Symphony. Poling has composed and written film scores and a variety of concert pieces for symphony orchestra. Poling even composed five full-length ballets for ballet companies throughout the U.S. By working at Red River Radio, Poling is able to both entertain and inform his listener audience.

“Red River Radio is a professional twenty-four-hour-a-day operation,” Poling said. “Each day, programs are produced, news is researched and reported, music is recorded and decisions are made that affect what our listeners hear.”

Red River Radio receives almost one million dollars every year from its listeners though call-in pledge drives. The listeners keep the station in business, and the station provides quality broadcasting. This is their unspoken agreement.

“Basically, our listeners are our true owners and our programming reflects the needs of the community,” Poling said.

The station diligently provides a quality of broadcast recognized through the awards that decorate the station walls.

“We have many, many awards, primarily for news coverage,” Poling said. “We have mostly first place awards for best story from the Louisiana and Texas Associated Press. There are also some second place awards that go back to the

90s. Our current news producer, Kate Archer Kent, has won dozens of awards since 2006 [when she joined Red River Radio]. This year, we also won best broadcast website for the state of Louisiana.”

Red River Radio is community-minded—not only does the station give their listeners top-quality broadcasting, it also works to bring live performances to the community.

“Most of our activities are broadcast based and we air a fair amount of locally produced content such as our Community Connections series, including ‘Health Matters,’ ‘Birdcalls,’ ‘What’s Buggin’ You’ [which features LSUS’ own Dr. Burden],” Poling said. “We have also brought performances to town like ‘A Prairie Home Companion’ and the Capital Steps. We are partnering with the Strand to bring David Sedaris to town in October. Also, we annually try to do outreach events in our various communities so we can meet listeners.”

Dr. Beverly Burden is an associate professor of biology at LSUS and has hosted “What’s Buggin’ You” since 1997. The show is a live viewer call-in show where Burden discusses the local thriving insect life of northwest Louisiana and news in the insect world. Burden says she got the idea from listening to a similar show in Madison, Wisconsin while she was doing her Ph.D. research at the University of Wisconsin.

“It is like taking a pop quiz, because I never know what the next caller will ask about,” Burden said. “I am always a little nervous before each show, afraid that I’m going to get stumped and may sound like a fool. It always works out and we have plenty of calls coming in for the hour, but I’m always mentally fatigued after each show. Yet, I always volunteer the next time!”

Burden said she was amazed at the work the station was able to create before the move with the 28-year-old equipment, and the new station was a long time coming.

“Red River Radio is a non-profit at the local and national levels. It is not dictated by the commercial industry,” Burden said. “Because of that, they can bring programs from all genres from music and news to special programming. In addition, the listeners that support the station with monetary pledges also have the opportunity to comment on the programming.”

Red River Radio is open to let anyone in the community to become involved with the station in various ways.

“We are always looking for volunteers, especially during pledge drives,” Poling said. “We can use help with mailings, production, and more...so we encourage folks to call us and get involved.”

Pledge drives usually consist of a wide variety of catered food and wine. During the drives, the phones are constantly ringing, creating a celebratory and fun atmosphere.

“If you listen to the station and enjoy the programming, then please call in during pledge drives and donate, even if it is just a few dollars,” Burden said. “Red River Radio gives you programming that is not offered anywhere else, even the fancy satellite stations.”

If you would like to know more, Red River Radio’s website has the present programming schedule on, as well as information about future shows. The website (www.redriverradio.org) also streams programming live to the listeners.

A degree in criminal justice is not just law and order

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

Krista Wilson
STAFF WRITER

Although criminal justice typically appeals to those who want to be a police officer, work in the courts, or in corrections, there are also many other job opportunities.

Dr. Chris Hale, assistant professor of criminal justice, said that, while not all jobs require a bachelor’s degree, they can still be extremely beneficial. Some of the jobs students can pursue with a criminal justice degree are fraud investigators, ATF agents, law enforcement, and many other interesting careers.

“[Majoring in criminal justice] is interesting work. There’s all kind of positions that are open, so you aren’t pigeonholed into doing one certain thing,” Hale said.

Dr. Bernadette Palombo, professor and chair of history and social science, said that students could become a part of the Innocence Project as a job. This program gets wrongly convicted people out of prison.

“We want students to understand critical thinking, we often react when something happens and come to a conclusion without even having the evidence to show,” Palombo said. “Students do research and course work in learning how

to investigate before jumping to conclusions and we show them how important it is to not draw conclusions until you have enough evidence to show that facts would warrant that conclusion.”

Palombo said there are also several students who have done well with a degree in criminal justice. One student has even become the head of US Marshall Department of Shreveport.

“There is something for everyone because it affects our everyday lives,” Palombo said. “Crimes go from police officers, then to the courts and then to corrections; there’s so much students don’t realize that they need to know.”

There are three different specializations a student can take with a criminal justice degree. Palombo said the first is generalists, for students who are not sure what they want to do with their degree yet. The second is forensic science, for students who are interested in the scientific side, in which these students will need to get a master’s degree in order to become a scientist in this field. The third is a concentration in political science, which focuses on the courts as well as constitutional law.

“If you don’t want to work in police, the courts, or corrections, you can always go on and develop your own



Photo by Krista Wilson

Dr. Chris Hale, assistant professor of criminal justice

non-profit organization to help people in society to address some of their issues with the criminal justice system,” Palombo said.

Hale said some information people would not expect to learn about in criminal justice include homeland security, crime analysis, terrorism studies, and cyber crime.