$61,150. in Grant Money Received

Funding from the Board of Regents has allowed for improvement of Bronson Hall’s Smart Rooms. Some improvements are already in effect. Five classrooms have new computers and new projectors. Two have new smart podiums and two have new SmartCarts. Additional improvements coming in the spring will include enhanced wireless for the east end of the third floor, wall-mounted flat screen televisions and Blue Ray DVD players for all SmartRooms. The grant included funding for all electrical and wiring upgrades necessary.

Red River Classic Debate

About 250 students from 25 schools attended the Red River Classic Debate Tournament that was hosted at LSUS November 2-4, 2012. The debate divisions were very large for a regional tournament with two divisions qualifying for double-octofinals.

William Carey University was the overall winner of the tournament. LSUS had a few entries in the tournament, but mainly focused on running the tournament as it was a massive event.

Caleb Brown, placed first in the novice division, and Chelsea Anthony placed first in the varsity division. The team would especially like to thank the generous support of our administration, faculty, staff and students at LSUS.

Kathleen Ryland, debate team member

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Mass Communications Scholarships

Jennifer Middleton and Rebecca Wheeler of LSU Shreveport both received a $1000 scholarship. Jennifer Middleton, a MCOM major with a concentration in journalism, is a junior who was awarded the Orland Dodson Memorial Scholarship. Rebecca Wheeler, a senior MCOM major with a concentration in public relations, was awarded the Kerry Garland Memorial Scholarship. The Garland Scholarship was established in memory of Kerry Garland who was a Shreveport Times Journalist. The Garland Scholarship is awarded annually to any college junior or senior majoring in journalism or public relations, but the Dodson Scholarship is only awarded to college juniors or seniors that are majoring in journalism. Recipients of both scholarships must either come from the 10-parish area of Northwest Louisiana or attend one of the four-year colleges in that area. Each scholarship is awarded competitively, and students from the northwest region are encouraged to apply.

Garland Scholarship Winner

Rebecca Wheeler was born and raised in Southlake, Texas. She later moved to Shreveport in January 2012 with her husband, who is stationed at Barksdale. Upon graduation, Rebecca plans to enjoy time with her daughter while pursuing a career in public relations and using the skilled that she has learned and developed in her undergraduate career. “When I found out I won the award, I was very surprised as it was announced in my public relations for non-profits class,” said Wheeler. Wheeler was one of the two recipients of the Garland Scholarship.

The Garland Scholarship was established in the memory of Kerry Garland who was a Shreveport Times print journalist. It is awarded annually to a college junior or senior majoring in journalism or public relations.

“When I wrote my application essay, my goal was to show not only why I want to pursue a career in public relations, but why public relations is a perfect fit for me, and I feel I was able to convey that,” said Wheeler.

PRAL Induction

Karen Wissing and Christy Canady presented memberships to the new student members of the Public Relations Association of Louisiana Northwest Chapter November 9. To be eligible for PRAL membership students must have established a professional standing in the field of public relations or a related field. There are several benefits that come from being a member of the society. New members were Rani Graff, Tommi McAteer, Mercedes Taylor, and Rebecca Wheeler who are all finishing concentrations in public relations.

Contact us at (318) 797-5376. Visit our department page on the LSUS site.
New Courses

- Trey Gibson and Mary G. "Jorji" Jarzabek will offer online public speaking in the new 8 week format.
- Morgan Thomas of KTAL will teach broadcast writing.
- Don McCoy will teach a new “stagecraft” course on Thursday evenings.
- Cross-listed social media/marketing course with the School of Business.

Faculty Profile: Dr. Linda Webster
Professor and Chair at Louisiana State University in Shreveport

Dr. Linda Webster, professor of communications and department chair, has been at Louisiana State University since August of 2008. In that time she has developed an online mass communications major, established a local chapter of the national communication honor society, and created a public speaking textbook, now in a second edition, which generates royalties funding a departmental scholarship fund. She directs the recently established Humanities/Social Science Honors Program and is serving as interim chair of the Department of Fine Arts, Foreign Language, and Humanities. Her e-mail address is linda.webster@lsus.edu.

New Officer Installation—Lambda Pi Eta

Four new officers were installed at the awards ceremony November 9 for the Psi Kappa Chapter of Lambda Pi Eta (LPH). Rani Graff, public relations, was re-elected as president of the chapter, and Linda Clayton, public relations, accepted a second term as vice-president. Mercedes Taylor, public relations, will serve as secretary for the society, and Crystal Vandergriff, journalism, was elected treasurer. Their terms will start in the spring.

PRAL Luncheon

Rani Graff, Mercedes Taylor, and Tommi McAteer attended the October luncheon meeting of the Public Relations Association of Louisiana Northwest Chapter, on Thursday, November 1. Along with Rebecca Wheeler (not pictured) all are new student members of the Chapter and were recognized at the November 9 departmental awards gathering.

Contact us at (318) 797-5376. Visit our department page on the LSUS site.
The LSUS Department of Communications sponsored the first Black Box Workshop production in February. This workshop took advantage of the Black Box setting where two seldom-performed one-act plays were performed by an ensemble cast from February 21-24.

The one-act plays included *Adam and Eve on a Ferry*, a comedy written by Tennessee Williams, and *People in the Wind*, a one-act play by William Inge in which five bus passengers and three locals come together in a remote Kansas diner.

The ensemble for these plays included four LSUS alumni. The director, Don McCoy, earned his Bachelors of Arts in Communications. His theatrical experience includes stage performance in Stage Center’s *Aida* and Peter Pan Players’ *Annie* and *The Wizard of Oz*.

Audra Caitlyn Moss, who appears as Ariadne Peabody in *Adam and Eve on a Ferry* graduated from LSUS with degrees in Criminal Justice and French. Her theatrical experience includes Rose and the Woolgatherer, Clara in *I’m not Rap-paport*, Faith in *Kindertransport*, Medea in *Euripides*, and Trish in *Five Women Wearing the same Dress*.

This pair of plays was the debut performance for Sandy McCoy. Sandy is an alumna of LSUS as well as a mother of three. Sandy also recently became a grandmother.

Another alumnus performer was Nicholas Alexander Sewell who earned a Bachelors of Arts in speech communication. He also began theatrical work at LSUS. Sewell studied the technical aspects of theatre as well as acting. He performed as Jason in *Euripides*. He also appeared in *Day for Surprises and Anatol*. He also has several technical credits to his name.

A second evening of one-act plays under the direction of Don McCoy is set to open in April with production dates of April 25-28.
Spring 2013 Scholars

Rani Graff            Mercedes Taylor      Julie Thomas      Crystal Vandegriff

Rani Graff of Bossier City is majoring in mass communications with a public relation concentration. She is serving her second term as president of the local chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, the national honor society for undergraduate communication students. As part of her internship duties in the LSUS media office, she is writing and producing infomercials for each campus department that will play during commencement so that those attending graduation can see what LSU Shreveport has to offer.

Julie Thomas of Haughton is also majoring in mass communications with a concentration in public relations and is serving as an associate vice-president of our Lambda Pi Eta chapter. She is working the PR field as the Shreveport representative for Girl Scouts of Louisiana.

Crystal Vandegriff of Shreveport is concentrating on a career in journalism. She is the executive editor of the Almagest, the official student publication at LSU Shreveport, which includes writing stories and editorials for the paper. Also a member of the Lambda Pi Eta national honor organization, Crystal is serving her second term as treasurer.

Mercedes Taylor also from Bossier City is interning with the LSUS Media Office and honing her skills in public relations. She is serving as secretary to the LSUS chapter of Lambda Pi Eta and is hoping to continue working in social media and video production.

The scholars are selected from faculty nominations each fall and spring semester. Each student receives a scholarship award from the royalty fund from the sale of the public speaking textbook.

Students must demonstrate both academic achievement and a combination of leadership, professionalism, and portfolio work directly related to the field they hope to enter.

Scholars will be recognized at the Lambda Pi Eta/departmental awards ceremony on March 15. For additional information, contact: Dr. Linda Webster in the Department of Communications at 318-797-5376 or linda.webster@lsus.edu.
Keynote Speaker: Kate Archer Kent

Keynote speaker, Kate Archer Kent, spoke at the LSU Shreveport Department of Communication fall 2012 installation and awards ceremony on November 9th. Kent is the news producer and host of *Morning Edition* at Red River Radio.

Kent has been named Reporter of the Year by the Louisiana Associated Press Broadcasters Association in 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2010. She was also a Daniel Schorr Journalism Prize finalist for a series on drug addiction.

During the ceremony Kent spoke very encouraging words to the students. “This generation is on course to becoming the most educated generation in America,” said Kent. She gave students 5 tips for success. She encouraged students to write every single day and to seek criticism of their works.

According to Kent, it is important to read widely to help improve vocabulary. She told the students that they should look around more. The world is continually changing, and individuals miss out.

Kent has used these tips throughout her journalism and public relations career.

Keynote Speaker: Mark Spencer

Multi-award winning author Mark Spencer visited LSU Shreveport Tuesday, October 23. He gave a public reading of his new novella *The Masked Demon* in the LSUS Noel Library where he also had a book signing.

Spencer is the author of 7 books. His work has received The Faulkner Society Faulkner Award, The Omaha prize for the Novel and the St. Andrews Press Short Fiction Prize.

*The Masked Demon* is about a bigamist professional wrestler who is trying to jump start his career. He lives 3 separate lives, with three professional identities who is determined to protect and care for the women and children he loves.

The public reading was sponsored by the Humanities/Social Science Honors Program and was underwritten by a donation from Michael Woods, LSUS Foundation board member.

Spencer lives in Monticello, Arkansas, in the Allen House. His home is thought to be one of the most haunted houses in America. It has been featured in several paranormal shows.
Photo Essay

Director Don McCoy and cast of People in the Wind after the last performance on February 24.

New PRAL member Rebecca Wheeler is holding her certificate with Instructor Gregg Trusty.

Recently-inducted LPH member Kendra Gray, wearing her graduation honor cord, is holding her membership certificate and her graduation gift from the Psi Kappa Chapter.

Photo Essay Director Don McCoy and cast of People in the Wind after the last performance on February 24.

Instructor Gregg Trusty is lecturing to his students from behind one of the new SmartPodiums in Bronson Hall 338.

Sonja Bales Shares stories about her time as a news anchor and television host on March 15.

Black Box Workshop Productions Director, Don McCoy, in the “Green Room” before a February performance.

Recently-inducted LPH member Kendra Gray, wearing her graduation honor cord, is holding her membership certificate and her graduation gift from the Psi Kappa Chapter.

Actress and Student, Kimi McVay (right), waits for instruction from her director, Don McCoy.

Contact us at (318) 797-5376. Visit our department page on the LSUS site.
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