



Lights! Camera! Audition!

John Vassar talks LSUS budget

Jennifer Middleton
STAFF WRITER

Everyone knows that money matters, and when it comes to matters of money, LSU Shreveport may be falling short.

John Vassar, the interim provost and the vice chancellor of academic affairs, is responsible for making recommendations to the chancellor regarding the school's budget.

“[We] make recommendations based on where we are,” Vassar said. “I make recommendations for hiring, for example, because every year we have a certain number who either retire or resign, and for the last several years, we have not been in a position where we could replace everyone who leaves.”

There are certain fixed costs that cannot be tampered with.

“Certain things can't be cut. Salaries, upkeep on buildings, electricity...there are certain costs that are built into the budget, and that's a staggering amount. It's between eighty and ninety percent, which leaves very little for cutting,” he said. “So things that we can cut are elements like office supplies, [and] travel reimbursement for faculty who give papers and things like that at conferences. Those are the amounts that we have that we can control.”

Vassar explained that LSUS's budget is set every year by the governor, then apportioned by the state legislature.

See BUDGET, pg. 2

LSUS drives LifeShare donations

Carly Dean
STAFF WRITER

LifeShare invited the people of LSU Shreveport to help save lives by donating blood last Wednesday.

Mary Joe Henderson, LifeShare donor recruiter, emphasizes the importance of donating.

“Without the community, the hospitals would not have blood,” Henderson said.

LifeShare holds a blood drive at LSUS twice every semester and once in the summer. This time, 18 people came to give blood, in two different ways. Most donors give one pint of whole blood, but some people are asked to do an automated collection. This donation process calls for drawing two pints of red blood cells only.

Type “O” blood is most often needed for automated collections because of its ability to be universally donated.

Donors were not only asked for their



Brian Allison, LifeShare bone marrow coordinator

Photos by Carly Dean



Donor Heather DeSoto

blood, but to register for the new Be the Match program by LifeShare. It is a nationwide database of stem cell donors who are matched to patients who have any type of blood or bone cancer.

“The matches are based upon genetics,” said Brian Allison, LifeShare bone marrow coordinator.

Upon signing up, four cheek swabs are taken along with a background registration form of the donor's ancestry and health. Requirements are only that applicants be of 18 to 44 years of age and be in good health.

Allison is trying to jumpstart the program on the LSUS campus because of the age group.

“Patients have a higher survival rate if given from a younger donor,” Allison said.

Two HIV patients were successfully matched to stem cell donors and have stayed HIV negative without suppressants through

See DRIVE, pg. 2

Chipotle opens up first Shreveport location



Photo by Crystal Vandegriff

The new Chipotle Mexican Grill is located at 7030 Youree Drive, as a part of the University Plaza.

Crystal Vandegriff
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Prior to its grand opening Wednesday, Chipotle hosted a special pre-opening ceremony for media and local professionals.

The restaurant, located at 7030 Youree Drive in the University Plaza, is the chain's first and only location in Shreveport. However, the franchise has been active in the Shreveport community before.

Previously, Chipotle collaborated with Shreveport-based animation company Moonbot Studios for an animated short film, “The Scarecrow”, with an accompanying arcade-style game.

“[Chipotle] invited us to be a part of their story and to tell the story of something that's important to them [Chipotle's eco-friendly mission],” said Brandon Oldenburg, co-director of “The Scarecrow.”

Kirk Lemaire, new restaurant opening

apprentice, further elaborated on Chipotle's mission.

“[We offer] great tasting food with an all-fresh concept,” LeMaire said, “no can openers, no freezers, no microwaves. In Shreveport, we're currently getting our lettuce and cilantro from local sources. We also just have a fun environment.”

Oldenburg also said that Chipotle reached out to Moonbot Studios prior to Moonbot's 2012 Academy Award win, as well as before any plans were made for a Chipotle store in the area.

“We grinded them often [about getting a store],” Oldenburg said, laughing. “They would say ‘this is what the tortillas look like’ and we'd say, ‘it would be easier to animate if we had an exemplar here locally.’”

Still, Oldenburg laughingly assured that the tortillas used in the short film are “photo-accurate.”



Sisson, Szarvas bring humanity to math

Iris MacLean
STAFF WRITER



Photos by Iris MacLean

Dr. Paul Sisson, interim chancellor and professor of mathematics, with his second textbook.

Dr. Paul Sisson, interim chancellor and professor of mathematics, has been working on a calculus book for the past four years to provide students with an improved textbook for this fall.

“There are some popular calculus books, but they either don’t go deeply enough into the material, or they’re kind of cheating and just skimming the surface,” Sisson said, “They really don’t delve into the human element enough. They don’t go into the history of why mathematicians developed calculus the way they did.”

Sisson said he began writing his first textbook over a decade ago as a “labor of love” not knowing if any publishers would endorse it. Hawkes Learning Systems, a math courseware specialist, published his first two algebra books. After success with these textbooks, Hawkes asked Sisson if he’d be interested in writing a calculus book. Sisson was very interested because he felt there weren’t any textbooks on the market that covered all of the material in the best way, while including human interest.

“Current books treat calculus as something that’s just dropped on us from above with a bunch of techniques and formulas to memorize, but never answers the question of why are we doing this?” Sisson said.

Sisson knew that he needed help writing this book because of the large size of the project. One of the most important elements of the book are the exercises, so he asked his colleague and friend since graduate school, Dr. Tibor Szarvas, associate professor and chair of the mathematics department, to write the exercises.

Szarvas described the process of writing the exercises as incredibly enjoyable, complex, and time-consuming. Some of the issues he encountered during the process were accuracy in gram-

mar and use of language, finding typos, and making sure he balanced all aspects of the material within the exercise.

“By the time I polished everything, it felt like I was working on a sculpture. At the end of

each section I crafted that exercise by making sure it was in harmony with the text, that it covered all the material, and the level of difficulty was accurate,” Szarvas said.

Szarvas said he asked his son in high school to read his exercises and give a student opinion of them. His son proved to be helpful at times when he identified exercises that were too confusing or misworded.

The first five chapters of the book were printed in a raw, black and white format and started beta testing around the country in 2011. This version was free to students and provided Sisson with feedback. An overwhelming majority of students who were surveyed gave positive feedback.

Sisson’s writing process for all three textbooks so far has been the same. He said he enjoys writing early in the morning and when he has time on the weekends.

He begins by thoroughly studying the other textbooks out there on the given subject. He goes through all of the pros and cons of those books and develops his own way of organizing and presenting the material.

Sisson believes that intuition is a big part of math and encourages students to develop it through the textbook. He said he likes to include a lot of practice and explorative opportunities throughout the book using in-text exercises as well as software programs that offer real-world applications of the material.



Dr. Tibor Szarvas, co-author of the new textbook

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BUDGET cont.

“The legislature hands that money to the Board of Regents. They have a funding formula that changes from year to year,” he said. “They take the money and give it to the four systems. The four systems then take it and allocate it to the campuses. Our campus budget is formed by prioritizing various things here, and then having that approved at

the system level.”

LSUS recently experienced a shift in its economics, when they reached a point where they began sending more money back to the state than they received from the state.

“Instead of being a state-supported institution, we’ve become an institution-supported state,” Vassar said.

DRIVE cont.

the program.

Patients treated with stem cells have their immune system wiped-out to replace the old cells with the new stem cells. Allison said stem cell donations are not yet considered a cure, but are a great advancement.



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University Center to be renovated, get new equipment

Malvya Chintakindi
STAFF WRITER

The University Center will upgrade to provide better student experience and facilities.

The plans include setting up of four new Television sets in the UC Port area for sports and student news, a big screen T.V. to showcase student organizations, along with more phone charging stations. There are more T.V. sets across the campus between elevators throughout different buildings.

“We look at just ways for improving students’ quality of life. So, all the updates we have done at the university center are from either SGA suggestions or from the need to improve the quality of life for all the students,” said Aaron Suckle, director of UC operations.

The LSU Shreveport already has an athletics app and the website received a makeover. But an exclusive LSUS app is on the way, and the student ID card will have a lot more power, such as for student discounts.

“We are looking at options to expand the functionality of our student ID card, along with that adding an LSUS app so that there is a place for a lot of information to be centralized,” Suckle said.

The UC Ballroom and theater have also been given a new look. The interior furniture has been replaced and painted to change the look of the facility.

“This has been a multi-year set of projects. It has been continuing since 2006. This past year we finished the ballroom, theatre and the art gallery,” Suckle said.

General contractors are hired by the UC to perform specific work.

“We always get support from facility services, architect companies. There is always collaboration with other areas of the campus,” Suckle said.

The funding is not a problem. The semester budget is evenly divided to distribute between different departments.

“The majority of the funds are all student dollars. A project may start at thousand dollars. It is all funded from mandatory student fees and not student tuition,” Suckle said.

The UC provides place to study, to get know people, socialize and represents student life. As it is a place where all students, staff, guests from off campus come, the idea is to



Photo by Malvya Chintakindi

Aaron Suckle, director of UC operations

make it like a living room – a more comfortable place

“The whole building – this is the place to be on campus. This is where student activities like sports or just student life in general originates here. Of course that is a part of the whole campus building community. That is why I would call it the heart or the campus living room – a place where people come together,” Suckle said.

The student organizations were approached to collect feedback and suggestions before the project began.

“We are always looking for input from the students. So, I recently visited the SGA and talked about the future

projects we are looking into and we are always looking for feedback,” Suckle said.

There has been an increase in the usage of this facility since the upgrades. The feedback has been put into use to design other necessary modifications.

“Any feedback we can get from students is helpful and we want students to come in here and enjoy this facility, it is their facility and their place to be,” Suckle said.

The changes designated for this semester will take their course of action to make the university even more comfortable.



Photo by Elizabeth Murray

Pianist Thomas Eugene Keys, III, and vocalist Sara Patronella performed in the UC Port.

Coffeehouse musical duo entertains students in the Port

Elizabeth Murray
STAFF WRITER

Pianist Thomas Eugene Keys, III, and vocalist Sara Patronella entertained LSU Shreveport students last Wednesday with an array of pop cover songs in the Port.

The performers were dressed to perform. Keys wore a gray button up shirt, dark vest, and gray golf cap with a navy blue tie. Patronella wore a patterned black and white shirt under a light brown leather jacket, accented with a jeweled red necklace.

“This is actually our third time playing here at LSUS and we love every time coming here to a great crowd,” Keys said. “I love performing during the Common Hour especially because kids just don’t just come through or walk through, they actually sit down and eat and enjoy live music, and I think that’s important in today’s society.”

Keys and Patronella have been performing together for three years, although they were both around music together years before that.

“We were both music majors at Centenary, but we didn’t actually start playing together until our senior year. If we were freshman and started playing together we would probably have a good one-up,” Keys said, chuckling.

The first song they performed was Say Something by A Great Big World. The synth on the keyboard and vocal harmonies made the performance sounded similar to something you heard over the radio rather than two musicians playing in the UC Port.

A few songs later, Patronella and Keys shared a very heartfelt story with the crowd. With Patronella stepped back from her microphone, her head down with a slight smirk on her face. Keys told the story of his very first love that broke his heart.

“Second grade you know, puppy love,” Keys said, Patronella rubbing his shoulder.

“I had saved up my money, because you know when you’re good in elementary school you get something, right? I was good all day and I got a cold drink in class. You know

what that girl did? She stole my 50 cents!” Keys said, pointing and smiling vigorously.

“Triflin’,” Patronella added.

“To this day I still want my 50 cents back. I really want to tell her right now but my girl told me not to do it. I want to dedicate this song to her.”

Seconds later, familiar piano intro of Gold Digger by Cee Lo Green filled the port. Students began miming the words and gestures along with Keys and Patronella.

“They have a really nice style, this is they type of music I like,” said Alona Warren, freshman psychology. “I’ve been here before when other bands are playing and stuff. I think they’re my favorite. I think they should do this a lot more often.”

The Student Activities Board hosts the Coffeehouse Artist events about twice a month and always provides students with great entertainment.

Lights, camera, audition at Black Box Theatre

Emily Wright
STAFF WRITER

Auditions for this semester's three one-act comedies were held in the LSU Shreveport Black Box Theatre on Feb. 4 and 6 by Director Robert Alford II.

Students were able to show-off their acting skills while having fun during the audition process.

"It's a chance for people, in addition to taking classes, to actually get involved with a theatrical production," Alford said.

There are eight roles to be filled in the three plays. To accommodate the roles, both male and female actors are needed between ages 10 and 40.

One of the short plays is *Sure Thing* by David Ives, which is an absurdist comedy. The plot explores various situations that could happen between a couple and "what a dinner date may turn out like," Alford said.

Sure Thing also compliments another play by David Ives that will be presented in the area following the LSUS production.

"River City Repertory Theatre is doing another David Ives play in May called *Venus in Fur*. So I thought it would be a good tie-in if we did a David Ives play at the same time they're doing one. I thought that might get students more interested in going to see that play if they saw one here and liked it," Alford said.

Continuing the production are two more short plays, which explore relationships and broken rules.

Dances with Football by Prince Duren is "a zany comedy" about a husband and wife arguing over different programs they want to watch and fighting over the remote control.

Wright and Wrong by Phoebe Torres is another "absurdist comedy" which revolves around a mother, two daughters, and violated rules associated with their gated community.

Participating in a Black Box production offers students the opportunity to learn about theatre and experience the



Photo by Emily Wright

Patrick Laurent and Jordan Gaudet auditioning in the Black Box Theatre.

thrills of the lights and stage.

Patrick Laurent, freshman, accounting, and Jordan Gaudet, freshman, general business, said they were interested in auditioning for the three plays because both students were involved in a high school drama club and wanted to continue theatre as a hobby.

Callbacks were scheduled for Feb. 11, where returning actors once again audition for the role they are interested in having.

Rehearsals will then soon be underway as the director,

cast, and crew create an exhilarating performance for students and theatre-goers to attend and enjoy.

"This will be the second production of the Drama Club. *Southern Girls* was the first and that went well. Hopefully we'll have students who will come out and attend it. I think that it will help the Drama Club to grow and become more successful," Alford said.

The performance dates of the three one-act comedies are April 24 through April 26 at 8 p.m. and April 27 at 2 p.m. in the LSUS Black Box Theatre, room 111, in Bronson Hall.

Collaboration results in online degrees for education majors

Ebonie Nelson
STAFF WRITER

For the first time, LSU Shreveport and LSU have joined together in an academic partnership in an effort to help educators advance their careers in under 24 months.

By applying for this program, educators can enroll in a master's degree program that can help them become a Lead teacher, reading specialist, advocate for English language learners, or an administrator.

This program is 100% online so it is flexible and affordable to students.

“

The Stafford Loan Forgiveness Program for Teachers, Public Servant Loan Forgiveness, and the TEACH Grants are the programs we offer to help tuition be more affordable.

- Martha Sue Smith

”

The program offers six to eight start dates per year, along with 7-week courses, and information regarding grants and loan forgiveness.

"The Stafford Loan Forgiveness Program for Teachers, Public Servant Loan Forgiveness, and the TEACH Grant are the program we offer to help tuition be more affordable," said Executive Director Martha Sue Smith, education division in Baton Rouge.

Smith said as of right now the MED Education Leadership is a huge need in Louisiana. People who retire from the school system and want to go into it can be an administrator through this graduate program offered at LSU.

LSUS is also offering several graduate online programs to educators: MED Curriculum and Instruction General, MED Curriculum and Instruction Educational Technol-



Photo by Ebonie Nelson

E. Summerfield, an educator, researching online for a degree program that fits her interest.

ogy, MED Curriculum and Instruction English as a Second Language, and MED Curriculum and Instruction Reading Specialist.

"I like the fact that it is a wide variety of programs being offered to educators," said E. Summerfield, educator.

Smith said the benefits of online learning are multiple start dates, personalized support from application to graduation, available financial aid, and how it fits into a busy lifestyle.

"[Educators] knowing all courses are taught by the

same faculty who teach on campus is a plus," Smith said.

With so many forgiveness programs and grants being offered, choosing the right financial program can become a little overwhelming. So students are directed to look over each one in great detail to make that transition smoother.

For more information, contact Martha Sue Smith at marthasue.smith@apdegrees.com regarding any online program.