



It's not just  
vampires that  
want your blood.  
LifeShare hosts on-  
campus blood drive.  
—Pg. 4

“INTELLIGENCE PLUS CHARACTER-THAT IS THE GOAL OF TRUE EDUCATION.” - Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Gina Starnes leaves LSUS for Bangladesh

**Julie Thomas**  
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

LSU Shreveport faculty member, Gina Starnes has been selected as the new director of career and professional development at an all-women's university in Chittagong, Bangladesh.

Starnes served as director for Career Services at LSUS for the past five years. In her time at LSUS, she established the Career Pilot website and guided many students on their way to success. Starnes hopes to do the same for the 541 students that attend the Asian University for Women.

“I am going to miss working with Gina so much, she is literally the most professional person I have ever had the pleasure of working with and for,” said Sarah Bare, temporary assistant to the director. “I consider Gina my professional mentor and will definitely keep in touch with her over the years she is gone.”

Starnes was presented this opportunity and after much discussion with her family and interviews with the vice chancellor of the Asian University for Women, Starnes accepted the position.

“I am really looking forward to working with women from all over the world and watching their interactions with each other,” Starnes said. “This is really the melting pot of cultures and many of these women are natural born enemies coming from countries

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Photo by Crystal Vandegriff

Interim Chancellor Dr. Paul Sisson and LSU Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Dr. Gil Reeve took audience questions about the ONE-LSU Commitment Plan, focusing on the new degree programs the plan will bring to LSUS.

## LSUS commits to new programs

**Crystal Vandegriff**  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

LSU Shreveport faculty members, students, and future students crowded together on the third floor of the Noel Memorial Library on Feb.7 to get answers to their questions regarding the ONE-LSU commitment plan and what it means for the future of LSUS.

Interim Chancellor Dr. Paul Sisson served as host for the night. The main focus of the night was on the five new “collaborative” degree programs between LSUS and LSU in Baton Rouge. The five collaborative degree programs are petroleum engineering, sports administration, construction management, international studies, and human resource education.

“If you’ve been reading in the newspaper, you’ve been hearing on the TV and radio, this is a time of massive change for higher

education in the state,” Sisson said. “LSU is embracing the need for change and I’m happy to say that this commitment plan, what we call the LSUS commitment plan, is really a model for many of the other very big, very comprehensive changes that the LSU system in particular is tackling. Everyone in the LSU system has been involved in this.”

To discuss the five new collaborative degrees, Sisson invited LSU Vice-Provost Dr. Gil Reeve to the podium.

“The interest in these programs is multi-purpose, Dr. Jenkins [president of the LSU system] is very committed to expanding access to higher education through the delivery of programs online and these programs have online courses,” said Reeve, who is in charge of academic affairs at LSU. “Secondly, he’s very interested in economic development and workforce development and these programs are related to both the economic and work-

force needs of the area of Shreveport, specifically. And finally, I think you should appreciate the fact that these programs are some of the most popular degree programs we have at LSU. Two of these are rapidly expanding programs that are busting at the seams.”

Reeve then introduced the LSU faculty members responsible for each of the new degree departments.

As part of explaining what the commitment plan is, Sisson listed the commitments LSUS made as part of this plan and noted the level of completion each commitment has reached.

“We committed in that plan to doing a comprehensive survey to find out how we’re doing. Do our students, current students at LSU Shreveport, think that we are meeting their needs?” Sisson asked. “We did administer a well-known national survey—satisfaction survey—to our students in the fall and we

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## University polices campus, keeps students safe



Rebecca Chiles, university police chief

**Ebonie Nelson**  
STAFF WRITER

With recent shootings in schools across the country, safety is at the forefront of many on-campus minds.

In the event of an active threat on campus, University Police suggest that you exit the building immediately and notify anyone else you may encounter. Report to the nearest Emergency Call Box and notify the LSUS University Police Department. If a call box is not accessible, you can notify them at #999 or 455-5497 from your cell phone. The call boxes are tested once a month and have an estimated response time of less than a minute.

“We have several ways to notify the university in the event something should happen. We have a campus-wide P. A. sys-

tem, text message, e-mail, Twitter, and Facebook,” said University Police Chief Rebecca Chiles. “Basically, anywhere to give out information.”

LSUS University Police currently has eight officers, that all have several years of experience on the force. They are trained and ready to respond to an active shooting or incident if the situation arises. Security personnel are on duty 24 hours a day, patrolling and monitoring campus grounds, buildings, and parking lots. A security escort service is available when there are medical or safety concerns.

“Our number is on the side of the emergency vehicles, if needed,” said Officer Leonard Bonnette.

LSUS University Police is committed to creating a safe living, learning, and working environment for students, faculty,

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Letters to the editor are encouraged. However, the staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity, length, and content. Any letter submitted by a club or organization must be signed by all members of the group or by the group's president. Letters should be e-mailed or submitted to the *Almagest* office, BH 344, by 5 p.m. on the Friday preceding the Thursday publication date. Please type the letter and include your classification and major. *The Almagest* reserves the right not to publish submitted materials. Obscene, libelous and anonymous letters will not be printed.

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According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, a retraction is a public statement, either in print, or by verbal statement that is made to correct a previously made statement that was incorrect, invalid, or in error. The intent of a public retraction is to correct any incorrect information. *The Almagest* holds all rights if deemed necessary to retract such statements made, and shall, at will. Retraction notices should be made by e-mail or phone.



LSUS students get creative with *Spectra*

Morgan Marshall  
STAFF WRITER

Do you enjoy poetry? Are you a writer? If so, *Spectra* is the magazine for you.

*Spectra* is an annual creative writing magazine which encourages students with literary ambition to publish their work. It has been around for many years, going in and out of publication depending on factors such as student interest or money.

Mariah Gilbert, senior, English, is currently the editor of *Spectra*.

“My involvement with *Spectra* began last year when I was on the editorial board for the magazine,” Gilbert said. “I was very excited to become the editor for *Spectra* this year. I have always been impressed by the quality of creative work some people are able to produce.”

Right now, *Spectra* is currently taking submissions until March 19.

The number of submissions accepted varies with each individual year.

“With all the growth and exposure to new ideas, new people, and new experience in college, I believe that the literary geniuses of tomorrow will really begin to develop their abilities now,” Gilbert said. “Publications like *Spectra* are important in regard to encouraging students to take a chance and publish their work. I love that *Spectra* is open to students from any area. I love that *Spectra* is open to students from any area—a biology

major with a keen sense for writing sonnets could still publish their work. You do not have to be an English or liberal arts major to submit your writing.”

*Spectra* is usually passed around campus, but this year it will be published both in print and online. The print copies will still be distributed around campus and the online version will most likely be available through the LSU Shreveport website.

“Last year, *Spectra* was published with 15 poems and 5 prose works,” Gilbert said. “However, there is not a cut-off number for the works we will accept. If the piece passes with consensus from the editorial board, it will be published. We would love to have *Spectra* published this year with the largest amount of submissions yet.”

Elizabeth Murray, junior, media journalism is looking forward to the next publication of *Spectra*.

“I really enjoy writing,” Murray said. “I’m glad that *Spectra* is here for students to be able to get their work to the student body easily. I’ve been working on a few pieces to submit to the magazine, they still need a little work so hopefully they’ll be ready by the deadline.”

If a student wishes to submit their work for consideration in *Spectra* they must e-mail their piece, whether poem or short story, to Dr. Baarsch, *Spectra*’s faculty advisor, at [jbaarsch@lsus.edu](mailto:jbaarsch@lsus.edu).



Photo by Crystal Vandegriff

*Spectra* magazine is free to students and will be available both online and in print around the campus.

Fraternity hosts luncheon for LSUS staff, faculty members



LSU Shreveport’s newest fraternity, Tan Kappa Epsilon, hosted a luncheon on Wednesday for members of LSUS’s faculty and staff.

Left, Darlenna Atkins, registrar, Katie Simpson, director of admissions, Kimberly Thornton, director of student activities, Jill Mole, administrative coordinator 3, Carole Eleuterius, administrative coordinator 3. Lower left, Mary Jarzabek, instructor of communications, Cody King, senior, finance. Below, Dr. Cran Lucas, professor of biology.

Photos by Jenna Glorioso



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# LSUS overcomes procrastination

**Mercedes Taylor**  
STAFF WRITER

Having trouble with school? The counseling services center at LSU Shreveport is running a series of workshops to aid in student development.

Last Wednesday, a seminar on academic listening and note-taking was held in the UC at Common Hour and at 5p.m. Hosted by Piper Shaw, graduate student, counseling psychology, she went over how to listen and not just hear, and what techniques student can use to retain more information in the classroom.

“These workshops help students learn new skills,” Shaw said. “Life skills that are useful in and out of college.”

Currently the counseling services center here at LSUS is hosting a series of these workshops throughout the rest of the spring semester. These workshops are intended to increase skills that students might be lacking in. The seminars have a wide range of speakers to help host the workshops and interact with the students. Paula Atkins, director of student development and counseling, overseeing these workshops mentions that students who miss these workshops can schedule an appointment for one-on-one, individual tutoring on skills that the student might need help in.

“Everyone can benefit from the workshops, whether you aren’t doing well with certain skills or you are,” Atkins said. “We are here to help students develop skills in order to be successful.”

“There is a big difference between listening and hearing,” Shaw said. “Students who listen retain more information, understanding these differences can really help



Photo by Mercedes Taylor

Piper Shaw, graduate student, counseling psychology

a student that is struggling.”

There will be workshops on different subjects each week. If students are interested in finding out what workshops are coming up next they can contact Paula Atkins at [paula.atkins@lsus.edu](mailto:paula.atkins@lsus.edu) or by phone at 318-797-5365. Students can find the list of current and future workshops on the LSUS website under news and events.

STARNES cont.



Photo courtesy of Gina Starnes

Gina Starnes, director of Career Services for the last five years

opposing each other because of politics, religion, geography, but they will have to come together, work together, and become friends.”

Many of the women attending the university have traveled from neighboring countries, including Cambodia, Sri Lanka, China, and India, to attend in hopes of receiving an education. Women’s rights, even in education, are still developing in these countries.

The women must be fluent in English and have the same academic credentials as any other student attending a college in the United States. Many of the women are the first in their villages to attend a university and some may not be allowed to return because of their newfound education.

“I am not nervous about moving. I have lived in the Middle East before and you learn to adapt to the country, not the other way around,” Starnes said. “I am planning on learning Bengali, which is the native language of Bangladesh.”

The university is funded by private donations as well as donations from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, IKEA, Rockefeller Foundation, and the U.S. State Department. The fundings allow women a free education that would otherwise cost \$15,000 a year tuition per student. The funds also cover living arrangements for the faculty and staff, housing professors from Yale and Harvard. Starnes accepted a renewable contract for two years and will be given a base salary along with a fully furnished apartment equipped with a maid service.

Starnes’ last day holding a position at LSUS will be February 15 and her last day in the country will be Feb. 22. Currently no one has been hired to replace Starnes, but LSUS is actively looking for a replacement to head the Career Services Department.

COMMIT cont.

were very happy, not surprised but very happy, to see that they are extremely satisfied and the culminating question of that survey is ‘If you had to do it all over again, would you come to LSU Shreveport?’ and the answer was an emphatic ‘yes.’”

Sisson then moved on to other details of the commitment plan.

“Another detail of the plan, we had said that we would begin an honors college this year. I’m very happy to say that we began that in the fall semester,” Sisson said. “It has picked up and become very popular right away. I think that the enrollment in that honors program will definitely increase as we move forward.”

Sisson also spoke of new LSUS-centric degree programs that are currently being developed.

“There are a number of LSUS-specific degree programs that we committed to designing and submitting and getting through the approval process. I’ll mention them now: they are all at various levels of approval, at various stages of the approval process,” Sisson said. “Those programs, so far, are a master’s in history, a master’s in criminal justice, a bachelor of fine arts and digital arts, and the one that is maybe most exciting, and certainly demanding the most work is a doctorate in education. Again, those are well-underway, we’ve done a bunch of the hard work already and [have them] at various stage of approval.”

To conclude the discussion, Sisson and Reeve took specific questions from audience members about the implementation of the plan.

After the open-house, attendees were invited to browse the tables set up to detail each of the new collaborative degrees.

POLICE cont.

and staff. For more information the department’s headquarters and administrative offices are located in the Administration Building, Room 124. If you need to contact them call 318-797-5082, or 318-455-5497 after hours.



Photo by Ebonie Nelson

Emergency call-boxes are located around the campus.

## PELICAN BRIEFS

### Suicide prevention conference at LSUS

Students interested in learning how to aid in suicide prevention are welcome to attend the 7th Annual Suicide Prevention Conference.

The conference will be hosted in the UC 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday. There will be an intermission for lunch, which will be provided for attendees.

The conference will focus on how to recognize the signs that someone may be considering suicide and how to reduce adolescent bullying. Conference attendees will also learn about suicide prevention resources and how the coroner’s office investigates potential suicide deaths.

The event is to be hosted by the LSU Shreveport Division of Continuing Education and the Northwest Louisiana Suicide Prevention Coalition.

Pre-registration is required and can be completed by phone at 318-798-4177, online at [www.ce.lsus.edu](http://www.ce.lsus.edu), or by stopping by the continuing education office.

For more information, contact Cheryl Irvin at [cheryl.irvin@lsus.edu](mailto:cheryl.irvin@lsus.edu).

### Open-mic Common Hour in the University Center

LSU Shreveport students are invited to showcase their artistic abilities at Open-Mic Common Hour.

The event is a way for students to gain experience and learn to be more comfortable in front of a live audience.

Open-Mic Common Hour is sponsored by the Student Activities Board and will be held Feb. 27 during Common Hour in the UC Port.

For additional information on student life and Student Activities Board events, visit [www.lsus.edu/student-life](http://www.lsus.edu/student-life).

### SDCC to help students prepare for exams

The LSU Shreveport Student Development and Counseling Center is offering an academic workshop designed to prepare LSUS students for exams.

The workshop will be Feb. 27 during Common Hour in room 215 of the Administration building. The workshop will give students advice on time management skills, how to reduce test anxiety, and helpful test-taking skills.

For those unable to attend the workshop during Common Hour, the presentation will be repeated at 5 p.m. the same day in the University Center’s Red River Room.

For more information, contact Paula Atkins at 318-797-5365 or visit the Student Development and Counseling Center’s website, <http://www.lsus.edu/offices-and-services/student-development-and-counseling-center>.

### LSUS Career Services hosting workshops

LSU Shreveport Career Services is offering a series of professional profile workshops, spanning multiple topics to aid students who are preparing to enter the workforce.

The next workshop in the series will be held Monday during Common Hour in room 215 of the Administration building. The topic will be “Employer Spotlight: The First Year on the Job.” The lectures last roughly an hour.

For more information, contact Career Services at 318-797-5062 or visit the Career Services website, <http://www.lsus.edu/offices-and-services/career-services>.

### LSUS to host Black-Ops gaming tournament

LSU Shreveport recreational sports will host a Call of Duty: Black-Ops 2 gaming tournament during Common Hour on Feb. 27.

Participants are invited to bring their own X-Box 360 controller. The winner will receive a grand prize.

Participants must sign-up by 10 a.m. on the day of the tournament.

For more information, contact Angel Martin at [angel.martin@lsus.edu](mailto:angel.martin@lsus.edu) or visit the University Center office.



# LSUS organizations get their fair treatment



Photos by Jenna Glorioso

Above, Sayrish Khan, the Maps club representative, talks to Keke Elis, sophomore. Right, the LSUS quidditch team proudly displays their jersey, bearing their team name: the “Fantastic Beasts.”



Montana Davis  
STAFF WRITER

LSU Shreveport’s organizations and clubs crowded together to showcase for students what they had to offer. The Student Organization Fair - usually held during freshman orientation strictly for new students - was offered to all levels of students and faculty on Monday.

The fair was held in the newly renovated University Center Ballroom and, though the event began with a slow start, students steadily poured into the room during Common Hour. They soon filled the atmosphere with laughter and many questions.

“I just transferred, so this is my first time. I really like learning about all the organizations since I’m new to the community,” said Keke Elis, sophomore.

Joe Valentine, president of the Rotoract club, agreed that the whole event does help the various clubs as a lot of their members are recruited by presenting at this event.

Greek fraternities and sororities, such as Zeta Beta Phi, Phi Lamb, and Alpha Epsilon Delta, consumed the majority of the floor space during the event. Even LSUS’s newest Greek society, Tan Kappa Epsilon, had a few members advertising.

The official university quidditch team’s table, which drew a rather large audience, included three towering “goals” and team

jerseys. This was their first time ever showcasing at the fair.

The improv group “Just Say Anything” passed out colorful yet random binder clips to people at their table. The reason for the simple clips was that it was the group’s own humorous way to “pledge” to improv, mimicking the badges Greek organizations give to their own new pledges.

Though many people passed through the fair, some club members were doubtful it would be a success.

“Freshman Orientation is a whole day for people to come by. This one is on a Monday, during midterms, and a lot of students are in the library instead,” said Latonya Washington, president of Alpha Kappa Alpha.

But even with all of the midterm tension, many students found time to take a look.

Chelsea Parrie, junior, smiled energetically throughout the fair and recruited new girls for the dance squad. She confirmed that the LSUS danceline is thriving and welcoming new members. The team is self-funded and is a combination of both cheerleading and dance.

Faculty and students were also given free hotdogs and candy while looking at the various and unique student organization presentations.

# LSUS students share life with LifeShare blood drive

Jennifer Middleton  
STAFF WRITER

Students were encouraged to stop by the LifeShare bus and donate blood on Monday. LSU Shreveport hosted a LifeShare blood drive event on campus from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. LifeShare visits the LSUS campus anywhere from three to five times per year, according to a donor tech named Denise.

“Our goal when we come is twenty five [students],” Denise said. “Sometimes a few more, sometimes a few less.”

After the first hour of Monday’s blood drive, donor tech Anthony Turner reported that the turnout was a little lower than usual.

“I think it’s just because...I don’t know if we’ve been broadcast all over the school, as we usually are,” Turner said.

There were, however, recruiters on campus to raise awareness about the blood drive.

“The recruiters should be out here to at least tell everybody,” Turner said. “And I know they probably have restrictions on going into the classrooms to ask for volunteers.”

Students volunteering to give blood are given an information packet that explains the process. The packet outlines the process of giving blood and explains the risks involved. The packet also contains a list of medications that may affect blood donors and a list of precautions for students to take after donating blood.



Photos by Jenna Glorioso

Above, LifeShare donor tech Anthony Turner instructs Austin Wiseman, sophomore, finance and marketing, on healthy follow-ups to giving blood. Below, the LifeShare bus welcomes student donors.

