



LSUS wakes the dragon for a Chinese New Year celebration.  
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English club revamps club, constitution

Jennifer Middleton  
STAFF WRITER

The LSU Shreveport English Club kicked off the new semester with a few big changes, and plans for several new events.

Janet Sherwin, a graduate student who earned her English degree in December, explained some of the changes the English Club has made.

“We have restructured the organization. We rewrote the constitution, we reorganized how we’re going to hold the meetings,” Sherwin said. “We want more student and faculty involvement. Specifically we want to merge, so that the faculty is involved, and the students get to know the faculty, and everybody talks about literature, but has fun at the same time, so that it doesn’t feel too academic and too overwhelming for anybody.”

Although the English Club meetings are primarily attended by English majors, Sherwin made it clear that everyone is invited to come.

“It’s open to people of all majors, to [both] graduates and undergraduates,” she said.

Sherwin also explained the purpose of the new constitution.

“To be an official LSUS organization you have to have a constitution and you have to have at least ten standing members and a faculty advisor,” Sherwin said. “One of the things that hadn’t been done in many years was a revising of the

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Chancellor candidates plan visit

Christopher Talerico  
STAFF WRITER

The four short-list candidates for LSU Shreveport chancellor will be on campus next week for a tour and meet-and-greet.

The short-list is the final narrowing down of a process that began in 2012.

“Although it seemed to be a long process, there were outside factors that extended the process,” said Mary Jarzabek, faculty senate president.

The short-list candidates begin touring the campus next Monday and will conclude that Thursday.

“It’s as much an interview process as it is a fact-finding process for the candidates. This is to figure out if they’re going to fit. They want to visit the campus. They want to meet some of the key players,” Jarzabek said. “F

King Alexander needs a chance to interview them with a couple representatives from the [system] supervisors before they make they’re final decision. So it’s a give and take process.”

Interim Chancellor Dr. Paul Sisson was once a candidate, but is not on the short list.

“I have mixed feelings, with the only concern being one that I’ve always had and that most faculty, staff, and students also have: I want to make sure we have a highly-qualified person who enters into the job with full knowledge of the challenges ahead,” Sisson said. “On the positive side, my life will be much more pleasant. It has been an honor to serve as Interim Chancellor, but I’ve never been able to say [that] it’s fun.”

The candidates will all meet with various members of LSUS faculty and staff that are in leadership positions. They will speak with

both Sisson and Interim Provost and Vice Chancellor Dr. John Vassar.

The candidates will also speak with the deans of different disciplines, the staff and faculty senate leader, Daniel Miller and Jarzabek, as well as the Representatives of the Alumni Association and members of the LSU System.

“As a faculty senate representative, I’m going to meet with each candidate, and we’re going to assess [his or her] commitment to having a faculty voice in the governance of this university,” Jarzabek said. “As the faculty senate president, I am committed to making sure the faculty are an active and significant voice in the decisions made for the course of this university.”

This represents one of the final steps before selection as the search committee is hoping the new chancellor will be announced over the Summer 2014.



Photo by Christopher Talerico  
Dr. Paul Sisson, interim chancellor, is not a candidate presented on the short-list. Sisson said that his only concern has been, and remains, choosing the person best-qualified for the position.

LSU System President speaks at LSU Shreveport



Photo by Christopher Talerico  
LSU System President Dr. F. King Alexander addressed a crowd of administrators and financial supporters of LSUS and the LSUS Foundation.

Christopher Talerico  
STAFF WRITER

LSU Shreveport was honored to host the LSU System President, Dr. F. King Alexander, Jan. 27 in the Noel Memorial Library for a speech.

Alexander personally informed people of importance to the university what he, as the system president, envisioned for the future of LSUS.

“We have 17,000 alumni in this area. Many of those support both the Baton Rouge and the Shreveport campuses. So we’ve got a lot of great supporters in this area and we need to be here. And we need to be here to let them know that we’re not just in Baton Rouge but we’re all over the state,” Alexander said.

Throughout his speech, Alexander continued to return to the idea of the LSU

System as a single, unified identity, something already visible in the plan to rebrand the various satellite campuses.

“[He] emphasized the fact that we are now a unified system. We’ve always been a system in name. We’ve just not necessarily acted like a system, and we’ve not taken advantage of the fact that we are all a part of one system which has great name recognition,” Interim Chancellor Dr. Paul Sisson said.

Opening with a few jokes about the cold weather, Alexander got to business highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of both the LSU System and LSUS specifically.

“His knowledge of educational trends and the [budgetary] situation with higher education, both nationally and [with] the state, is very deep,” Sisson said. “And it’s not just our own situation, which we know very well, but how it relates to the country as a whole.”

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Political science cut affects more than classes



Alexandra Meachum

From the Editor's Desk

The crisp air and cold days welcome the new spring semester at LSU Shreveport and as students settle into new classes and coursework some may notice one undergraduate degree has disappeared from the curriculum. This disappearance is that of political science. The undergraduate program was eliminated last semester at LSUS along with several other sweeping cuts to college programs throughout the state. The Board of Regents decided to terminate programs deemed having "low completion rates." Meaning the amount of graduates each semester did not equal to state standards. Even though LSUS scored extremely close to the target number of six, with a number equaling to about 5.2 to 5.3, according to political science professor Jeffrey Sadow. The total was still not adequate in the eyes of the board members. All is not lost though, because the program will continue on as a concentration under criminal justice and history. It will also continue to be an

available minor and previously enrolled students will be grandfathered through for graduation. So options still exist at LSUS for students to learn about political science and the same professors, William Pederson and Jeffrey Sadow, will carry on teaching it. Consequences of losing the major also exist because it creates an absence in available classes each semester. This poses problems for upper-level students looking to graduate in the coming semesters, forcing them to either wait for classes to open or take criminal justice and/or history classes to make up the credits. This may not be a problem for some students, but others interested in solely learning about political science may be disappointed. By not allowing the program to continue at LSUS, students are not only deprived of valuable knowledge, but it also constitutes them to look for other colleges with political science programs. LSUS constantly needs new enrollment so decreasing the amount of undergraduate degrees seems counterproductive to that goal, although it was not the LSUS administration that decided the program's fate. It is imaginable that political science would not be the most popular field entering freshmen would choose, unless prospective students had a preference for politics or law before attending college. It is also possible that people may not understand what political science courses detail.

Many assume it might be boring to learn about or mundane to memorize, but from my experience it has been quite the opposite. Learning about politics, systems of national and international governments, judicial and constitutional law, and the philosophies of jurisprudence are meant to not only educate but expand the mind beyond general assumptions. LSUS students can learn more than just the different branches of American government and functions of bureaucracy. Classes cover different political ideologies and invoke questions about how societies can operate at their best. Students can become exposed to clashing political theories and alternative philosophies granting them esoteric knowledge about the world. Taking a political science class may even test a student's own political ideology. Many classes include a mixture of both lecture and seminar, giving students the ability to not only absorb information but also participate in debating about it. Civil, logical debates allow students to understand other's beliefs along with teaching how to articulate their own. Losing the degree program is disappointing and unfair, but thankfully though no jobs were lost in the process. What is lost is opportunity for current and future students to advance their knowledge and skills in an area that demands proficiency as well as increases needed awareness about the world at-large.

NEWS

CLUB cont., constitution."

On the other side of the spectrum from the technical side is the human element relating to their members, which Sherwin also addressed. "We have made a point to make sure that we're more considerate to other students' views and ideas," she said. "A lot of us are English majors, and we love literature. We read literature, and words mean certain things to us. But we've had talks about how not everybody's an English major." The club has several events planned for the semester. On Wednesday, they began with a game. "At our first meeting this semester, we did something that was kind of like Balderdash. [We] came up with a list of obsolete English words and their definitions, and we passed out these words, and everybody had to guess at what [they] meant," Sherwin said. "It was a lot of fun, the faculty paired up with the students, and it went over well." The club meets every other Wednesday, and their next meeting will be on Feb. 12. It will involve a follow-up game they have dubbed "Beyond Balderdash," which will incorporate not only obsolete words, but also pieces of trivia about various aspects of English literature. Later in the month of February, LSUS will host a Poet Laureate, Ava Leavell Haymon. "She is from Baton Rouge. She's going to be here February 19th during Common Hour, on the third floor of the library. And that's going to be an open event to all students and faculty," Sherwin said. The English Club also hopes to expand beyond the LSUS campus. "We're thinking about getting out into the community, and going out into schools and reading stories and things like that," Sherwin said. "We have ideas, as far as community service projects, but nothing really concrete that we've decided on. We want to do more fun events." Ultimately, the English Club's goal this year is to grow. "I think that the best way to grow is to be more inviting," Sherwin said, "and not so closed off as an 'English major group.'"

SPEAKS cont.



Attendees listened closely to Dr. Alexander's address. After his speech, he opened the floor up to questions from audience members. Photo by Christopher Talerico

Alexander noted that even though higher education has faced severe budget cuts from the state over the past six years, there would be a five percent, 40 million dollar increase. However, he stressed the need for colleges and universities across the state to engage in fixing the problems of the state. "We've got supporters here, we've got supporters all over the state. In many ways, we're all the same campus. We all need to collaborate and work much [closer] together so that we can help Louisiana tackle some of its biggest problems and issues," Alexander said. Alexander also spoke of state-wide graduation rates, listing LSUS's graduation rate at 33 percent—a low number, but the highest it has ever been. However, he stressed the need to keep students engaged and active on campus. He followed graduation rates up with expressing that veterans should receive college credit for the courses they took at AIT (Advanced Individual Training), stressing the knowledge and skills to maintain and utilize some of the most sophisticated equipment in existence. This got the attention of an LSU System Supervisor, Ray Lasseigne.

"The one thing that was of particular interest to me were the comments about the...you've got people that have such a specific technical background for what they do," Lasseigne said. "I'm wondering if they shouldn't be given some college credit for the courses they've taken in the military, and would that encourage those people that have a brilliant technical mind to come back to college when they end their military career." The speech ended on a positive note, as Alexander reminded that crowd of the value students receive through the LSU System. Among public colleges and universities, 42-year-old LSU graduates earned more on average than their peers. "It is a phenomenal deal when you realize only 35% percent graduate with debt and that debt is 50% of the national debt. That is phenomenal. And look at how we stack up mid-term how the salaries compare for an LSU grad to even some of the Ivy League schools. And we need to let people know," Lasseigne said. Alexander also expressed support for LSUS to acquire more degree programs and suggesting that Louisiana can be reinvigorated through high-quality public education.



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# Red River Radio looks for some community love

**Ebonie Nelson**  
STAFF WRITER

Red River Radio will host its annual Spring Membership Fund Drive Feb. 8 through Feb. 21.

Red River Radio, a public radio network, serves listeners from Northwest and Central Louisiana, Central East Texas, and South Arkansas.

Membership drives are one of the most efficient ways for Red River Radio to raise support for their programming and it's the primary way listeners become members.

"Since the fund drive is held during Valentine's Day, the theme of the drive is 'Show Your Love for Red River Radio,'" said Kermit Poling, general manager of Red River Radio.

Poling said their goal for this fund drive is to be able to add more local programming and possibly add a new position to the company.

An array of local music, bands, and special guests



Photo by Ebonie Nelson  
Kermit Poling, general manager for Red River Radio

throughout the community will be live in the studio during the drive. Some of those guests will be from Moonbot Studios, Robinson Film Center, Shreveport Regional Arts, the Rapides Symphony Orchestra and more.

The list of local musicians and bands include Buddy Flett, Twang Darkly, Chris Allen and Friends, and several others. Performances will be on air from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

There are no set levels for donation amounts. However, once the pledge is made the listener will be entered in a drawing to win a prize. The prizes range from a bed-and-breakfast trip to a Galaxy Nexus Android tablet, to name just two.

"Thank you" gifts are given from the station once payments have been received. This year mugs, Red River Radio Rubik's cubes and French press packages are among the "thank you" gifts given to the supporters.

One day during the two-week drive, staff and students from LSU Shreveport will help support the drive. The volunteers come to answer phones and record donations.

"Depending on pledge level amounts, new prizes will be offered," Poling said.

Red River Radio hosted its first pledge drive in 1984. Since then donations are used primarily to obtain and produce the radio programs that are heard.

Poling said about 65 percent of the income raised comes from personal contributions. It is the large source of income. 18 percent comes from businesses and 17 percent comes from the public broadcasting community service grant.

The station hosts three pledge drives each fiscal year: one in the fall (October), spring (February), and summer (end of June).

"The spring fund drives tend to be the strongest out of the three," Poling said.

Roughly 90 members from the community join Red River Radio on air. Callers can make pledges from the hours



Photo by Ebonie Nelson

In 2012, Red River Radio relocated across campus to a facility on Youree Drive.

of 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. during the drive.

Listeners can pledge during the drive by calling 1-800-552-8502 or online at [www.redriverradio.org](http://www.redriverradio.org).



## Students learn healthy shopping techniques

The students of LSU Shreveport gathered in the Red River room of the University Center to attend a healthy grocery shopping seminar at Wal-Mart.

Angel Martin, director of recreational sports and student activities, held the lecture Wednesday to better educate students wanting to make a healthy lifestyle change.

"I get a lot of people in my office that have questions, and a lot of times people just come in and sit down and say I want to add healthy weight, what do I do? I'm trying to lose weight, what do I do so it's something I thought would be beneficial for students," Martin said.

— Terrkila Hamilton, staff writer  
[Read more at almagestlsus.com](http://almagestlsus.com)

Photo by Terrkila Hamilton

# No longer blue, LSUS will soon bleed purple

**Malva Chintakindi and Christopher Talerico**  
STAFF WRITERS

LSU Shreveport will soon have a new look. In an effort to unify all satellite campuses under a single identity, LSUS will rebrand.

The change is still in the discussion phase, and very few decisions have definitive answers, though special attention is placed on how these changes will affect the business of education at LSUS.

"We are not changing websites or Moodle or anything like that. The only thing we are going to do as far as making changes are to change the colors. They will see purple instead of blue," said Brooke Rinaudo, director of media and public relations.

The school colors will change from blue and gold to purple and gold, while the logo will have display LSU in gold and an "S" in white to indicate Shreveport on a purple background.

The cost has not yet been determined, and there is a very real possibility that the rebranding process will roll-out in a piecemeal fashion, a little bit at a time.

"We are going to decide depending on the expenses

whether we roll this out a little bit at a time or do it all at once," Rinaudo said. "Money and manpower will be [two] of the biggest deciding factors. We don't know when all the changes would be complete, but I am looking to roll out the changes as early as this year."

One question that has not yet been answered is whether or not LSUS athletic teams will remain the pilots. Part of the problem lies in people's confusion with Pete as a Steamboat pilot.

"There is an opportunity to rebrand if we need to. We can completely stay the pilots and remarket the idea, maybe give Pete a new look and there are different options," Rinaudo said.

Part of the reasoning with rebranding comes from enrollment potential the nationally known brand of LSU carries.

"There are literally two logos without the names of the schools spelled out in the United States that are nationally recognized and LSU is one of them," Rinaudo said. "Giving us that brand and giving us the opportunity to use the logo that will be recognized by so many people will give us an upper hand in recruiting students and showing school pride and people being proud to be a part of LSUS."

Moreover, many members of the Shreveport-Bossier community identify with LSU and would embrace the prestige that comes with it.

"It will give us a great impact on the community and we will be able to share that pride with LSU," Rinaudo said.

The athletic and academic logos will remain constant to avoid confusion. However, the athletics website has already received an online makeover.

"Students are really excited to embrace the change and have been waiting for this [for] a long time. This is something that people have been requesting. Organizations like the SGA are also supportive," Rinaudo said.

The marketing and rebranding of LSUS promises benefits and better student experience. The opportunity to share such an image with the LSU in a whole new integrated system provides a sense of unity to one and all.

"Dr. Alexander who is the system president called and said that since we are going into a more unified one LSU with all LSU entities being better integrated that it just made more sense for us to take on the benefits of the LSU brand," Rinaudo said.



# Petroleum engineering slides closer to Shreveport

**Corey Drummond**  
STAFF WRITER

The petroleum engineering program offered by LSU Shreveport since the fall of 2012 stands apart from its peers with its unique origins. Students enrolled in its program are a part of new statewide initiative to unify the LSU system.

Still in its infancy, the program is going strong but has a lot of room to grow. Many of the courses are taught here, but some of them are required to be taken in Baton Rouge.

“This was not something they told us in the beginning. This is something that developed later when LSUS found out they didn’t have enough faculty to completely cover the courses here,” said Dr. Gary Boucher, advisor to the petroleum engineering program. “LSU in Baton Rouge has had petroleum engineering for many years. They gave us this program as more of an extension. It is an LSU program, but not an LSUS program.”

The program offered courses at LSUS beginning in the fall of 2012. It had a bit of a rough start when it became a part of the curriculum.

Part of the problem was how the program was delivered and how messages were conveyed to students. Many students were not aware or informed that the program required them to shift to the LSU campus.

Students can take the first two-and-a-half years at

LSUS, before requirements dictate a shift to LSU Baton Rouge.

“At a certain point, to graduate and have that program accredited, students have to actually enroll into LSU. They can still take LSUS courses, but now they are an LSU student,” Boucher said.

The student would be required to enroll into LSU because of their specialized labs and equipment that are a part of the field, so students would need to finish the program on site at LSU.

“LSU has top notch facilities, and our LSUS students need the same training in those unique labs as the LSU students. So yes, for students in the PETE [petroleum engineering] program, they transfer down in the middle of their junior year and finish up the degree on site at LSU,” Sisson said.

Switching to the new campus has provided an obstacle for a couple of students pursuing the program according to Boucher. LSU in Baton Rouge demands a higher grade point average to succeed in the program.

“In Baton Rouge, if you have a 2.75 and not a 2.8 GPA, you don’t get into the program,” Boucher said.

LSUS is hosting the program for LSU Baton Rouge as part of a commitment plan. When Louisiana Tech University tried to merge with LSUS a few years ago, they were declined by LSU.

“My impression is that the LSU Commitment Plan was the first step in what has become LSU 2015, a plan to make the LSU system more unified,” said Dr. Cynthia Sisson, chair of the department of chemistry and physics. “Students will find it easier to take classes at other LSU campuses, easier to transfer between campuses, and able to start degrees at one campus and finish at the main Baton Rouge campus.”

LSU 2015 began when the LSU Board of Supervisors initiated a re-organization review of the LSU system. The goal is to unify each of the individual campuses with the LSU title to create a single LSU with a statewide reach to be more productive and efficient in education. LSU Baton Rouge will remain the central LSU college, but will share assets with other campuses.

During the Louisiana Tech merger discussions, the point was made that Shreveport needed engineering degrees. College of Engineering at LSU has eleven programs.

In an effort to help with the availability of courses at LSUS, LSU went to the legislature and worked out a number of programs they could give to the school. Petroleum engineering was among the programs offered due to its popularity on the Baton Rouge campus. LSU Baton Rouge believed it would have equal interest here at LSUS.

There are currently 55-60 undergraduate students enrolled in the petroleum engineering program at LSUS.

# LSU Shreveport celebrates the Chinese New Year



Above, David McKay, Glenn Guerin, Hannah McKay were asked to participate with the Chinese New Year Parade by playing the symbols and the gong. “I had never done that before and it was a lot of fun,” said LSUS student Hannah McKay.

Right, head of dragon costume: Dr. Timothy Shaughnessy, bottom of dragon: Jacob Crusan, Sifu Doug Opbroek of Lee’s Kung Fu & Tai Chi  
Dr. Timothy Shaughnessy said “It’s just fun to bring culture to the area.”



Photos by Jessica Ingram

