

THE SENTRY

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AT ALEXANDRIA

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Increasing enrollment numbers

By: Marlayna Meche
Sentry Reporter

Why choose Louisiana State University of Alexandria? What can they offer?

People attend LSU for many reasons: academics, location, athletics, safety, and so much more. There are students attending LSU from various states and backgrounds. LSU now has a 4-year bachelor's degree program, but with all of the growth and achievements over the years, it appears that many local students choose to go elsewhere to get college degrees. Why are local students pursuing an education that will end up costing them more? Why not LSU?

Shelly Kieffer, director for recruiting & admissions, said these are the very questions the faculty and staff ask themselves each year as they work to change LSU's reputation. "A lot of them [students] want what they call, 'the bigger experience' and they think that LSU doesn't offer that," Kieffer said in regards to the university's reputation. "I also think that a lot of parents aren't aware of what we have," Kieffer said. "They think of LSU as the LSU that was there when they

were kids ...when they come to campus they say, 'I had no idea.'" Kieffer stressed that the school has made many changes and has grown, but it's going to take more: more students, more involvement, more credibility.

LSU's misconstrued reputation is not the only thing keeping local students away.

A lack of an extensive athletic program is also a barrier to recruitment. Athletics are a strong force in college that drives student life. The question is, is there an effort being made to recruit local athletes? "I wouldn't say there is a concentrated effort on it...I'm going to have to establish networks in Louisiana because I'm not from Louisiana," said Athletic Director and softball coach, Charlie Zeilman. "I think that once I establish those networks from the people that are local, a concentrated effort will be made to recruit people locally".

If LSU can recruit locally and have an increase of community involvement, they will succeed state-wide. The effort is being made, but patience is a virtue. LSU is still a growing program; money that could be used for marketing is being used to better the university. There is not much money to spend on marketing alone. "I would have chosen to go

somewhere closer to home if it weren't for softball because I'd never heard of it," said student athlete, Morgan Allain. From what Allain said, she believes there's still a need to get the word out.

Students can make a difference and help LSU's recruiting efforts! Get the word out, come to games, plays, and various events; be proud to be a General, and give student life, life! Success starts at home.



Important Dates

Mid Term Exams
Oct. 8th-12th

LSU Foundation
Scholarship Gala
Nov. 9th

LSU Walking Trail
Ribbon Cutting
Oct. 3rd

Trick-or-Treat Street
Oct. 25th

Presidential Elections
Nov. 6th

Pumpkin Carving Contest
Oct. 10th

Fright Night Movie on the
Quad Oct. 16th

The facts about Financial Aid...

By: Ashley Fitzpatrick
Sentry Assistant Editor

These days you don't meet many students that *do not* have something negative to say about financial aid. Ginger King, Senior and Student Government President, says she hears many students complaining about financial aid's attitude and the fact that students feel very misinformed.

Teresa Seymour, Executive Director of Enrollment Management and Registrar says the financial aid employees are working on longer training and improving their communication with students and their emotional reactions to the students.

The financial aid office is very aware of their shortcomings and is determined to resolve them. Will the students be willing to let go of the past and resolve to meet them halfway?

According to the financial aid office, approximately 75-80% of the 2100

students currently enrolled in LSU receive some type of financial aid.

There are only *four* staff members in the office that can handle *every single* step in the financial aid process and the workload is challenging. At present, 235 students (14%) are *still* missing all of the paperwork needed to complete the verification process. Financial aid cannot process aid unless the students do their part.

Perhaps students need to know more about the process of financial aid and its counterparts. This will relieve some of the pressure on the office and allow time to resolve issues. Seymour reminds students that the more time they must spend investigating complaints- the less time they have processing paperwork.

King also said this "After having a clear

understanding of the process of financial aid and knowing the effort they put into correcting their issues, I feel that they are doing a better job than students perceive them to be doing. They are doing the best that they can with the resources they have..."



Students unhappy about the new Guest Policy



By: Senty Staff

Is the increase of crime at the Oaks Residence Hall making it an uncomfortable place for residents to live? Residents agree about discomfort but, it's not safety that the students are concerned about. Students who call The Oaks home are aggravated with the new guest policy.

The students' agitation is evident and wished to remain anonymous in this story.

"I don't like the guest policy because I'm paying so much money to live here", said a current resident, "we should be allowed to have visitors on our own terms because The Oaks are not dorms, but they are being administered like dorms."

The new policy became effective in August 2012 after a brutal beating and kidnapping of a non-Oaks resident couple. This experience was a first for the highly safe, tight-knit on campus community. Residents feel like they are being penalized for someone else's incident. Safety at The Oaks places low on the list of students concerns. "It's a nice environment," says freshmen resident, "I don't think I will get shot here, because I feel safe and don't regret living here."

In addition to the unfavorable guest policy, the hassle of registering a guests in and out is causes students to have few guests at all. "My friends have to put in too much effort to see me, they have to leave their license

when they come in to register, then if we want to go somewhere together, my guest will have to go back to pick up their license, then when we come back, we have to sign in again, that is just too much," says a current resident. For some the process is too cumbersome to visit Oaks residents due to the excessive regulations. Disciplinary action is enforced if the rules are broken.

Guests are from prohibited from remaining on the premises after 11p.m. and must reclaim their driver's license at their time of departure or the resident will be charged a fine of \$150. Repeated guest policy violators

are required to pay another fine and face possibility of being evicted and banned from The Oaks permanently. The vast majority of new residents are displeases with the new policy. Student housing is intended to be a convenience for students. Campus housing allows students to live independently and in close proximity to their classes and academic resources. On an extremely safe campus such as LSUA are restricting the liberties of the students who call the Oaks home justified?

How safe is LSUA?



Have no Fear, but be Aware!- Tips for Night Class Safety

By: Kate Hayes
Sentry Reporter

"Any time I have to walk to my car in the dark, I put my keys in between my fingers like Wolverine," said student Christy Beall. After sexual assaults at Northwestern State University, students everywhere have been encouraged to be extra cautious on their campuses.

"Sometimes leaving class at night late can be a little scary," said night class student Coleen Seeling. "I carry pepper spray but I'm not sure if I would think to use

it or even have time to get it if I was put in a dangerous situation."

Campus police urge students to:

- Always walk in well-defined areas where there are other people.
- Avoid walking alone and stay on a lit path.
- Always have your keys ready so you do not spent time searching through your bag to find them.
- And always be aware of your surroundings.

"I don't think LSUA is the type

By: Shanice Mack

Sentry Reporter

While on LSUA's campus students can be seen walking to their classes, café, or to their cars. But do students think about safety on campus? Some LSUA students feel some sense of security but don't feel safe at night.

"There should be more security at night for Subway workers who gets off late and walk to the dorms." said Lakyreion Jones, an LSUA student that lives on campus and a Subway worker. Jones stresses that LSUA Police need to make more of an effort to be seen on campus and at night for all workers and students.

LSUE student Ebony Rax who takes classes at LSUA says, "At most times I do feel safe, but should be more security on campus. They need to hire more police officers and to make

themselves more visible on campus and approachable."

"Yes, I do feel safe at LSUA, said Stephanie Ortiz a first time student at LSUA. That the first thing the campus police does their morning rounds." Ortiz expressed that she has no fear walking on campus. "I see the campus police make their morning rounds either by bikes or by cars." Ashley M. who does not want to be identified says, "I see them mostly in the parking lots giving tickets then checking on the school itself." Students agree that the police officers should make themselves more visible and more approachable on campus to give students and faculty peace of mind.

of campus where crime is an issue at all," said freshman, Clayton Bonnette. "Alexandria is not a college town and it's seems like the majority of students here are older.

According to the LSUA website, the campus has virtually no crime. The University Police Department, which is fully staffed with eight officers, continue to ensure maximum safety by patrolling the premises at all hours, providing eight emergency call stations located in various easy-to-get-to places

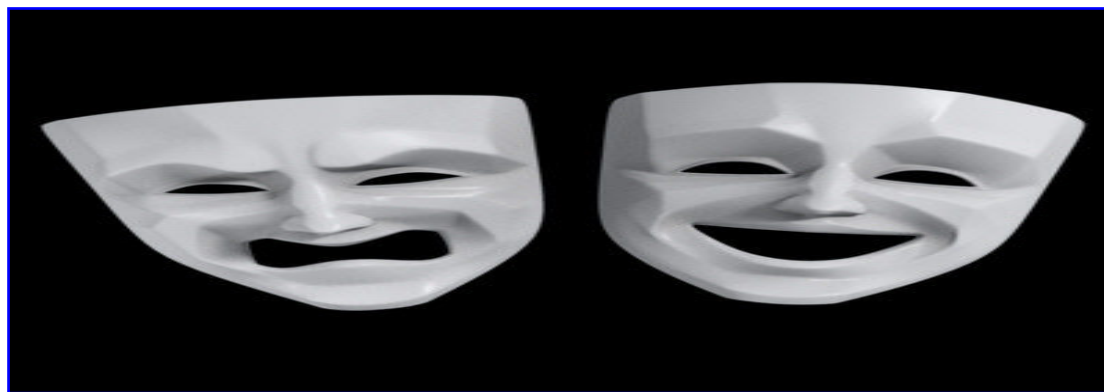
on campus, and encouraging students to sign up for emergency text messaging. Students who do not have emergency text messaging can sign up for it through their my.lsua account. Crime does not discriminate. Be in control of your safety.

LSUA theatre and “The String of Pearls”

By: Adrienne Ford
Sentry Reporter

Only a small number of students are involved in theatre at LSUA, but those who do are part of a family. Lisa Mayeux, administrative assistant of Arts, English, and Humanities has been involved with the theatre department for seven years and holds two degrees in theatre. “The reason why the theatre club is called The Empty Space Players Club is because the club did not have a lot of space to perform.” Mayeux explains. The newly added Black Box Theatre is the hub for performing art productions on the LSUA campus. The theatre program encourages students who are interested in performing arts to audition regardless of experience. Although Lisa Mayeux will not be involved in the *String of Pearls* production she feels it will be an outstanding performance. “I believe it will be just as heart touching as *Steel Magnolias*.”

String of Pearls, directed by Dr. Rhonda Shook is based on a novel and features an entirely female cast. Shook intends for the audience to realize that through situations and objects several people can be connected. Relationships create a web that is often unrecognized. There is great diversity among the women who portray the various roles in the play. “Rhonda loves casting strong women with big personalities and attitudes for her performances,” says Lisa Mayeux. The dates for showings of *The String of Pearls* performance were Sept. 20-23rd and 28-30th in the Black Box Theatre at 7:30pm and 2:30 pm. The production was yet another great success for Shook. Beyond the involvement of student actors, faculty participation in the theatre program is also growing. Stage acting is an experience like no other. Express your dramatic side and audition for the next production on campus!



Zumba in the Gym

Looking for a different and fun way to work out? Zumba classes are now available to students at 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday in the fitness center. Students are raving about what a great workout they have at Zumba class! You have so much fun you'll forget you're working out!

Second Saturday Fresh Market-

The Alexandria Museum of Art, Inglewood Farm, and Butterfield Farm host a farmer's market on the second Saturday of each month. A large variety of locally grown organic produce and a huge selection of hormone and antibiotic free meat and eggs available. Support local farmers and stock up on fresh home grown meat and produce. AMOA is located at 933 2nd Street in downtown Alexandria. Visit www.themuseum.org for more details.

LSUA GREEN TEAM

The Green Team is an environmental group that supports conservation and Earth friendly activities. Join the team!!! For more information contact Dr. Ells: ells@lsua.edu



Faculty Focus

Choices Make the Difference

By: Shelby Fogleman
Sentry Reporter

Molim!! Surely, LSUA professor Dr. Ginger Jones heard hello in Montenegrin many times during her one year all expense paid stay in Podgorica, Montenegro. “Life is different there compared to here,” Jones said. “People were surprisingly friendly. My students [after having taught them for a while] would come to my apartment and ask me to coffee.”

Jones, who won a Fulbright Award that paid for her entire trip, was enthralled at the culture differences. “I was able to walk around at night and feel completely safe,” she said. “I was able to go at two in the morning and get hot chocolate. That's something I wouldn't feel safe doing here.”

Jones is known by students for her loud, devoted teaching methods. Brandy Williams, a student in Jones' Women Writing in War class, said that she believes Jones is a passionate professor. “She appears to love what she is doing.”

Laura Saucier agrees, “Dr. Jones is an enthralling professor...She brings new insight into every subject and does her best to make students consider all options.”



Dr. Jones is a professor of English at Louisiana State University at Alexandria.

Jones loves interacting with her students on a personal level. Their opinions matter to her. While teaching in Podgorica, Jones crushed through the language barrier with the Montenegrin students, and made a connection with the people there.

When sitting down and speaking with Dr. Jones, you can't help but learn of her strong feelings concerning options. She wants all her students to know they are empowered through their own choices. “Nothing infuriates me more than when people think they have no options. People need to know they have choices. Choices are among the most important things in the world.” ~ Ginger Jones, PhD.

October Happenings

LSUA Foundation Scholarship Gala
Nov. 9th
 Limited number of discounted student tickets available!
 Call 318-619-2916 to get your ticket today!



Join thousands of parents and children on October 25th for LSUA's Trick-or-Treat Street. Tickets are 3.00 and are currently available at auxiliary services or can be purchased at the event. Student Organizations and Faculty Departments go all out to provide a fun and safe trick-or-treating experience!!



Introducing the AMOA Acoustic Concert Series
 The third Thursday of each month The Alexandria Museum of Art presents live local musicians in a coffee house setting. Located at 933 2nd Street in downtown Alexandria.



The 2012 Rapides Parish Fair dates are October 10th through the 14th. Fun for all ages! For schedules and prices visit www.therapidesparishfair.com

LSUA Campus Reaction to Presidential Election
 By: Daniel Knight
 Sentry Reporter

Political season has come to LSUA! On campus many students have differing views on the Fall presidential races and there is much enthusiasm! Both professors and students have opinions about and there is great excitement about the race. Since most college kids are new or only 2nd time voters this excitement is understandable. Like any new concept that comes with growing up its an exciting time.

"I am very excited for November, especially with the addition of Congressman Paul Ryan to the GOP ticket," said sophomore history major Jay Ebey. "I watched most of the Republican National Convention and it just makes me even more excited to see the ideas I care about most center stage."

Many students, across the country, have expressed interest in finding jobs in a difficult economy after graduation. This is a central issue on this campus as well.

Other students throughout campus are not as excited for November. "I do plan on voting, but I am not very excited," said Kyle Marchive a senior general studies major. "I supported Ron Paul during the primaries but am not sure what to do now." Being very mindful of the economy he also listed some side issues he cares about in "repealing the Affordable Care Act, states' rights, and individual freedom."

Lacey Greene a senior psychology major said "I have been going back and forth between voting and not voting. I am leaning towards voting for Obama but I am aggravated with the political situation. Outside of the economy I am very concerned about the healthcare situation. It affects us in more ways than I think most people realize."

Many opinions were found around campus on many different issues, but the main thing was that everyone seemed to know the election was around the corner. Not many students expect the election to have much of a localized impact they all felt it very important to learn as much as possible and make educated decisions before heading to the polls in November.

Free tour

Does a guided tour of a one hundred and fifteen year old mental institution sound like something you wouldn't want to miss? What if there was a museum on that tour that was formerly a morgue and laboratory for primitive psychological surgeries? What if you were told there were over 3,000 people buried in unmarked graves on only a couple acres of land on the campus of the asylum?

Central Louisiana State Hospital is hosting an open tour, free to the public on Thursday, October 18 at 2:00 p.m.. The public relations administrator of the hospital, Ms. Stacey Crawford who is an LSUA graduate and former Miss LSUA explained, "There is so much history here and people are unaware of it so it is often overlooked". The tour will give details about the history of the grounds and an up close look at the old barn, the morgue and the cemetery. This will be a one of a kind experience.



We're looking for...

a creative, dedicated, experienced, talented writer with reporting and photography skills.

Contact : Amber Wesse at CRomero002@lsua.edu

Fashion Corner

Fall in Love with Layers

By: Amber Wesse
 Sentry Editor

Back to school, football and cooler weather... Its official, autumn is upon us! Time to break out the boots and scarves; but before you store away your summer wardrobe, consider your favorite summer pieces layers for your fall ensembles. Combinations of colors, shapes, textures and prints create interesting and unique outfits. Shorts with leggings or mini dresses with duster length jackets add an edgy unexpected twist to cool weather styles. Layering shirts with collars and scarves looks great on both guys and girls. Whether you are fashion forward or you have your own style, don't skimp on the layers this Fall. When you look good, you feel good so be creative and layer up!

