

BCM hosts annual rummage sale

Writer
STAFF WRITER

This Friday will be the kick-off of Baptist Collegiate Ministries' Annual Rummage Sale. Every year, anything and everything is collected for one giant weekend of sale.

"We have been collecting items from churches, schools, students, teachers, et cetera over Shreveport/Bossier for about 2 weeks now. This is most of the students' favorite event of the year," said Jamey Drodgy, LSUS/BPCCBCM Director. "They are very faithful in showing up to help whether it be upload, unload, or sort through all the rummage. We accept everything from lawnmowers, to furniture, to purses, to clothes and knick-knacks. All proceeds go to missions."

The rummage sale has been going on for a few years now, and the numbers are growing. In 2009, \$5,000 was raised. \$6,000 in 2010, \$7,000 in 2011, \$8,000 in 2012 and last year a whopping \$10,000 was raised.

"My favorite part of the BCM rummage sale is seeing all of the unique, random items that people donate. Although it can be stressful, I do enjoy getting ready for the rummage sale, especially since all of the proceeds are going towards missions," said Hannah Ingerson, junior, finance.

Each member for the BCM leadership team is assigned a section, such as linens, clothing, hard-

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Photo by Carly Dean

The Omega Psi Phi members posed for a quick picture after their performance.

Omega Psi Phi works overtime

Carly Dean
STAFF WRITER

The brothers of Omega Psi Phi danced around the spectators at the Overtime Party last Tuesday in celebration of a great game by the LSU Shreveport basketball teams.

As fans and athletes lined up in the Port

to get their free pizza provided by the Student Activities Board, yelling was heard over the drum of the loud music. People looked up to see a conga-line of fraternity members chanting and stomping their feet.

"It was interesting," said Ashley Roberts, senior, psychology. "Everyone was so enthusiastic and energetic."

About 100 people watched the men, but quickly grew tired of it.

"They just kept going on. I would have gotten tired," said Charlie Gamble, senior, biochemistry.

The thrusting hips and less-than-appropriate language of the chant did not seem to sit well with a few of the attendees. They be-

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Online graduate degrees come to LSU Shreveport



Photo by Emily Wright

Tulin Melancon, director of online learning and faculty development

Emily Wright
STAFF WRITER

The Academic Partnership Incorporation is assisting LSU Shreveport in offering master's degrees programs online.

Director of Online Learning and Faculty Development Tulin Melancon said that LSUS has an agreement with the Academic Partnership Incorporation (AP). She explained that the AP is a company that helps LSUS find degree programs. After discovering the programs, the faculty focus on those courses, build them, and then are able to teach those courses. She also said the AP helps to bring students to LSUS.

"Since we started with the AP, they are helping us to improve our online presence in not only our state, but in other states as well," Melancon said. "So they are doing most of the internet marketing, with some ground marketing as well for us, for students

to find us over the internet, but they are finding us more avenues that we as LSUS cannot do."

She said the reason for LSUS to be a part of the AP is to be able to offer students two fully- functional degree programs, a master of education in curriculum instruction and a master of business administration. LSUS also offers a master of science in non-profit administration and a master of health administration, which are fully online.

"For the MBA program they have management and administration 700. It is the fundamentals of accounting and financing course. It is for 100 percent online master's business administration program," Melancon said.

She stated that she would like to see LSUS grow by creating online bachelor's programs. She said that this online degree program would be beneficial and convenient

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Gustavson: In defense of Pete the Pilot

An Almagest at LSUS Guest Editorial

Editor's Note: In this special guest editorial, Dr. David Gustavson, associate athletic director for development at LSU Shreveport, tackles the possibility of an LSUS mascot change. The editorial is reprinted exactly as it was delivered to the editor, with the exception of some minor spacing changes for formatting purposes.

Dr. David Gustavson
SPECIAL TO THE ALMAGEST

You may be aware of controversies which have been brewing on the LSU Shreveport campus over the past several weeks, one which involves our school colors and another concerning the name used to refer to our athletes and to our students in general—Pilots. As a part of the One LSU concept, the LSU System office has promoted the idea that all LSU campuses—Alexandria, Eunice, Shreveport and the Health Sciences Centers—adopt the colors of purple and gold. The idea is to promote unity throughout the System which, in and of itself, is certainly debatable. This does, however, appear to be a done deal. While all of the details have yet to be worked out—the least of which is the cost of making such a change in terms of everything from basketball uniforms to stationery—this writer can live with that idea. While I view staying with our navy and gold as highly preferable to changing, I guess I can wear purple and gold if I have to do so. I'm not sure faculty and staff who attended other SEC schools would say the same but, as I said, I can live with it.

The other issue is much stickier and one in which I am not at all wishy-washy. We have been the Pilots for the better part of twenty-five years and we should remain the Pilots. There are those who think that, given the color change, we should also change our mascot to something having to do with a tiger. The most prominent suggestion has been "SaberCats," a play on the now-extinct saber-toothed tiger. Some of our more creative faculty and staff have suggested such mascots as "CopyCats" to truly imitate Baton Rouge and "FraidyCats" for our lack of willingness to stand up for ourselves. While this has been fun, it's time to take a stand: We Are the PILOTS!"

"Pilots" was a nickname voted upon (admittedly with our usual low-voter turnout) by the students as our athletic teams were emerging. I can recall talk of honoring the riverboats pilots who plied the Red River along with the pilots of the U. S. Air Force serving at Barksdale. Over time, the river boat pilots became the campus symbol as pilots' wheels and steamboats adorned everything from business cards to the basketball floor. I see no reason to change. We have few traditions. Why tamper with this one unnecessarily?

To add to the confusion, there is discussion over the personification (avifaction?) of our mascot in the form of a pelican, Pete the Pilot. Pete came about ten years ago or so and was the creation of a small group who thought we needed a mascot to attend ballgames, festivals, recruiting activities, etc., which was certainly justifiable. The creation of this cartoonish figure, in my opinion, was not. If we're going to make changes, let's exchange Pete for a riverboat pilot clad in a blue pilot's uniform and clear up some of the confusion. That would be (again, one man's opinion) a huge improvement.

Whether you agree with me or not, it is important for students, faculty, alumni, retirees and, yes, the northwest Louisiana community at-large, to let us know your thoughts. If you wish to express an opinion, you may forward your thoughts to Ms. Brooke Rinaudo, Director of Media Relations, at LSU Shreveport, One University Place, Shreveport 71115 or e-mail her at brooke.rinaudo@lsus.edu. Or if you just want to send your comments to me, I will see that Brooke gets them.

GREEKS cont.



Photo by Carly Dean

Students enjoyed the refreshments.

gan to ignore the dancers and focus on their friends.

Festivities continued to celebrate the final home game of the season for LSU Shreveport men's basketball. The team suffered a loss this game against Wiley College, but only in the last few seconds of the clock.

Players Will Nelson and Brandon Davis, both seniors, were awarded NAIA Player of the Week, making LSUS the only school to have two players represent the same school.

BCM cont.

ware, furniture, holiday supply, kid toys, etc. Anyone is welcome to come and help sort. The BCM will even sign off for community service hours.

The hours for the Rummage Sale will be Friday from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

DEGREE cont.

for students not only at LSUS, but also for out-of-state students.

"I have been communicating with departments and letting them know what degree programs students are seeking so that we can put together the programs," Melancon said.

In addition, the partnership with Bossier Parish Community College will be able to offer transfer students the ability to receive online courses from LSUS.

"Most of their students are online students. So once they finish their two-year degree program, they want to continue with their education with an online university. So that's my goal, to work with the department heads to do a lot more bachelor's level classes," Melancon said. "But the catch is that concentration courses get very detail-oriented and how they structure those very specific courses for each degree program is very time consuming. But we are going to get there. Our faculty is slowly but surely realizing that urgency and need for online courses."

However, for students to be able to

learn and succeed in their education through online learning, their professors must be familiar with the online teaching format to enhance their students' academic advances.

"I offer an Online Instruction Program (OIP), which is a six-week online course that teaches instructors how to become successful online instructors, and then we certify them," Melancon said. "Since it is a new way of teaching, they need to be up-to-date on the technology that they can use and how to become a more effective online faculty member."

Melancon said a textbook, *Teaching Online: A practical Guide*, is used to help instructors learn the process of teaching to online students. The faculty take tests every week, participate in discussion boards, learn how to use chat features, how to set up discussion forums, how to utilize the exam features, and more.

She said online learning is challenging for faculty since the professors are not familiar with the online environment and are more accustomed with the classroom setting.

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