Dr. Larry Anderson taught the “Education in Modern Times” module to the honors students which focused on the current education system as well as that of the near future.

Current education is influenced by many factors, the biggest of which seems to be whether the education is from a private or a public institution. Public institutions, such as LSUS, receive government funding and have lower tuition costs than private institutions which do not receive any government funding.

To make up for government funding, private institutions have relatively higher tuition costs which is a major factor in education. The class also discussed why so many people wanted to obtain a higher education and how that affects economics as well as what that means for current students.

The course also focused on how the current education system came to be as it is today. Students had the chance to look at statistics about how the number of people seeking higher education has increased and what their experience has been while pursuing higher education.
Ron’s Rap
By: Ron DeBenedetti

Shout out to my homeboy Pla-tiddo
This MC Ronicus stepping up to the podium

Ask any time traveling girls and they’ll say that they heard of him
I’ll tell you what we learned in ancient Rome and I’ll try not to dawdle
Your brain so full of knowledge I’ll have you stuttering like Aristotle

We learn lots of oratory so we don’t sound barbaric
I’m not going to lie I got a pretty huge rhetoric
Gotta learn math, so I can count my aureus

I got more money than Marcus Aurelius’
From the Greek astronomers we learned about egocentricity
Why the universe doesn’t revolve around me still is a mystery

Then we got Philosophy
Where we try to see
What it means to be
What is life actually?

And what the afterlife will foresee?
Should we live piously?
Or just party?
And how does it all pertain to me?

And that’s where we drop the beat.

Ron (dressed in costume below) summed up the ancient educational experience in rap during midterm presentations.

The Noel Collection faculty were incorrectly identified in the September newsletter.

Curator – Dr. Robert C. Leitz, III
Cataloguer – Martha M. Lawler, Associate Librarian
Do you believe in ghosts? Not the ones that just yell “BOO!!” and float away; or the ones that are friendly and want to play? The ghosts I am describing haunt you, follow you and play tricks on your mind. I was not a believer in ghosts: I just thought they were little superstitions the media made up to teach me good manners and morals. I never could believe in a million years that I would ever meet someone who has ever had an encounter with a paranormal entity. Mr. Mark Spencer turned me into a believer.

When Spencer began to describe his initial impressions of the Monticello house in Arkansas, I was as skeptical as he was. Our similar skepticisms drew my attention to the story. He did not take the warnings of the townspeople and all the rest of the country who said that his new home was haunted. Spencer just shrugged it off (as I would have). Then he and his family started to see the “doppelgangers” (German for ‘double walker’) around the house and he then became worried. A Louisiana paranormal company came to do readings in the house to find out if it was really haunted. That is when Spencer and his family heard “her” voice.

Spencer explained to us the legend of Ladell Allen and her mysterious suicide on Christmas of 1948. Ladell killed herself because the love of her life refused to leave his wife for her. The lovers wrote letters to each all of the time, but the letters were never found until Spencer discovered them. He told us that a strange force spoke to him and said to go into the attic to find something, but he was not sure what to look for. Then in the attic Spencer found Ladell’s love letters tucked away in the floorboards. This is when the tragic secret of Ladell Allen and her lover was revealed.

If this does not make you a believer then I do not know what will: maybe a visit to the beautifully haunted Monticello house in person. You could ask Spencer if you could take a tour. Maybe while you are there you can meet Ms. Ladell Allen for yourself and tell her you do not believe in ghosts. I am sure she will be very understanding.

I really enjoyed Mr. Spencer’s visit to our honors class! I loved how we got to talk to him about our majors and interests before he gave his lecture. Also, finding out about how he got started in his writing career was extremely interesting because it showed his hard-work and determination. I really loved learning about the haunting of his house and his experiences with the “paranormal” and the writing of his book. I thought it was super clever too that he turned his own life experience of living in a crazy, haunted house into a parallel story of his life and the life of the Allens. I hope we can have more guest speakers like this in the future!

-Kirsten Howard

I found Mr. Spencer’s lecture very interesting and enjoyable. His way of storytelling was pretty entertaining and the stories themselves were great. In fact, since the lecture I read the book (and liked it pretty well). It was great hearing from a published author and getting a bit of insight on the process of writing and publication.

-Anna Tedesco

It was a really great opportunity to meet Mr. Spencer and hear him talk about his publications. I joined the honors class because I knew that it would cover many different subjects and areas, which can be a nice break from whatever major you are pursuing. As a science major, it is ice to sometimes learn about things unrelated to science and this was one of those opportunities. Mr. Spencer showed how interesting the writing processes is and how difficult it can be to publish something you’ve worked so hard on, but also how perseverance pays off. It was also extremely nice for you and him to get us copies of his books! Thank you!

-Sam Crooks

Autumn’s account sets the background for other student voices.
Education in the 19th and 20th centuries

Dr. Gary Joiner taught this section which included many discussions on the types of classes as well as what was expected of students in the past 200 years. Although the 19th and 20th centuries were filled with wars and then, later, fear of wars, there were many educational advances especially in the United States. Schools were standardized and it became a law for everyone of a certain age to attend school. It was also during this time that the government started setting plots of land aside for schools and higher education as well as the beginning of government financing for public schools.

An 8th grade exit test for the time was passed out for our HONR 101 students which most found impossible to complete. For example, measurements for math might be made with bushels of wheat rather than with measures more familiar to those of us in the class. According to Dr. Joiner, rural students in the 19th century would have been very familiar with bushels as a standard of measurement. We also learned that specialized institutions such as a School for Idiots and the School for the Dumb began as a means of providing educational and technical skills to those who could afford to live at the schools. The courses taught at that time were very different from the courses taught today and even if the same classes stayed, the material taught was completely different.

Pioneer Day at LSUS

By Sarah Sholten

At Pioneer Day, I had honestly expected there to be a bunch of boring old people trying to convince me that the ratty old buildings at the heritage center were amazing and insisting on telling me their long and involved history. Instead, I found people of all ages, filling those buildings with life and expertise. The information I found there was beyond my expectations.

I was only fortunate enough to catch the end of the event but the one building that I visited had three different stations. The first to catch my eye was a table covered in spears and clubs and other wooden objects. The woman behind the table told me about native tribes that used to live in the area. Upon further examination many of the items were replicas of tools and even jewelry that Native Americans used in their everyday lives.

In the same building there was a display of colorful eggs. They were dyed using a special Ukrainian method. The woman who had dyed the eggs had used traditional patterns that were intricate to the extreme. And speaking of intricacy, in the same building another woman was making lace—by hand.

She had on her lap a special pillow-like contraption. In the middle there was a type of wheel that held the completed lace in place with pins. The pin pattern continued along the wheel, and, as she slowly spun it, the woman would weave about eight different spools of white thread along the needles, creating an intricate pattern. I told her her patience must know no bounds. She hardly took her eyes off of her work as she nodded.

Though I only had time to visit one building before they began packing it up, I had a great time at Pioneer day, and learned more in that time than I could have thought possible.