



Coach Cantwell succeeds in his first season as head baseball coach.

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LSUS hosts summer concert series

Corey Drummond
MANAGING PRINT EDITOR

Shreveport Summer Music Festival Jazz Band plays loud this summer in a concert series hosted by LSU Shreveport in the University Center.

This series spans two weeks and features five performances. Four of these performances are a part of the Shreveport Summer Music Festival Jazz Camp made up of both students and faculty. All five are a part of the Shreveport Summer Music Festival.

Christopher Allen is the founder of the Jazz Camp, and also plays double bass in the band. Playing music since the age of twelve, Allen has been blazing a career for himself, most recently as a featured soloist with the Marshall Symphony Orchestra.

The Jazz Camp hopes to enhance local music education programs, and improve the musical knowledge, skills, and performances of all student participants. Allen leads the jazz band in the concert series hosted by LSUS.

Tuition for the camp sits at \$150 a week, a hefty sum for some. “It does cost quite a bit of money to make this happen, to get coaches going, and only part of the tuition goes to support that,” Allen said.

Featured in the band is Alden Moore, 11 years old. Playing the drums in the jazz band, Alden describes what it has been like for him to be a part of this program.

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Larry Clark meets students

Christopher Talerico
DIGITAL MEDIA DIRECTOR

A full day of events filled the new chancellor of LSU Shreveport’s schedule on his first day of work.

Dr. Larry Clark made rounds on Tuesday, July 1 to the campuses of Southern University, BPCC, and LSUS where he spoke with students and faculty about his plan for the future of LSUS.

“We’re here because of the students. We ought to be attending to those things that matter to students,” Clark said, a sentiment that was echoed often.

In the morning, Dr. Clark visited BPCC and SUSLA where they discussed how they all could help their campuses by working together.

“Having two-plus-two articulation agreements that are well-defined, so the student loses no credit hours in the transition [is important]. How we would seek to create further scholarships for both SUSLA and BPCC students to come over here,” Clark said.

However, each campus has unique challenges, and Clark will occasionally “make people uncomfortable,” with the frankness which he discusses these issues. When speaking with the faculty at SUSLA, Clark braved the issue of race – an arguably bold choice on one’s first day.

“We do not reflect the community nearly as much as we should or could. And I think this university needs to be a part of those conversations,” Clark said.

And Clark is aware how much work he has to do to alleviate that issue through collaboration with the students, faculty, and staff of SUSLA.

“At Southern University, the perception of black students who may come from SUSLA to over here may not be comfortable,” Clark said. “There’s a level of trust that has to be built up. That it’s truly about wanting to be engaged with them, and collaborate with them. And I think they sensed that.”

But Clark has a story to demonstrate many points pulled from his life. “In the 80s I wrote a letter to the edi-



Photo Courtesy of Brooke Rinaudo

Dr. Larry Clark assuming role as chancellor of LSUS.

tor when the cotton fields were still between us and 70th street... And I suggested the cotton fields be preserved in some way because of how unique cotton was to the South. And I got grilled royally by the black community who said that there was nothing good about those cotton fields as far as they were concerned,” Clark said.

“And there was nothing good about this Southeast corner of Shreveport in the lives and the culture of the black community. It woke me up to the fact of something that I was missing as a Yankee coming down here that to me cotton was a farm product. I thought it was unique, but it brought me to realize I was missing something.”

Clark has put a lot of things on hold to start work immediately. For instance, his office is mostly bare, with piles of folders filled with paper. The only thing of his in the office is a sculpture made for him as a farewell present of two metal sailboats fashioned to a marble block –a testament of the appreciation and care felt between two departing parties.

Returning home has meant its own ad-

justment.

“It’s a little eerie to be quite honest. I can think I know something, because I was here from ‘81-’94...and I’ve been back here a fair amount. I’ve been reading the times since it’s gone online. So I’m pretty informed about what’s going on over here, but I’ve not been here,” Clark said. “So I think I can know something, and I don’t know it because I don’t have the context. And it’s a little eerie to say ‘do I know what I know or do I not know what I know?’”

He does not struggle with this bewilderment but instead embraces it.

“I’m loving it...I’m loving it.”

He is obviously pleased to be here, but he understands the responsibility of his office as well.

“The first trip back, and I’m now designated the chancellor. About 10 o’clock at night I went over to that flagpole [outside], and I touched that flagpole. And I said how privileged am I to be the chancellor here, and my next thought was don’t screw it up.”

Tennis and Cross country join the pilots



Photo by Corey Drummond

Chad McDowell, athletic director, also coaches the men and women’s cross-country teams.

Corey Drummond
MANAGING PRINT EDITOR

Pilots welcome Men and Women’s Cross Country to LSU Shreveport. Since its establishment last year, it is gaining speed along with Women’s Tennis as athletics programs that demand attention.

Introduced last year, Men and Women’s Cross Country teams competed statewide, and quite successfully for being implemented so quickly into the athletic department.

Chad McDowell, athletics director of LSUS, is currently leading the cross-country teams with motivational assistance from Dr. Terry Harris, faculty athletics representative.

“[McDowell] wanted me to be the coach for the cross-country teams because of my running background and experience. Officially I cannot do that. As the Faculty Athletics Representative, I’m responsible for eligibility of athletes,” Harris said. “That doesn’t mean I can’t advise the team. We were just getting our feet on the ground with cross-country this past year.”

The teams consist of former soccer players deciding to run for cross-country and some volunteers. McDowell brought six runners to each meet, which is the minimum requirement for a cross-country competition. Thankfully for the women’s team, they had exactly six members available to

run. The men’s team had a few more to spare.

“We are excited about sponsoring Men and Women’s Cross Country. What we are not excited about, or proud about, is the way it did come about. It was the sport that replaced Men and Women’s Soccer due to budgetary reasons,” McDowell said.

With cross-country, there is not nearly the amount of scholarship dollars or travel and uniform expenses required of soccer. The athletic department’s budget is driven almost exclusively by student athletics fees. It is an unfortunate casualty of budgetary restraints, but the athletics department could not be more enthusiastic about the possibilities that cross country can bring to LSUS.

“We’ve already had students approach us interested in running this year. We are competing for our second year and hopefully it’ll continue to grow and continue to build,” McDowell said. “For the time being, I will remain the coach of the teams. If there is an interested community member that would love to volunteer their time to give our cross-country men and women a little better coaching, I’ll welcome their phone call.”

Women’s Tennis is another athletics program offered by LSUS that hasn’t gotten the attention it deserves, despite being a part of the campus for five years.

Three years ago, Dragana Colic Moran, who played tennis at Northwestern University, worked as a graduate as-

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Cantwell leads baseball his first season

Corey Drummond
MANAGING PRINT EDITOR

Al Cantwell leads the Pilots in a successful season during his first year as the new Head Coach for Men's Baseball at LSU Shreveport. After many years of leading the LSUS Pilots men's baseball team, Locke Musgraves announced his plan to leave last year. Out of over 85 applicants, one stood out among the group. Cantwell was the leading candidate to replace Musgraves, and through his persistence, he was awarded the position of head coach.

"This job wasn't a position in need of saving. There wasn't a big culture change that needed to be had. I think there was one of many coaches that could have come in and been successful with this group," Cantwell said. "I slowly tried to integrate myself into the team instead of trying to make 60 people come to me."

Dr. Terry Harris, faculty athletics representative, feels Cantwell is perfect for the position. "In part, he was the best choice because he was so familiar with [LSUS]. He knew what he was getting into and he knew the challenges, but he still wanted [the position]," Harris said.

Chad McDowell, athletics director, outlines numerous qualifications for what a head coach should offer to the Pilots. These include a proven track record, someone who cares more about academic success than baseball success, and a positive relationship with the community, media, and colleagues.

According to McDowell, Cantwell has all of these qualifications and more. He points out Cantwell has a Master's Degree plus 30, with two of his degrees coming from LSUS.

"We've found one of the most passionate coaches I've ever met, his work ethic is second to none, and he has no clock. He works, he serves, he invests in others, he takes a quick cat nap at night for a few hours, and he does it again the next day," McDowell said.

Of course, he has to bring up the scary words. Budget issues and fundraising are also important factors of the position, and McDowell believes Cantwell has a proven track record of generating outside revenue while simultaneously pursuing new ideas.

The athletics budget rests almost entirely on student athletics fees. Times are tough all around,



Photo Courtesy of Mark Cantrell

Allen Cantwell leads the Pilots in his first season as Head Coach of Men's Baseball

but McDowell has faith that Cantwell will persevere.

Cantwell has a deep history with LSUS, making his appointment even more obvious. Not only did he earn his Master's Degree while playing baseball as a Pilot, he eventually served as the Assistant Baseball Coach under Musgraves early in his career. Then, he served as the Sports Information Director for the Athletics department.

Even during his six-year tenure as the head coach of C. E. Byrd High School's baseball team, he was linked to LSUS, as that team used the field directly adjacent to the Pilot's field.

"I've been here 14 years now. I've lived in the same three-mile radius over the last 14 years. While I was here, I got to see Byrd High School grow, and then while I was there, I got to continue to be a part of and see how LSU Shreveport was growing as well," Cantwell said.

It seems the team has also adjusted well to Cantwell's coaching style, which involves a push for players to excel in the classroom as well as on the field.

James Sloan, senior, general studies, joined the baseball team the same year Cantwell was appointed head coach. He feels the team did well in Cantwell's first season leading the team, describing his coaching style as efficient.

"I think that guys like Coach Cantwell make things very personal with them. They know that it is about more than baseball. It is about guys getting their degree, and it is about good character. He takes a lot of pressure off of having to be the best baseball player you can be," Sloan said.

Cantwell is currently signing future players to the LSUS Men's Baseball team in preparation for their next season.

CONCERT cont.

"Playing with all the great musicians, I have never done that before, but it was really fun," Alden said. "I dropped the stick, so I played one-handed. I've done that before."

Shalana Moore, mother of Alden Moore, explains how her son became a part of the band and how he has reacted to this experience.

"I got an email from his private teacher. Mr. Allen sent out a mass email letting everyone know they were needing a drummer," Moore said. "When I got the email, I signed on right away because I want [Alden] to have that experience playing in a jazz ensemble. He's loved every minute of it. He comes home excited about all of the songs, and he wants to do it again."

Moore believes music is very important to the youth.

"All the studies show music increases their brain activity, helps them engage in mathematics, and I think all children should have that exposure," Moore said.

Sherri Barber, relative to Moore, explains her interest in the concert performance.

"I really feel like it will enrich our community and culture in the Shreveport area. It will expose them to so much of what is needed in our community," Barber said.

Moore understands the importance of music and its universal appeal. She feels it offers an advantage to those who seek to be involved in

producing music.

"Music touches everyone, it is an international language. Everyone understands the beat, and it will encourage all children to engage. It is a wonderful extra curricular activity, and is something you can enjoy for a lifetime. You can't get too old to engage in music and I love that," Moore said.

The series rounds off with a performance from the Trio Eclectic at the Red River Radio Station.

All concerts are free to the public, and the community is invited to come and share in this music experience showcasing local talent of all ages.

ATHLETICS cont.

sistant and asked then athletic director Doug Robinson if she could help with the tennis program. This past year, on a part time basis, she led the team as the head coach.

"They have done an excellent job. I couldn't be more pleased with their efforts and the efforts of our girls. Several of the tennis players are for-

mer soccer players who have adapted and gained a love of tennis and are really enjoying themselves," McDowell said.

According to McDowell, all sports are difficult to attract high quality athletes without significant scholarship dollars, so considering the team has gained the attention of great players is

extraordinary.

Both tennis and cross-country are still comparatively new to LSUS, considering baseball and basketball have existed since the athletic departments' establishment in 1990. However, they have a lot to offer students and are beginning to grow and find a place in the campus.



VOLUME LXV, ISSUE 1

Executive Producer
Hannah Sprawls
Managing Print Editor
Corey Drummond
Video Producer
Kaylynn Henry
Digital Media Director
Christopher Talerico

Louisiana State University Shreveport
Bronson Hall, Room 344
One University Place
Shreveport, LA 71115
phone/fax: (318) 797-5328
e-mail: almagest@lsus.edu
www.almagestlsus.com