Mass Communication at LSUS

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ON THE COVER: Timothy Keys is currently a sophomore working on a B.F.A. He likes to read and draw, and wants to own an animation studio and produce/art direct animated films. He conceived the cover after observing different groups of people enjoying LSUS or studying in the University Center (UC). The color scheme is a representation of LSU Shreveport’s school colors.
By Emily Wright

A “Welcome Back Bonfire” during the first week of the spring 2015 semester in January at LSU Shreveport was a hot idea. Literally.

The bonfire event was made possible by the collaboration of both the Student Government Association (SGA) and the Students Activities Board (SAB).

“The SGA actually created the idea for and planned the logistics of the Welcome Back Bonfire, and we asked the SAB to co-sponsor this event because events are really their territory,” said Kirsten Howard, president of the SGA. “The Senators of the SGA came up with the idea for the bonfire and, after voting amongst the SGA to try and make this happen, we began planning logistics of the event and eventually asked the SAB to co-sponsor the event.”

The bonfire event started a few minutes after 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan 15, and was held in the fields behind the Health and Physical Education building. There were around thirty or forty people at the start of the bonfire, but about twenty minutes into the event more and more students struggled in. The temperature, being just below 50 degrees Fahrenheit, coupled with still night air, was perfect weather for a socializing event for the bonfire. Music from a boom box close to the fire filled the cold air with music as students began talking among themselves and creating a sort of campfire experience.

The partnership of both of the organizations was also a way to create awareness for each of them.

“I think the bonfire is great for both organizations. The SAB is very well-known across campus, even more so than the SGA. This venture I think will be very successful because of that and also because hopefully the SGA will have an opportunity to become more well-known,” Howard said. “Also, I think it is great or the SAB because the SGA planned the entire bonfire and they get to piggy-back off of our idea.”

To keep students safe, they were not allowed to go too close to the fire as university staff had placed a rope around the stacks of wood with stakes prior to setting the wood ablaze. Some students brought chairs and blankets for sitting while eating free chili dogs and chips provided by the Missing Link food truck, which sat near the bonfire. At times there was a line of thirty students standing in line waiting to get some free food. Hot chocolate and cookies were provided by the Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM).

Lauren Madere, junior, business administration, explained that she was at the event to hang out with her sorority sisters from Sigma Phi Iota. She said she was loving the event and always enjoys a good bonfire.

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LSUS bass team qualifies for regional championship

Despite severe adversity, the LSU Shreveport Bass Fishing Team of J.P. Kimbrough and Jared Rascoe qualified for the FLW Collegiate Regional Championship by virtue of their 15th place finish on Sam Rayburn Lake, Saturday, January 24th.

“I’m pretty stoked to be qualifying! Practice for us was a pretty tough experience, with the high winds, cold air temperatures, and driving rain. It was gut wrenching when our motor broke down before blast off but with a never give up attitude and a little luck we were able to pull it off” said J.P. (James) Kimbrough, a freshman Marketing major at LSU Shreveport.

Jared Rascoe, a Sophomore majoring in Secondary Education Mathematics added, “Without a big motor we were forced to use the trolling motor all day and luckily I was able to land a 7lb 11oz beast that gave us just enough to qualify. We are very fortunate to have qualified with just 2 fish. Just goes to show you should never give up.”

“My partner, JP Kimbrough, and I had attended the pre-tournament meeting and were getting ready to take off when he told me that the engine wouldn’t start up. So we went back and took the cover off to check it out and the starter to the motor had burned up, leaving us with no outboard engine. We decided that since we had driven all this way and spent all this money, we were going to fish around the boat ramp all day and see what we could get. So all in all, we ended up catch those two fish, one a 7lb 11oz beast, which turned out to be just enough to qualify us for the conference championship in October.”

- Jared Rascoe, sophomore, secondary education

The tournament on Sam Rayburn Lake was the first of three events in the Southern region of the 2015 FLW College Series. Ninety teams from Universities in Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Colorado competed. Two additional FLW tournaments will take place on Lake Texoma, TX and the Red River, LA. LSUS hopes to qualify two more teams at these events. Teams that qualify will fish the Regional Championship on Grand Lake, OK. The top finishers in each of the five FLW College regions will then meet in the 2016 FLW College National Championship.

Any full-time LSUS undergraduate or graduate student is eligible to join the Bass Club. Club members fish together locally, help each other learn new techniques, and engage in fundraising to support the travel costs of team members who compete in collegiate tournaments. To learn more about the LSUS Bass Fishing club or to become a member, contact James Avant at AVANTJ50@lsus.edu.

Visit http://www.flwoutdoors.com/bassfishing/collegefishing/ for more information about FLW College Fishing.
Madere even mentioned that it was a good idea and that she would like to do it again.

Approximately 70 students, faculty, and staff were present at the event, including the LSUS Police and Chancellor Larry Clark.

Lance Rich, the Student Activities Board (SAB) president explained that the bonfire, even though it requires much more preparation than a simple event, requires the same planning as other SAB events.

“We must establish the details of what will happen at the event, then spread the word about the event, and finally work at the event to ensure that everything goes smoothly,” Rich said.

“Most of the more complex stuff, like getting the pallet that we need to burn and setting it up, is done by our wonderful non-student employees.”

Rich explained that while many non-student employees help the Student Activities Board regularly, there are two main leaders in charge of student activities.

The Director of student activities and recreational sports, Angel Martin, and the Assistant Director of University Center operations, Lauren Wood, attend each SAB meeting and major event. Martin and Wood also meet with Rich outside of SAB meetings on a weekly basis.

“The students of SAB essentially had to complete 3 steps regarding the bonfire, and these same steps are for most events,” Rich said. “First, we had to establish exactly what would happen at the event while in meeting.

For example, we decided that we would have a food truck providing free food and music playing. Second, we had to help spread the word about the event. To do this, we posted about it on our Facebook page, made a banner for the event that hung from the UC balcony, etc.

Finally, we arrive at the bonfire a little bit early to make sure everything gets kicked off smoothly.”
He stated that a large event like the bonfire requires more faculty and staff than other events. These people are responsible for lighting and taking care of the fire and providing safety and protection with the presence of the LSUS police. The job of the SAB, he said, is to do whatever they can do as students to make sure the event goes smoothly, which often consists of doing things instructed by Martin or Wood.

John Griffin, an SGA senator, stated at the bonfire that the opportunity to share camaraderie with fellow LSUS students is great and is only possible at events similar to the bonfire. He said that events such as this provides a form of community for students to get together and to form lasting relationships.

For SAB to choose events and activities, Rich said that they look at what was successful in the past and often repeat that certain event. Next, they take ideas from students who are involved in SAB and try to make the ideas reality if the ideas are feasible and sounds fun. Lastly, SAB members try to draw inspiration from the ideas of other universities and national holidays.

He also stated that any student may attend SAB meetings and contribute to discussions. Rich said SAB meetings commence at 2 p.m. on Fridays and last about an hour. The LSUS website states that the meeting is held in the Red River room in the University Center.
Road to professional success

By Malvya Chintakindi

The success workshop held on Jan. 28th in the admissions office provided information and knowledge to students with regards to building up a professional looking resume. Success workshops are held throughout the semester and cater to the professional, personal and overall development of a student.

These workshop series feature a set of slide shows and lectures by Paula Atkins, director of student development. These are organized during common hours most of the time to avoid clash with other classes.

A resume can be in a narrative form or a bullet form which were further explained that day to facilitate students with resume drafting abilities.

“This is a particular document for a particular job and all of this has to relate to what they are looking for. If you relate, list the job title, the employer’s name, city and state. Then, list the skills, responsibilities and results,” Atkins began.

Particularly, to apply for mundane jobs like that of a waiter, one needs to present themselves in a unique way. “If you’re in the wait staff, answer what made you a different waiter than others? A line like ‘managed three sections five nights a week in’ would look fantastic,” Atkins said.

Employers’ first look typically goes towards results or responsibilities section of the resume since that is where they might start evaluating a particular candidate.

“We need to describe our responsibilities the way it makes us shine, but I want you to be honest and clear. List the results like - employee of the month, best of waitress, volume of sales went up, increase in customer turnout,” Atkins said.

It is important to allow one’s skills come through in this section while incorporating very strong action verbs as much as possible. Using first person is not advisable since a resume needs to be professional in nature. Atkins stressed on the importance of not using personal pronouns since a resume is an action oriented kind of a document. It is a different kind of writing and more technical. One needs to be descriptive but not go over the board.

The most important aspect discussed during the workshop is regarding the crafting of a resume when the candidate doesn’t have job experience or is a fresh candidate.

“If a person doesn’t have job experience, they should focus on what are called ‘transferable skills’, so instead of listing ‘Director of student development’, I can list by function those skills used like psychological, counseling, team work, leadership, organizational skills,” Atkins said.

One can list these in combination along with the work experience once it is acquired. Every company looks for these and these can be customized depending on the employer. As soon as one gets work experience, it can be allowed to prevail along with the transferable skills.

There was one fresh candidate at the workshop who came with the sole purpose of understanding what to put on a resume when there is no work experience.

“You can list leadership skills and volunteer skills because those are also transferable skills. You want then to know that you are intellectual and curious. If you need, you can list scholarships, dean’s lists, chancellor’s lists along with the dates so that they understand you maintained those academic standards, or if you were invited to join honor society. These show consistent academic Excellence,” Atkins said.

Scholarships are important early on in a resume so that

Malvya Chintakindi is a PR major, who has been writing for The Almagest since 2014. She is a member of the LSUS Debate Team. She will graduate in 2015.
the employer knows that the candidate did what it took to get into college. If one is in a highly technical field, listing the softwares or graphic designs learnt and quantifying them by using appropriate words like “proficient” or ‘excellent’ can give a well-prepared impression to the employer.

“Use your judgment on putting in the software. Softwares like Microsoft word are too common these days. But if a software type is listed in the job description and if you are proficient, make sure you list it,” Atkins said.

The workshop then focused on the language used in resumes. All verbs need to align.

“Use present tense if it is your current job and past tense if it is your previous job, just be consistent. Pretend you are your worst English teacher; those tiny mistakes can prove to be very hazardous,” Atkins said.

Traditional option for a resume is a functional resume with no dates and in a chronological order but it is not mostly used when compared to narrative or bullet form resumes which are more easy to understand and easy on the eye. Last sections of a resume are going to vary from person to person. One can talk about activities that set them apart from job duties like honors and one can list those that are related to their career.

“If you are a highly involved student at LSUS, write about things than can be relatable to the employer’s needs like writing for the Almagest if it is a job at a news outlet,” Atkins said.

She also emphasized on the importance of having links with professional organizations that are primarily focused on the development in that particular field.

“Student memberships in a career oriented or a professional organization outside what the campus can offer are extremely useful and beneficial to anyone’s career. Attend meetings, be an active member and if you can attend a national conference, that is cool too” Atkins said.

One needs to align themselves with the professional affiliations to get a boost and wide range of knowledge. If one cannot join for some reason, they need to be familiar with what the activities of that particular professional organization. For instance, in psychology, psychological advancements in the criminal field might be an area of study that is most popular.

“Resume is a quick and dirty job where as a cover letter can be a great description of a successful project,” Atkins said.

A cover letter is a formal letter sort of a document which lays out the interests of the candidate in the particular job he or she is applying to. A cover letter is hugely subjective to the job where as a resume can be tweaked a little to meet the required needs. Ordering properly is the important part of crafting a resume.

“Prioritize from what is most to least important in order. Visually organize using fonts that are clear, not a handwriting script but clean and easy to read. No pics or graphics unless you are a graphic designer applying to some creative post,” Atkins said.

The online job networking source offered by LSUS is at lsus.edu/careerpilot. One can post their resume and cover letter. Employers can view them if the candidate wishes so and this service is available 24/7.
Dr. Larry Clark’s first semester as LSUS Chancellor

By Elles Rock

On July 1, 2014, Dr. Larry Clark assumed the office of Chancellor of Louisiana State University in Shreveport. He came from the University of North Carolina Wilmington where he served as the dean of the School of Business. Before that, he held the same position at LSUS, so his appointment as the Chancellor at LSUS was a return his roots. Upon his return, he was shocked by the state of the university’s balance sheet and student enrollment. Since he his departure from LSUS in 1994, enrollment at LSUS had dropped significantly, the university’s relationship with Bossier Parish Community College had dwindled to obscurity, and the university’s bottom line was dripping in red ink to the tune of $3 million. These three issues were the initial challenges Dr. Clark decided to tackle when he entered office in early July, and these initial challenges shaped the journey of his first semester as the Chancellor of Louisiana State University in Shreveport.

Chancellor Clark’s primary focus was the students at LSUS. As one of the deans at UNCW, he had quadruple the number of undergrad students enrolled in that university as the number of undergraduate students enrolled at LSUS. Dr. Clark knew there was a lot of room for improvement in this area. He said, “I knew that I could hire as many admissions personnel as I wanted, but the people who were going to get undergraduate students enrolled at LSUS were the undergraduate students themselves.”

Dr. Clark’s goal was to strengthen the undergraduate experience as a whole so the current undergraduates would tell potential undergrads about their positive experience at LSUS. Dr. Clark went about accomplishing this goal by making himself as available as he possibly could to every student at the university, so they knew that each of them was important to him. Within the first twenty-four hours of being named Chancellor, he “friended” over 150 LSUS students on the online site “LinkedIn.” Dr. Clark also demonstrated his “students-first-priority” by the meetings he held on his first official day as Chancellor, the very first of which was with a group of students. He held this first meeting in the University Center on campus and over 100 students attended. He used this time to let each students have their concerns about the university heard in a town-hall-meeting format. He also personally signed 834 letters to all of the undergrad students who enrolled for the fall semester of 2014 but who

Elles Rock is a mass communication major who hopes to study in Australia after graduating from LSUS. This is her first published article.
had not enrolled for the spring semester of 2015 asking them to consider re-enrollment. Before he signed those letters, he intentionally purchased a pen that would smudge while he was signing each letter. He wanted every student who received a letter from him to know that the Chancellor had personally signed it. With these letters, he included his personal email and the number to the phone that sits on the desk in his office, so each student could easily contact him at any point.

The next challenge Chancellor Clark met in his first semester at LSUS was the relationship with local community colleges, BPCC in particular. Chancellor Clark knew that students at BPCC did not think LSUS believed it mattered where they transferred when they finished their Associates Degrees, but he wanted those students to know that where they went not only mattered to LSUS, but it mattered to him personally. Dr. Clark held three meetings with the faculty at BPCC, prior to becoming chancellor, and began rebuilding the relationship between the two universities. When Dr. Clark first took office in July, LSUS had minimal presence at BPCC; the admissions team was only on their campus two times per month. By the end of the first semester, Chancellor Clark had the LSUS admissions team on the BPCC campus four times per week. The results have changed the relationship of the two schools. Dr. Clark described it as, “Good progress. Undergrad enrollment was still down [after that first semester] but necessary relationships were built.”

The third main challenge that Dr. Clark focused on during the journey of his first semester as Chancellor was the major deficit in yearly fiscal budget for the university. Chancellor Clark pored over every aspect of the budget for his first several weeks in office and discovered that the university had $800,000 in salary plus benefits tied up in vacant faculty positions that were contributing to the mounting 3 million dollar deficit. Chancellor Clark did not want to cut those positions but considered the financial situation of the university and knew he had no choice. The positions were eliminated and effectively decreased the deficit from $3 million to $2.2 million. He considered this one of the most progressive moves he made in his first semester.

The journey of Dr. Clark’s first semester as Chancellor of LSUS was one wrought with hurdles and conflict. Those hurdles were not created by Chancellor Clark, but were hurdles that needed solutions. His attention to detail, his prioritization of students first and foremost, and his endless dedication to improving LSUS as a whole made Dr. Clark’s first journey as the LSUS chancellor a successful one.

This special, “extra-illustrated” edition of Shakespeare’s works was commissioned by Sir Henry Irving; only 21 copies were printed. This volume contains all the Bard’s sonnets with various illustrations, such as this engraving by J.C. Armytage depicting a pair of lovers enjoying a poem together.
“The Art of Love” exhibit is the Noel Collection of vintage books about the fantasies and hardships of romance. The exhibit features books from the 14th to the 20th centuries from the Noel Collection about the telling of love stories. The exhibit is on the third floor of the Noel Memorial Library. The affair is open to the public starting February 3rd through April 30th. The exhibit is available for viewing between the hours of 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information about the collection, turn to page 26.

The descriptions of the photos were written and provided by the Noel Collection cataloguers, Amy Blackburn and Aimee Plaisance.


(Pictured above.) *Inex and the King*: Pedro, son of Alfonso the Fourth of Portugal, married a duke’s daughter, Constanza. Constanza’s maid of honor was a poorer relative named Inez de Castro, who came and stayed with them at the Castle of Braganza. “At their earliest interview each felt the attraction of the other, and it was not long before the prince bewailed his unhappy lot, which had wedded him to one whom he could not love, and so prevented his union with a fair lady for whose sake he would have gone to the ends of the earth” (170). After the death of Constanza, Perlo maintained his affair with Inez openly, but his father never approved of their relationship.

Photos by Emily Wright and Malvya Chintakindi.

(Pictured above.) These hand-colored illustrations trace the development of a young couple’s relationship, from the first bloom of admiration, through the trials of misunderstandings, and finally to the bliss of reconciliation.

(Pictured below.) Based on Lavater’s *Essays on Physiognomy*, this gallery of portraits caricatures how human faces display emotions, both in and out of relationships.

“The Art of Love” exhibit photos and stories is continued on page 16...

(Pictured above.) The Lambs put together this volume of synopses to introduce “young readers” to the wonders of Shakespeare. In this illustration, Beatrice and Benedick, one of the couples from the play *Much Ado About Nothing*, are seen engaging in their quick-witted flirtation:

Beatrice: But for which of my good parts did you first suffer love from me?
Benedick: Suffer love! A good epithet! I do suffer love indeed, for I love thee.


(Pictured to the right.) This book of hand-colored plates highlights some of the pitfalls of married life. In this scene, “A Return from a Walk!” a pitiable haberdasher comes home to find his wife has been seduced by a military man.
Cupid and Psyche; Cupid was sent by his jealous mother Venus to curse the beautiful human woman Psyche into falling in love with a monster. Instead, Cupid pricked himself with his own love arrow, married Psyche while keeping his identity a secret, and brought her to a castle with invisible servants.

Psyche was instructed to never look at her husband, but she broke the rule and revealed the handsome Cupid. He is forced to flee from her, but Psyche searches for a way for them to be together again. Eventually, she performs tasks staged by Venus and succeeds, which allows Psyche and Cupid to be reunited and live together forever.
Dr. Alexander Mikaberidze’s journey to America

By Vanessa Reiher

Dr. Alexander Mikaberidze -- a history professor at LSU Shreveport -- was born and raised in Kazakhstan in what used to be the Soviet Union. He lived in a small town called Aktiubinsk (nowadays Aktobe), not far from the Ural Mountains in the semi desert. His family was originally from Georgia. The first third of his life was shaped by the experiences he made when living in the Soviet Union. Some of those experiences were good, others were bad. His father had a good job and a stable income and the family was part of the upper middle class, but the money could not always be spent on what the family wanted to spend it on, because there was a significant lack of products and opportunities.

Dr. Mikaberidze was thirteen years old when the Soviet Union collapsed. That was when his father told him to go back to Georgia where he stayed with his grandmother. He was supposed to wait for the rest of the family who would arrive shortly after. In the year 1990 – when he was waiting for his parents – a civil war started in Georgia and one year later in the Caucasus. He had to wait for his family for six years. The life in Georgia was not easy for the family. Constant wars, bad or non-existent infrastructure, and the Russians cutting gas and electricity, which lead to people having to wait in line for bread for two to three days, were just some of the hardships the family had to bare. He and other students would sometimes skip high school to walk one or two miles, just to watch the soldiers fighting in downtown Tbilisi, the Georgian capital. Many buildings, including schools were damaged in the fighting, which turned sitting in a freezing cold classroom into a torture.

Dr. Mikaberidze finished high school in Georgia in 1994 dreaming of becoming a lawyer. He passed all the entrance exams necessary to get into a university. At just 17 years of age he was recruited by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia where he worked as an international law specialist for a measly salary if just fifteen dollars a month, which was frequently not paid at all. As if being a diplomat at the age of 17 was not impressive enough, he published his first book on human rights.

Although his job and law school always kept him occupied, Dr. Mikaberidze never forgot about what he loved the most: history. Since the day he read a book by a

Vanessa Reiher is an English major who is from Germany and is interested in foreign languages and culture.
Russian historian about Napoleon Bonaparte he has not been able to let go of this topic. During the time he was a diplomat he got his first computer. “Yahoo” had just been established at that time, and of course the first thing Dr. Mikaberidze used it for was the search for information about Napoleon. The results were -- as he describes it -- “mind-blowing”. However, all the information he suddenly had access to led to him being disappointed after all. He wanted to write about Napoleon himself, but he had to find out that this had already been done thousands of times. There was one book that caught his interest more than all the others. It was a book about Napoleon’s death. Its author, Ben Weider, president of International Napoleonic Society, claimed that Napoleon was poisoned on the island St. Helena. Dr. Mikaberidze wanted to read the book, but at a price of fifty dollars, he would have never been able to afford it.

This is when Dr. Mikaberidze’s journey starts to become unbelievably great. Not being able to afford the book, he decided to send an email to the author explaining his situation and asking for a copy. His email came to the attention of Weider’s partner, David Markham, vice president of International Napoleonic Society. Not only did Mikaberidze receive the book he wanted, but on top of that, a whole box with dozens of Napoleonic titles, all for free. He wrote a review on Weider’s book, which was published in Belgium. The author read that preview and offered Dr. Mikaberidze to join the bicentennial anniversary of Napoleon’s invasion of the Middle East in 1999 in Israel. Dr. Mikaberidze was 22 years old at that point of time and with earning only 15 dollars every month, he knew he would not be able to afford the trip to Israel. Never would he have imagined that Weider and Markham would be willing to pay for everything and give him a generous daily allowance. Dr. Mikaberidze gave a lecture at the University of Tel Aviv, which met approval with the American historians attending the conference. After they speech they urged him to come and study at Florida State University, which has one of the best centers for the study of the French Revolution and Napoleon.

Once more money was the factor that would prevent him from pursuing his dream, until Weider and Markham gave him a call. Not only did they know about the offer he got, they also knew that Dr. Mikaberidze’s financial situation at that time was not exactly the best one. Willing to support him, they paid for his flight to Florida and made arrangements with Donald D. Horward, the director of the Institute on Napoleon and the French revolution, to cover all costs of tuition and board.

On August 15, 2000 – Napoleon Bonaparte’s birthday – Dr. Alexander Mikaberidze came to the United Stated of America. He was confronted with a completely different culture and way of life. He discovered that there was a world far away from poverty and war. It usually takes six to seven years to get a PhD. Dr. Mikaberidze did it in only three years. Now that he was done with college there was a big decision to make: should he stay in the United States or should he go back to Georgia? He decided to stay. He lived in different places, taught at different universities and published twelve books about Napoleon. In the year 2007 he was offered a job at Louisiana State University in Shreveport and him and his wife decided to move to Shreveport. The family is enjoying their life in the land of unlimited opportunities. This term turned out to be accurate for Dr. Mikaberidze. He has come so far in his young life and after enduring war, poverty and other hardships, he finally settled down and is able to enjoy a good life in happiness getting to do what he loves the most – live out his passion for history.

(Mikaberidze in California, following the historic Highway 1. Photo courtesy of Alexander Mikaberidze)
“Be creative, be extreme, change the world”

Black History month speaker informs, encourages students

By Emily Wright

An LSU Shreveport February event hosted by the Student Activities Board (SAB) featured a professor and intellectual to speak on behalf of Black History month.

Dr. Michael R. Hicks, a graduate of Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA, spoke about the men and events that ended segregation laws in America and challenged individuals to accept one another. His lecture was titled, “The Creative Extremists,” and was based off of the “Letter from Birmingham Jail” written by Martin Luther King, Jr.

King had been jailed in Birmingham, AL because of his defiance and civic disobedience of the segregation laws, Hicks explained.

“The letter is philosophical, psycho logical, and is half lecture half sermon,” Hicks said. “To me, it’s all pure poetry. It is a beautiful piece of work by the only American who has a national holiday in his honor who wasn’t a president.”

The event started at 11 a.m. in the university center theatre. The ground floor level of the theatre was filled with approximately 50 students and faculty. More than half of the students were from Greek societies and received credit for attending.

A quick discussion of Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft, and Steve Jobs, cofounder of Apple, was used by Hicks to encourage college students to embrace the creative and educational environment around them. By doing so, students can dream and pursue those dreams that will impact the world, just as the men did for racial and social, and technological advancements.

“The time is now,” Hicks said as his last statement in his lecture.

Hicks’ three main points focused on positive extremism defeating negative extremism, how negative extremism lasts forever, and that students have the ability to think creatively and provide benefits for the world.

“You may not be Bill Gates, you may not be Steve Jobs, and you may not be Martin Luther King, but you can be creative and you can be a dream, and you can change the world,” Hicks said.

Hicks’ biography was read by Angel Martin, director of recreational sports.
and student activities, to the assembly as an introduction to the speaker. Martin stated that Hicks is a native of Shreveport. In addition to the bachelor’s degree from Morehouse, Hicks holds a Master’s degree in Guidance and Counseling from Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana.

Martin explained that he also earned his Doctorate degree in Education Leadership from Louisiana Tech University as well. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Education at Jarvis Christian College in Hawkins, Texas where he serves as the Coordinator for Male Student Initiatives, and also is an adjunct faculty member at Southern University at Shreveport.

Hicks spoke about the progress of African Americans in the middle and late 20th century. Influences of certain figures like

Hicks also spoke about white public officials who enforced segregation, but later realized the wrongness involved with such laws. Still, others continued to support such laws.

He gave a contemporary example of students standing up for their beliefs as he explained about a senior, Melissa, who created the Association of Critical Collegiates at Colgate University in Hamilton, NY, in the fall of 2014.

“What Melissa wanted to do was to bring other thoughts to Colgate,” Hicks said. “Colgate is a small 3,000 student university that is mostly white. The minority of students are blacks or Hispanics who are on scholarships. There is almost a segregated society at Colgate. So she really wanted to bring everybody together and say ‘Let’s move Colgate further.’”

The administration received responses from students desiring racial tolerance and more diverse and modern admissions and finances staff and curriculum. The administration then answered the responses professionally on a website addressing the needs of students, Hicks said.

Martin ended Hicks’ biography stating that he is a member of the American Association of University Professors, the American Educational Research Association and the Louisiana Education Research Association.

“Michael is also a mentor, teacher and a proud member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.,” Martin said. “Since 2013, he has served as the Executive Director of the North Louisiana Civil Rights Coalition. He is Chairman of the Frank R. Rayson Good Citizenship Award Program that each year recognizes and highlights the college aspirations of over 150 high school students from Caddo and Bossier parishes."
Paint as you like

By Malvya Chintakindi

The “Painting With LSUS” evening event hosted by the Student Activities Board (SAB) on March 5th at the University Port saw a great turn out of enthusiastic students who unleashed their artistic side amidst classical music. The event featured a painting with the letters “LSUS” with the “L” in the shape of the Louisiana state.

It was the second time for the SAB to organize a painting event.

“Last semester, we had a great turn out and it is also pretty easy for us to organize. We do it in the middle of the semester so that students can relax and break away from their routine, this is more like a mid-semester stress relief,” Angel Martin, director of student development and recreational sports said.

Natasha Regard, a graphic design senior at LSUS, supervised and helped the students draw their own versions of the paintings.

“I am going to give a step by step breakdown to paint. It looks complicated but everyone can do it through a three-step process,” Regard said at the beginning of the event.

There were around fifty students who attended it. Free LSUS t-shirts, painting material including the canvas, brushes and sponges were provided. Students were encouraged to paint as they would prefer.

“The painting features the letters ‘LSUS’ with ‘L’ in the shape of Louisiana on a brown background but you can have a black background with the letters ‘LOVE’. I am going to do that painting here. You can also use any color you like, doesn’t have to be the school colors,” Regard said.

The SAB president, Lance Michael Rich, was present at the event providing encouragement.

“I know our students are very talented artists. So, I look forward to seeing their paintings,” Rich said.

The first step in the process was to create a background with a woody effect. Regard mixed different colors to show how to create necessary texture and create effect on the canvas. She explained how to change the angles of the brush to obtain required strokes.

“Sometimes, a brush might leave strokes on canvas. Fix it by doing single strokes. After doing the texture, do the
smoothing process,” Regard said.

Students got to learn the tactics of using the brush and fixing blemishes off of smooth canvas. They were asked to blow dry their canvases after doing the background in order to start the second step in the process which is to paint the letters.

“I’m a technical member at SAB and I really like painting. It’s pretty fun,” Nico Griffith, freshman, psychology, said. Regard went around the port teaching and assisting students to use the paint brush in different angles on the canvas.

She explained the use of water in painting to achieve a thin and smooth color. Acrylic colors in the form of pastes and gel were used and provided for the painting event by the SAB.

Students enjoyed the painting process and they tried out various designs. The Louisiana state symbol stood out to be the attractive part of the painting displayed.

“First of all, I like the Louisiana symbol because it shows off our state. I went to the painting event last semester and it was a great experience. I wanted to do it again and hang it on my wall,” Krisha Aytona, sophomore, physical therapy, said.

Students had different takes on the same painting. It was sight to see all kinds of versions of the same painting as everyone interpreted it in their own style.

“I wanted to make a flower and be creative with the painting. I saw a painting on Pinterest with bottles and wanted to do it. I wanted to try it out today and may be decorate my wall with it,” Kyla Carter, freshman, early childhood education, said.

While some went the floral design way, the painting meant something emotional for some.

“I am sending a message to my parents through this painting. I am doing a solid colored heart on one end of the canvas which represents the place my parents live. I am drawing shades of heart tracking to the solid heart which indicates me sending them a message,” Colleen Seeley, sophomore, sports administration, said.

The painting event was a group effort and idea of the SAB. They felt that a panting event would be a stress relief process for the students.

“Whenever I am painting, I feel as if I’m flying. I have a test next week and this has been a much needed break from school. I feel artistic doing this,” Karla Lucia Hernandez, senior, business administration, said. 

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Right: Natasha Regard showing students how to paint their canvases.

Left: Students showing their art work in the UC Port.

Right: Re-regard showing a student how to paint the canvas.

Photos by Malvya Chintakindi.
Recycling remains important to LSUS

By Carissa Bethea

The efforts of a few have kept recycling alive at LSU Shreveport despite budget cuts and the lack of personnel.

There are blue containers with the recycling logo on them all through Bronson Hall designated for recyclables. Unfortunately, they are being used incorrectly by students who place unrecyclable items in the bins causing a lot of time and effort to be put into the process that is unneeded.

In 2012, the Almagest covered the effects on the budget cuts to our campus’ ability to recycle. Dan Bloxom, the director of facility services at the time, stated that with the budget cuts and the number of staff available it would prevent recycling from really being an option for the campus to officially be involved with.

“We’d love to do it [recycle], if we could come up with the people and the money, mostly people,” Dan said.

Two years later we see that we do have a few people who care and are doing something about it. Dr. Linda Webster, Professor and Chair of the Department of Arts and Media, is taking the extra effort to recycle. She has provided the blue cans and empties them herself to sort and take home to her recycling can at her home. Many students have naturally started placing items into these bins, however there are some problems with their participation.

In an interview with Webster, she expressed her concern over the fact that students are often placing the wrong things in the recycling bins. She takes quite a lot of time sorting out what is unrecyclable.

“Recycling isn’t glamorous. It is dirty work,” Webster said. “But I believe in doing it [recycling].”

Things that are do not belong in the bins that are often found are food, candy wrappers, chip bags, pens, and gum. These are items that Webster takes the time to pick out of the bins before putting the rest in her recycling can. Items that do belong are paper, bottles, cans, paper cups, and washable plastics.

There are many ways students can step up. When LSUS had a recycling program we filled the blue bins in the parking lot near the UC with 10 tons of paper a year. That saved 70,000 gallons of water and 33 cubic feet of landfill space. With the budget cuts, recycling is dependent upon individuals that wish to contribute their time and energy.

“The biggest thing that can help us is for the students to be aware of how much they throw away. It would be nice to see a change in culture towards more sensible consumption and disposal,” Webster said.

Webster said she would like to see more people and even organizations here at LSUS get more involved.

A blue recycling container on the third floor of Bronson Hall. Photo by Emily Wright.

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Carissa Bethea is majoring in mass communication with a concentration in speech. She is a member of the LSUS Debate team.
A local businessman involved in the industries of oil, gas, timber, hotels, and banks grew fond of collecting old and unique books.

James Smith Noel was born in 1912. He died in 1998. “He was an educator at Fair Park High School and Centenary College. Starting in his teens all through his 80s he managed to collect 200,000 to 250,000 books,” said Martha Lawler, the principle cataloguer of the Noel Collection.

These books are ones that he found interesting and thought were worth saving. Some of the genres of the collection include philosophy, agriculture, cooking, news, religion, and language. All of these vintage books are housed on the third floor of the Noel Memorial Library. There are three special rooms that house certain book collections. The “Exhibit” room is small and holds a portion of books that are in the process of being catalogued.

“The Stacks,” or big room, holds most of the collection that is also being processed by the staff. The cataloging system uses the Library of Congress method. This system was advised to the staff by researchers using the books for their projects.

The original cataloging system was one made up by Noel, which he used and understood. But for the convenience and comprehension of searching for books, Lawler said that the staff decided to transition to the letter and number system for clarity for researchers looking through the shelves of books.

Lastly, the vault is a very small room that houses books that are extremely rare and unique. Air conditioning in the room is necessary to keep the books in good condition and dry. All of the books contained in each room are available to anyone for reading or research. However, Lawler stated that none of the books are allowed to be checked out because Noel required that his collection stay available and protected.

In the vault there is a rare “Aesop’s Fables” book. It is very small and looks similar to a pocket Bible. There are only two other copies, which reside at the English universities in Yale and Cambridge.

“The book was published in 1549 and has double texts. The double texts are lined as two columns of words,” Lawler said. “The left side of the column is written in Greek while the right side of the column in written in Latin.”

Another very rare book is that of Samuel Johnson’s “Dictionary of the English Language.” The only North American copy of a British newspaper from the 1700s is also a book in the Noel Collection. Both of these rare books are stored in the vault with the cold air conditioning.
A limited edition of a 1926 “Winnie the Pooh” with signatures from the author and illustrator is stored in the vault as well. The book rests in its original pink box.

The book “Gone with the Wind” is also signed by the author and contains Noel’s own handwriting on the page of the book displaying the title. The short paragraph he had written discusses how much the book was worth and how he came to own it.

A hunting and outdoors book that was previously owned by Teddy Roosevelt is also housed in the cool vault room.

An 1816 map of Louisiana hangs at the entrance to the collection and is accompanied by a book entitled, “A Geographical Description of the State of Louisiana.” The books was published the same year as the map was completed- just four years after Louisiana became a state.

Themed exhibits also showcase the Noel Collection as cataloguers Amy Blackburn and Aimee Plaisance organize glass-cased displays. Both women present an exhibit every few months on the third floor. The display case are borrowed from the archives department also on the third floor of the library. Lawler explained that there are times when the archives and Noel Collection work together on an exhibit.

The new “The Art of Love” romance exhibit for the months of February, March, and April details romance involved in Valentine’s Day in February, and National Poetry Month in April.

All of the books and pictures displayed are from the Noel Collection and contain books from the 14th to the 20th centuries. Many of the colored pages show detailed drawing and artwork of romance from different stages development, such as young love, lies and secrets, hardships, and reconciliation. The pages were colored by hand, as explained by the cataloguers.

“The books and pictures show the different eras and approaches to love from different angles,” Blackburn said. Books included in the display are by authors Jane Austen and Shakespeare. Stories also highlight various fictional and nonfictional love stories. The exhibit is open to the public and tours are available of the Noel Collection.

The staff are already planning for their next exhibit in May that will feature books about gardening and agriculture. These books date back to the 1700s. Some of the gardening books were actually gifts for Mrs. Noel from Noel himself. Lawler stated that he would then ask to have the books back so that he could add them to his collection.

Lawler explained that Mrs. Noel did not mind and became accustomed to her husband collecting such books. Much later into the year the staff hope to partner with the biology department as they present more books from the 18th century about recipes for cooking food, making cosmetics and shampoo and the like.

“We’ve asked the science department if they would be interested in joining us in the exhibit,” Lawler said. “They are interested and we are waiting to hear from them for further details. For the exhibit they are interested about how food was prepared in the 1700s.”

The Noel Collection is open weekdays from 8am to 4 pm. The office is closed from 12pm to 1pm for lunch. Contact Martha Lawler for questions or to schedule a tour of the collection at 318-798-4163 or her email at Martha.Lawler@lsus.edu. The Noel Collection can also be found on Facebook and Tumblr. For more information about the collection visit jamessmithnoralcollection.org.

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Above: The 1816 Louisiana state map in the “Exhibit” room of the Noel Collection.

Below: The 1549 Aesop’s Fables book. This photo shows the first page of the extremely rare book, where only two other copies can be found at Yale and Cambridge universities.

Left: The text of the 1549 Aesop’s Fables, which is written in Greek on the left-hand side of the column and Latin on the right-hand side of the column.

Photos by Emily Wright.
The “Stacks,” or big room of the Noel Collection on the third floor of the Noel Memorial Library.

Photos by Malvya Chintakindi.
Growing up in Communist Hungary isn’t something that Americans can easily wrap their minds around. But this was the reality for Professor Tibor Szarvas. After World War II, Hungary became bound to the Soviet Union, thus crushing their economy and forcing them into a deplorable way of life. Stories of starving children and parents with not enough work were not uncommon before the 1960s. But when change came, large percentages of the population found themselves in much better standing. A revolution in Hungary and many lives lost brought about large changes in their country. When Joseph Stalin died, unrest in all of the territories controlled by the Soviets became unbearable and reforms began to emerge.

These changes produced the man that Professor Szarvas is now. They help to mold the iron will and drive to understand arguably the most complex subject one can study.

Schooling became a necessity in the refreshed Hungary. Night classes were offered for parents who wished to continue where they left off and for children who had other duties during the day. Schooling itself was also taken quite seriously and thus children were taught to be as correct as possible. To achieve the highest marks you were only afforded one mistake. The arts were also pushed into the new Hungary. “Cultural Houses” or small theaters which would show top of the line arts, ranging from poetry to live theater, were constructed and spread throughout the country.

Even their television programs were affected; while most of them were locally produced, educational television was imported from the West and broadcast across the country.

Professor Szarvas can attest to a feeling of safety that surrounded and enfolded the country during these new times. Driving your children to after school activities was never necessary on a nice afternoon as many people rode their bikes. Furthermore, sending your young children on an afternoon stroll to burn off extra energy in the evenings was not such a death sentence as in other parts of the world. A sense of trust was very evident in the community and in the county as a whole. In this breeding ground of culture and knowledge a young Tibor Szarvas began to grow. Early on he challenged the norms of common belief even contradicting authority.

Professor Szarvas reflected on his times along a stretch of a local river. During the summer he would be free to kayak or swim for hours, and during the winter ice skates were rarely not on his feet. On one of the brothers ice skating trips, a police officer approached the boys to inform them that the ice was unsafe to skate on because the water levels had changed since the water froze, thus leaving a pocket of air between the ice and water making it dangerous. As the officer walked away, the Szarvas brothers snickered. They tapped their skates on the “dangerous ice” and took off. Physics, as they well knew, did not work that way.

Knowledge was the driving force behind Szarvas: his need for more understanding, particularly for math, kept his feet on the ground and his nose always pointed forward. Once time to choose a college came near the prestigious University of Szeged was an easy choice for someone who was so devoted. As one of the best universities in Hungary with a world-wide reputation for research, it was a grand option. In 1991 he graduated with an M.S. in Mathematics and once again turned to the future. His father often jokingly threatened to give Szarvas a “swift kick to the ass,” if he let better opportunities in bigger places slip past him.

When the opportunity presented itself for him to leave the country
and study in America for his Ph.D, he finally took pause. Hungary was his home. His cocoon of family, freedom, and ice skating with his brother would all be left behind. But, guidance from his father, among other things, contributed to his eventual decision to make the move to attend the University of South Carolina.

In this new position he was trusted with a lot of responsibility as a teaching assistant while working on his dissertation.

After finally earning his Ph.D. many doors opened. He accepted a job in the ever popular California at San Diego Christian College as an Assistant Professor and Mathematics Program Director and maintained this position for five years. In the next five years when math became a separate entity he accepted the new title as Chair of the Mathematics department at the college. Finally in 2007 he took the job as Chair of the Mathematics department at Louisiana State University in Shreveport.

Often he takes his family back home to Hungary. They strap on the ice skates when they are fortunate enough to find the river frozen and spend hours in the freedom of nature. Many of their fondest memories of spending time together take place in this magical land.

When asked if he would ever return for good, Professor Szarvas took a moment to reflect. After mulling it over, he sighed and said no, even though Hungary was his home, his life was now rooted in America. His family lived here now and have grown up here. And with the loss of his beloved father, America seemed to be the best option for all. Professor Tibor Szarvas traveled many a mile in the pursuit of his first love, understanding of the world as seen through numbers. Although his journey may not end here, we can be sure that the next place he ascends to will be shown another side to the world. Not only that of another country’s traditions and views but of the universe of numbers. Of a purely logic based world, where all would dissolve if one plus one did indeed equal three.
Preview Day at LSUS
Prospective LSUS students visit the campus

By Malvya Chintakindi

LSUS hosted the 2015 preview day on March 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The preview day was the program organized by the admissions department dressed in purple, where students received information about LSUS Admissions, Financial Aid (including GUARANTEED scholarships), and Student Activities.

The day started with Dr. John Vassar, Interim Provost & Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, who welcomed the prospective students and their families at the university center theater. The crowd amounted to an approximate of hundred students, a few with their families. Paula Atkins, director of student development and Angel Martin, director of student activities and recreational sports were among the few who gave the welcome address.

“I spoke about student activities and recreational sports. We want to show the potential students that there is more to LSUS than academics like intramurals, special events, sports tournaments, student employment opportunities, Greek life, etc., and give them a feel for student life and various activities offered on campus,” Martin said.

The staff of the admissions department along with student workers and ambassadors played an active role in organizing, directing and presenting information.

“Today is an exciting day for LSUS with prospective students here from all over the Ark-La-Tex. We are pleased to show them what it means to be a future pilot,” Tara Brando Sullivan, Assistant Director of admissions said.

The crowd was then directed to attend any breakout session they wanted. Break out sessions were sessions organized in different buildings with regard to the respective departments where faculty members explained what
that particular major would offer and the requirements for students to get into it. The biology break out session was organized in the science building under the supervision of Dr. Dalton Gossett, the computer science break out session was organized in the technology center under Dr. Jon Baarsch, and the petroleum engineering session was organized in the science building under Dr. Gary Boucher and so on.

The break out sessions happened in two installments, one at 10:00 a.m. and the other at 10:40 a.m. Students had the chance to learn more about programs they are interested in and meet faculty members.

“We are thrilled to provide students the opportunities for professional, academic and social growth. We had some of the most knowledgeable students this time at the first break out session and they were so well informed. We are looking forward to seeing them next term,” Dr. Jon Baarsch, Instructor of English and computer science said.

Students were encouraged to take up extra curricular activities for all round development.

“When you come to LSUS, join the marketing club and all others you want to. We don’t care about your major - whether it is finance, HR, accounting or anything. The marketing club participates in international conferences and networking events. You would learn to build a website and we also have guest speakers most of the time,” Tami knots, Professor of Marketing, said at the break out session in business building.

These sessions provided information about the major, opportunities students could make use of and what the major could do to them. Simply put, these sessions were an overview of everything the major entails to.

“You can study abroad in Ireland or Italy and do an internship too. We do emphasize on social and cultural diversity. We try to understand people consistent with their culture and their world view and ways to negotiate the differences because America is a very diverse country,” Bennett Racal, graduate student of counseling said at the psychology breakout session.

After these breakout sessions, all of them were guided to the University Center ballroom where lunch was provided. A few student organizations made their presence felt with their own stalls and brochures providing information.

Door prizes were given out through a lucky draw and prizes were given out for the best selfies at the selfie station. Students from different regions, not just Shreveport, showed up for the preview day. Students who intend to come as transfer students to LSUS also came to the event.

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“I came here to know more about computer science specifically. I want to learn more about the requirements which is why I chose to come. I plan on starting at BPCC and then transfer to LSUS. This is a great school because of the size and community,” Lawron Toliver from New Orleans said.

Students were impressed with the activities planned for every semester by different departments and were excited to attend the event.

“I didn’t know many cool things professors do, for instance, the math breakout session informed me that they have seminars every Friday! I am here because LSUS has a lot to offer and I know it would put me through the best professors,” Joshua Watson, senior, South wood High School, said.

A few students who were offered admission by LSUS came to the event to see the school once more and decide.

“I received an admission offer from LSUS and also received a gold purple scholarship where I get to receive $2000 every academic year. I am here to check everything out and make sure this is the school I would like to go to,” Jannero Temple, senior, Woodlawn high school, said.

The preview day also catered to the parents of the prospective students through a program called ‘coffee talks’ at the university center. The families and parents got first hand information and interacted with the admissions department staff. The preview day ended at 1:30 after the high school students who missed their classes to attend the event received their school excuse passes.

Prospective LSUS students left with a goodie bag and a whole lot of information which would help them decide if they would be interested in being a pilot.
Lambda Pi Eta, The National Communication Honor Society, (pictured above), is one of many honor societies on the LSUS campus. The honor society recognizes, fosters, and rewards those students who have an outstanding academic record and are committed to their education in mass communication degrees. This event commenced in November 2014. The events are featured every semester. For more information about Lambda Pi Eta or other honor societies, visit the LSUS website, click the “Student Life” tab on the gold bar across the top of the webpage, click “Student Organizations” on the left side of the next screen, then scroll down the page to find “Honor Societies” listed in the tab on the left-hand side of the page.
In the fall of 2012, Tyra and Sam joined the first cohort of freshman Honors Program students enrolled here at LSUS.

Over the course of six semesters, they’ve been on quite the intellectual ride from to-gas and Animal House in 101 to the Odyssey, Shakespeare, and Oh Brother Where Art Thou in 102; from Hogwarts and Tom Brown’s Schooldays in 201 to a road trip to TCU for a Malcolm Gladwell lecture and a subsequent application of Outliers to the field of medicine that wrapped up their sophomore studies.

This year, they did a semester of social science research methods focused on the political and cultural ramifications of public health issues, particularly Yellow Fever as an encapsulated event, which prepared them for their senior theses.

Tyra Brown and Sam Crooks presented their senior thesis research to a group of the faculty and students on Friday, March 20, at a regularly scheduled symposium.

Brown is doing research into the cultural issues behind female genital mutilation (FGM) as she moves toward a medical career in obstetrics and gynecology. Crooks focused on the roles of post-war technology and the perceived power of leadership in the eradication of polio as background to the current issues related to vaccination and epidemic.

Both students have completed a minor in interdisciplinary studies with the three year sequence of Honors Program courses. Brown will graduate in May with a BS in biochemistry and Crooks will complete his studies in molecular and cellular biology in December. Both intend to go on to medical school.
The LSUS Honors Program brings distinguished authors and lecturers to campus each semester including Mark Spencer, an award winning author from Monticello, Arkansas (pictured left).

Photo courtesy of the author.

Sam and Tyra getting their copies of *Saving Italy* autographed by author Robert M. Edsel at the annual Authors in April event sponsored by the LSUS Pioneer Heritage center.

The first ever LSUS Honors Program Quiz Bowl Team! Left to right: Tyra Brown, Kaitlyn Worrell, Ron DeBenedetti, and Captain Sam Crooks in competition at the March, 2014, Louisiana Collegiate Honors Conference in Monroe.

Photos and content by Dr. Webster
“Around 2006, the SGA [Student Government Association] at LSUS wanted to create a mascot to help support LSUS student life and athletics. Along with the help of Student Activities the SGA held campus-wide votes, developed the concept, named Pete and unveiled him at Midnight Madness in October 2007. Pete the Pilot was a riverboat pilot, in the form of our state bird, the Pelican. When not navigating a riverboat, his purpose was to promote and enhance school spirit and student engagement at LSUS. Pete was the embodiment of school spirit. He would appear at anything from athletic events, campus preview days, and various student or alumni events to commencement, K-12 school functions and even local parades. Pete even had his own Facebook page and often wrote letters to LSUS students about upcoming campus activities.

When we changed colors last summer, it was decided Pete would "graduate" and we would develop a new mascot that fit with the new colors and logos developed for the University. This is all part of our rebranding effort beginning with the color change. We are currently working on the Athletic Department logo redesign and I am told we will look at the mascot redesign sometime after that logo is developed. “

- Angel Martin, director of recreational sports and student activities

Pete the Pilot on the UC Mall during a student event.

Photo courtesy of www.lsus.edu.
“On behalf of the faculty and staff of Louisiana State University Shreveport, welcome to this very special commencement ceremony. This day marks the culmination of hard work, commitment, and most of all, school spirit by our beloved mascot Pete the Pilot. Pete has been an important member of our campus community for several years now. He’s been there to welcome our incoming freshman to campus and to pump students up at athletic events, and now, after celebrating the graduation of so many other students, we’re here to celebrate his. Not many people realized, that as Pete was in the spotlight making everyone’s experience at LSUS a little brighter, he was also busy behind the scenes working hard on his degree. Today, he receives his Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences with a concentration in Environmental Science.

Pete, you are a role model to all pelicans, and I’m sure you’ll inspire many other birds to do outstanding things. We’ll miss you here on campus, but we’re so proud that you’re moving on to bigger and better things at the Red River Watershed Management Institute. Congratulations and best wishes for your future!”

- Chancellor Larry Clark
Pete the Pilot waving goodbye as he rides down the Red River for his work at the Red River Watershed Management Institute.

Photos courtesy of the LSUS Office of Media and Public Relations.