

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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LSUA[®]



2021
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Chancellor's Report

PAUL COREIL, PH.D.
LSUA CHANCELLOR

Greetings LSUA family,

As we close 2020 and begin 2021 with much enthusiasm, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who love and support LSUA and our important mission. We have many reasons to be thankful for a great year filled with many blessings!

We Celebrate

In 2020, LSUA celebrated its 60th Anniversary as the university of choice serving the students from central Louisiana. While we were not able to fully celebrate this major milestone with many public events due to COVID-19, we all must look back with gratitude and thank the leaders who worked tirelessly to ensure the establishment of LSUA became a reality back in 1960.

In spite of the significant challenges we faced in 2020, your LSUA students, faculty, and staff were able to pivot, be innovative and exemplify a “can do” spirit throughout the year – it was indeed a very successful year! Despite a full-blown pandemic, two major hurricanes and a tornado impacting our campus, we were able to reach record enrollment of over 3,500 students. In October 2020, LSUA was ranked as the Best Online College in Louisiana by Best Value Schools. Additionally, LSUA was recognized as having the lowest in-state tuition in Louisiana by University HQ. Through our commitment to an affordable, high quality education, more and more students are seeing LSUA as the university of choice!

In 2021, we commemorate the 20th anniversary of the expansion of LSUA to a four-year baccalaureate-degree-granting institution (approved in 2001). This too is a major milestone we all should celebrate! We are forever thankful for the visionary leaders who helped make these two major accomplishments become a reality – milestones that have benefited so many and have provided opportunities for our regional students to get a college degree without having to leave our community.

Meeting Workforce Demands

In order to sustain our growth, compete as a quality four-year-degree-granting institution, and be a positive economic development force in the community, LSUA must keep a pulse on the workforce demands and needs in our area. To meet these needs, we recently added degrees in accounting, chemistry and kinesiology, and we are currently developing new degrees in computer science, marketing, and aviation management.

Another major workforce shortage we have in our area is in healthcare, with trained nurses and other allied health professionals so critically needed now more than ever. In an effort to address this major challenge for our region, LSUA teamed up with several business leaders across the community through a partnership we call *CENLA Nurses for the Future*. This program is helping us expand LSUA's nursing student enrollment in an effort to increase the number of nurses entering healthcare-related careers.

This same innovative approach is now being implemented for the expansion of accounting majors within the LSUA College of Business. The primary objective of this initiative is growth in student enrollment and ultimately to graduate additional accountants to serve central Louisiana. With innovative business partnerships like these, we know we will help train and graduate more students in high demand fields that are so critically needed across the region.

Additionally, new degree programs in the development stages are Agricultural Business and Dental Hygienist Studies. We are also negotiating a partnership

with LSU Eunice to train students as surgical technicians due to significant shortages in this career area.

LSUA Infrastructure Improvements

Main Campus Drainage/ Entrance - Even though our campus is very attractive, with large live oak trees and beautiful scenery, it is past time for us to modernize our buildings and infrastructure. With the support of our Louisiana State Legislative delegation and the support of Governor John Bel Edwards, we were able to secure the funding needed to begin implementation of a major infrastructure improvement initiative that will change the entire campus landscape. This includes major improvements to the main campus entrance off Highway 71, major drainage improvements, street overlays, and new lighting (provided separately by the Louisiana Public Service Commission). This \$6 million infrastructure improvement and modernization initiative is news we have all been waiting for over the last decade! After multiple years of planning and educating policymakers about the safety risks to students and the deteriorating infrastructure across campus caused by periodic flooding, this project is finally becoming a reality.

We do want to thank all of our elected state representatives & senators, the LSUA Foundation Board, Governor Edwards and many other community leaders who helped make this become a reality! Hallelujah!

Downtown Campus Improvements - With a major shortage in Allied Health professions that has been recently magnified by the coronavirus pandemic, we have outgrown the Allied Health facility we currently occupy at our downtown Alexandria location on Jackson Street. While the A. C. Buchanan Building provided to us by Rapides Regional Medical Center continues to be vital to student training, we are in dire need of additional space. Plans are in place to demolish the adjacent building located on the adjoining LSUA-owned lot, and pursue plans for a new building to meet these increasing needs. Stay tuned for updates on demolition and space expansion plans in the months ahead.

LSUA Student Success Center - In the spirit of updating and modernizing LSUA's campus to meet growing enrollment and the challenges associated with serving the needs of a growing student body, we MUST begin planning for



LSUA Downtown Campus



additional main campus infrastructure needs, with a focus on student services. We are in need of a state-of-the-art facility that can provide students with vital student services including enrollment, first-year experience, financial aid, advising, counseling, and work placement/career development. The current facilities we have for these functions were built when LSUA's enrollment was only 1,400 students. Today, we have over 3,500 students, and the need for expansion and modernization cannot wait any longer as we continue to grow and reach our 5-year goal of 5,000 students by 2025.

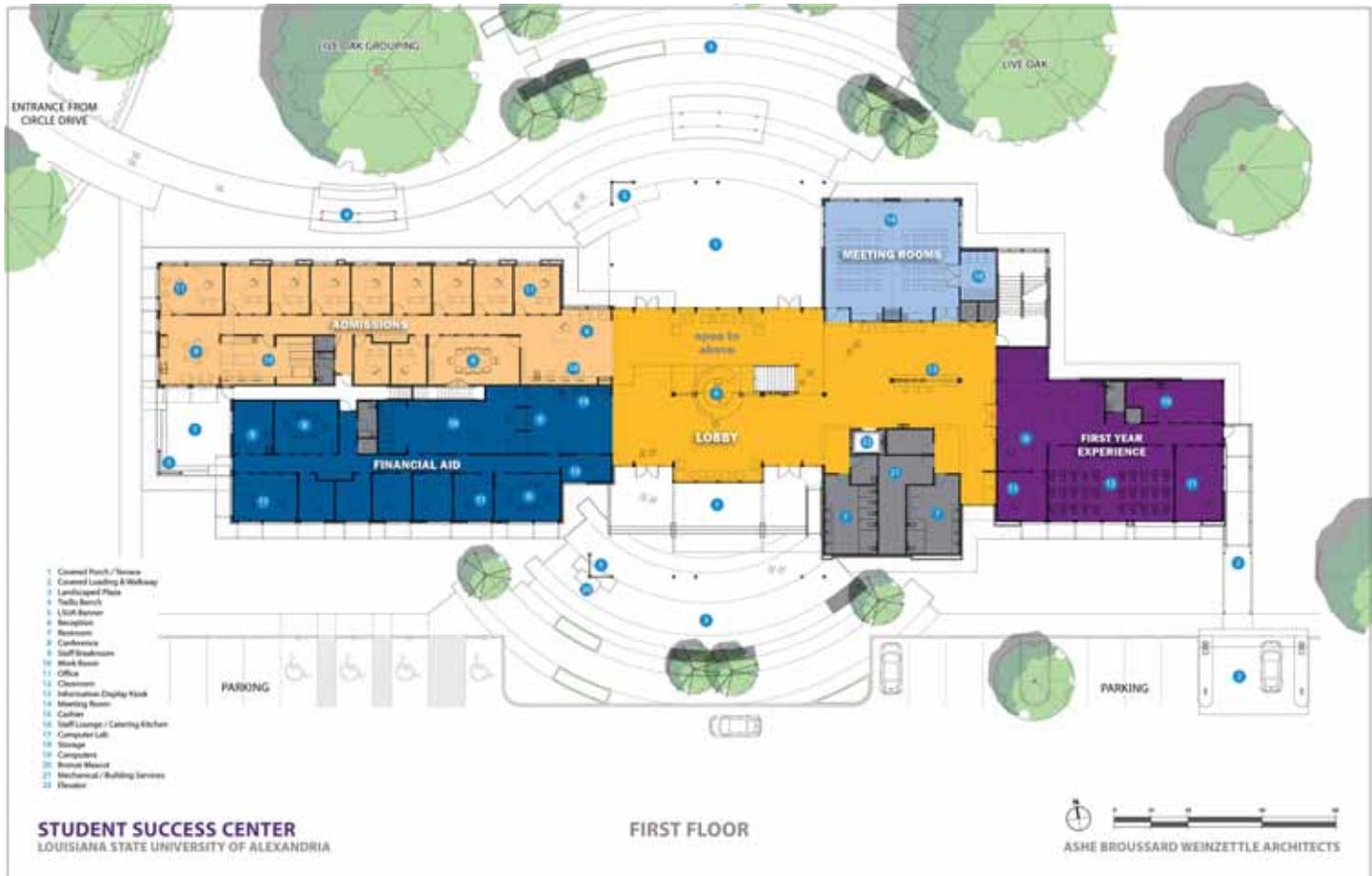
Fierce for LSUA Capital Campaign - Prior to COVID-19, our LSUA Foundation Board made a major commitment to our first ever major capital campaign called Fierce for LSUA. The campaign's major focus was raising the funds needed for a new LSUA Student Success Center. After raising almost \$2.5 million of the needed \$8 million for the priority campus project in just five months, the campaign was put on hold in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there is renewed commitment and enthusiasm by the LSUA Foundation board to re-start this major fundraising effort in the early spring of 2021. Additionally, with the encouragement from the LSU Board of Supervisors and the Interim President of LSU, Tom Galligan, there will be a major

effort to seek matching funds (\$4 million) from state Capital Outlay for this project next year. This would allow us to move more quickly on a project that is vital to our long-term campus master plan and long-term success. We will be discussing this with our legislative leadership in the weeks and months ahead and feel strongly that a new LSUA Student Success Center is crucial to our future success. We are confident that the Fierce for LSUA campaign will be successful and help us continue to evolve into a vibrant four-year institution serving central Louisiana students.

As we work to propel LSUA forward, we continue to remember and appreciate our roots while remaining focused on an exciting future. It is in this spirit that we thank everyone for their untiring support and send all of you best wishes for a Happy New Year filled with good health, happiness, and the hope of a better year in 2021!

All the best,

Paul Coreil, Ph.D.
LSUA Chancellor





FIERCE — FOR — LSUA



On a beautiful fall evening in October 2019 under a cloudless sky, some of LSUA's biggest supporters and contributors ascended on the LSUA campus for a most memorable evening. It wasn't just the grandiose clear-top tent or the incredible hors d'oeuvres, but more the atmosphere of anticipation, excitement, and passion.

LSUA officials and the LSUA Foundation had planned in great detail and anxiously awaited this evening as it was the launch of a new era, in more ways than one. On this



remarkable night, the LSUA Foundation unveiled an \$8 million capital campaign, more appropriately called, Fierce for LSUA. The purpose—to construct a central hub for student services called the Student Success Center. This state-of-the-art facility is designed to serve as the new front door to the university and will give LSUA recruiting, admissions, financial aid, advising teams, and career development teams solid footing to service prospective and admitted students and their families.

Not only did patrons gather in anticipation of this much-needed change, but they were also treated to good news met with smiles, hugs, and tears of joy. As former Louisiana State University President Dr. F. K. Alexander began his presentation of this worthy cause, it was evident there was another big announcement pending. Knowing it would be difficult to begin this undertaking with an interim chancellor, Dr. Alexander and the LSU Board of Supervisors made the announcement that Dr. Paul Coreil, Interim Chancellor of



LSUA, would be the named the new, permanent chancellor to lead LSUA during this exciting time.

While the evening was a great success for numerous reasons, the most impactful reason only required one to look around the room for a moment. There were government leaders, foundation members, community leaders, devotees, university officials, faculty and staff members, students, and LSU administrators all interacting together on the LSUA Quad, all with one thing in common—passion for LSUA and commitment to the goal of fully utilizing the untapped potential of a great university. LSUA is poised to use this as a springboard to new heights, building bridges to a brighter future for Central Louisiana students and families... because we are Fierce for LSUA!



FIERCE
— FOR —
LSUA



LSUA Reaches Record Enrollment in Fall 2020

LSUA reached record-breaking enrollment during the Fall 2020 semester despite continuous setbacks, including Hurricane Laura, a tornado, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

3,500
STUDENTS

52.2%
ONLINE
INCREASE

Fall enrollment was at an all-time high of 3,500 students including a 52.2% increase in online students from Fall 2019. This represents the first time in its 60-year history that enrollment reached the 3,500 mark.

The previous enrollment record was set during the Fall 2017 semester with 3,392 students. Additionally, the Fall 2020 semester's enrollment is a 6.3% increase over the Fall 2019 semester.

61.0%
RETENTION
(FIRST-TIME FRESHMAN)

16 + 9
STATES COUNTRIES

The Fall 2020 First-Time Freshmen cohort was one of the largest classes in the past six years representing 16 different states and nine countries.

44 + 23
STATES COUNTRIES

In keeping with the tradition of bringing students from all across the nation and from all over the world to central Louisiana, overall enrollment includes students from 44 states and 23 countries.



LSUA not only showed growth in enrollment, but in the retention of first-time freshmen as well. First-to-second year retention rates increased by 2.4 percentage points to 61.0% – the highest in five years.

COVID-19

Being a regional university, LSUA is known for its family atmosphere and tight-knit community. Yet, in March 2020, our lives and way of thinking were forever changed. Creativity became the theme as university officials sought ways to still conduct classes, graduations, pinnings, convocations, tours, etc. Virtual became the new norm for learning, and videoconferencing became the new form of communication, but despite the shift, LSUA continued to foster an environment of family and a student-centered approach while exhibiting extreme resilience. And, through numerous safety procedures integrated on campus, students have been able to safely return to campus in a manner designed to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Commencement

The Spring and Fall 2020 commencements both took on a different look. In May, a virtual commencement was filmed in the Richard Gwartney Theatre on the LSUA campus and later released to graduates. The December graduation was a drive-thru commencement held at the Mega Shelter adjacent to the LSUA campus.

Nursing Pinning

Both fall and spring nursing pinnings were held in the parking lot across from Coughlin Hall. Students received their pins, and the December graduates also received their diplomas.

Scholar Day

A total of 81 students participated in the annual Scholar Day event that highlights academic research projects. This year's event was held virtually through Zoom, a videoconference platform.

COVID-19 Testing Center on Campus

A testing POD through the Baton Rouge-based company, Relief Telemed, provided on-campus testing during the months of September, October, and November.

Safety Protocols

LSUA implemented new safety protocols including a campus mask mandate, social distancing, increased hand sanitizing stations, as well as daily classroom, housing, and common area sanitation measures.



60th Anniversary Celebration

While 2020 was full of unprecedented events, it also meant a historic milestone for LSUA.

In the fall of 1960, LSUA held its first college classes for central Louisiana students right here on the LSUA campus. In those 60 years, much has changed. In 1960, LSUA began as a two-year institution. After 40 years of educational success, the University was elevated to a four-year university in 2001 – granting bachelor’s degrees and expanding its importance to the educational advancement of many across CENLA and beyond.

Today, LSUA not only serves students from this region but also students from across the nation (44 states represented) and world (23 countries represented).

“We are standing on the shoulders of many central Louisiana leaders who built this university and had the foresight to see the tremendous value an LSU System campus would have in this region, and the mission of LSUA continues today,” said LSUA Chancellor Dr. Paul Coreil. “Despite the challenges of a global pandemic, and more recently, the impacts of Hurricane Laura, LSUA continues to celebrate this historic milestone and its accomplishments through various events on campus. We appreciate how far we have come and are looking forward to the next 60+ years.”



CENLA Business Partners Instrumental in Nursing Expansion

With a critical nursing shortage right here in central Louisiana, the LSUA Foundation board members and business leaders jumped in to provide the resources needed to expand the LSUA Department of Nursing to benefit the community.



The Foundation initially received a philanthropic contribution from six community partners – RoyOMartin, Rapides Regional Medical Center, CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital, Central Management, Magnolia Management, and the Central Louisiana Surgical Hospital – to fund an expansion program. Each partner committed to an annual gift for four years, for a total philanthropic commitment of \$460,000. LSUA enthusiastically named the established program CENLA Nurses for the Future.

Using the private funding above as match, the LSUA Department of Nursing was then able to secure a \$465K grant (also split up over four years) from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of



Louisiana Foundation as additional support to increase nursing graduates through the hiring of a nursing retention specialist, and through the establishment of additional scholarships for nursing students needing financial assistance.

Additionally, CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini recently donated hospital equipment to LSUA, important to the real-life skill training for nursing students. Items included were beds, bedside tables, and other equipment that will assist students in the Nursing Skilled Lab training space.

These quiet, but fierce actions taken by the LSUA Foundation and business leaders to devote more time and resources to train the local workforce means more than just numbers on a piece of paper. This expansion benefits the entire region. It means that a mother, father, son, or daughter will receive the best possible care by highly-trained professionals right here in central Louisiana.



As the world slowed to nearly a screeching halt this past year, the LSUA College of Business seized the opportunity to grow and become a force in the central Louisiana community.

Upon approval by the LSU Board of Supervisors last March to transform the Department of Business Administration to the College of Business, Dr. Randall Dupont, the College Dean and the LSUA Alumni and Friends Endowed Chair, began a quest to solidify the College of Business brand as an asset to business leaders throughout the region and state.

While numerous businesses closed their doors during Governor John Bel Edwards' Stay At Home Order and were left to wonder what is next, Dr. Dupont quickly began compiling data to assist the business community with the creation of the CENLA Economic Dashboard. The ultimate goal was to help business leaders monitor the economic pulse of central Louisiana by providing relevant information that could be utilized to meet the needs of the changing business environment. Dupont released the first issue on April 13, 2020, and it continues to be updated and distributed each month to 2,500 business and community leaders.

In August, the College of Business launched a new program to assist with workforce development in central Louisiana, the Post Baccalaureate Certificate in Accounting (PBAC). Dr. Kent Lachney, Coordinator of Accounting and Finance, designed the curriculum to equip those students who already have a degree with the knowledge and skills necessary for the successful completion of the CPA examination.

Maintaining the theme of workforce development, the College of Business was selected to be the One-Stop Operator for the Rapides Workforce Development Board. The One-Stop Operator provides coordination between partners and service providers making up the workforce delivery system in Rapides Parish. The funding for this position is provided by the Louisiana Workforce Commission which is designed to help job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services to succeed in the labor market and to match employers with the skilled workers.

Not only in the business of assisting individuals, the College of Business announced a partnership in December with the Louisiana Small Business Development Center (LSBDC) and the Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce to establish a new development center here in CENLA. This partnership will seek to provide technical assistance for startups and existing small businesses in seven parishes - Rapides, Avoyelles, Grant, Natchitoches, Sabine, Vernon and Winn.

Leading the charge on this project for LSUA is Evelyn Jones. Jones, who recently transitioned to the SBDC Business Consultant from Red River Bank, brings a wealth of knowledge and experience that can assist any existing or start-up small business with marketing, improving operational efficiencies, and accessing capital.

Through all of this, the thriving LSUA College of Business has grown enrollment by 37% in the past year and expanded program offerings. Two concentrations in the B.S. in Business Administration were revised to better meet the needs of employers – Financial Analysis and Information Systems. In Fall 2021, the College plans to offer business majors an opportunity to concentrate in Agri-business, a sector vital to central Louisiana's economy.

As a catalyst of economic growth, the College of Business is working to ensure that the central Louisiana business community and residents have the needed skills and tools to be successful amid any crisis, especially a global pandemic.



2020

MULDER SCHOLAR RECIPIENT

Courtney Zeissler

Hometown:

Prairieville, LA

High School:

St. Amant High

Major:

Biology, Pre-Professional



Louisiana Charities Trust Makes Gift in Honor of Mr. Scott O. Brame

The LSUA Foundation received a philanthropic contribution from the Louisiana Charities Trust to award six “full-ride” student scholarships. The gift was given in loving memory of the late Mr. Scott O. Brame, who was a founding board member of the LSUA Foundation in 1991.



These contributions will award four full-ride scholarships to Long-Term Care Administration students and two full-ride scholarships to Clinical Nursing students. These scholarships will include all costs of attendance: tuition, fees, books, housing, and meal plans. This annual commitment, based on today’s costs, is valued at an estimated \$18,000 per scholarship.

The first two scholarships were awarded in the spring of 2020 to one senior Long-Term Care Administration student and one senior Clinical Nursing student.

“I am really blessed and thankful for being given the opportunity to receive this award,” says Victoria Clark, senior Long-Term Care Administration student and scholarship recipient. “The opportunities and advancements we have in the world today are because of those who came before us. I chose this field of study to show my appreciation to the previous generation, and this scholarship allows me to give back in my own way to those who came before me.”

“I am so honored and blessed to be awarded this scholarship,” says Lana Magee, senior Clinical Nursing student and scholarship recipient. “This scholarship is going to relieve the burden of worrying about my educational financial obligations, so that I am able to truly focus on obtaining my degree. I am humbled to be chosen for such a special opportunity and will forever be thankful to LA Charities for their wonderful generosity.”

The number of scholarships awarded will gradually increase each year until six scholarships have been awarded. The annual philanthropic commitment will increase each year based on the number of students receiving the award, not to exceed \$108,000 per year.



LSUA Awarded Focus on the Future Scholarship from BGC

Louisiana State University of Alexandria is pleased to announce it has received a \$25,000 scholarship from the Brookshire Grocery Co. (BGC), parent company of Super 1 Foods, to establish the Super 1 Endowed Scholarship in Business.

Through the “Focus on the Future” scholarship program, BGC is dedicated to education and giving back to those who aspire to build a better future in the communities it serves. It is intended for those who need financial assistance to obtain a higher education, but are focused on becoming community leaders of tomorrow.

“We are so excited that BGC has decided to graciously invest in our students and the central Louisiana community,” said LSUA Chancellor Dr. Paul Coreil. “This will be life-changing assistance for some of our best and brightest and allow



them to complete their degrees without financial strain. We are so fortunate to have such wonderful community partners that want to support our great institution.”

Based in Tyler, Texas, BGC is a regional family-owned grocery business that has committed to give more than \$1 million in education to more than 40 universities and colleges in Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas.

“We are very excited to launch a lasting program which will help thousands of students achieve their dreams for years to come,” said Brad Brookshire, Chairman and CEO for Brookshire Grocery Co. “We support our local communities and value education which is one of our top philanthropic efforts. So many families and individuals have been financially impacted by the pandemic. We are proud to be able to help those aspiring towards their dreams.”

Foundation Establishes Generals Emergency Relief Fund

In June 2019, the LSUA Foundation established the Generals Emergency Relief Fund. The Generals Emergency Relief fund will assist students by providing financial support intended to prevent students from leaving LSUA for emergency financial reasons. The fund can be used by students for expenses that are the result of unexpected emergency, event or circumstance.

Students can access the relief fund by self-referral or a referral by any LSUA faculty or staff member. All full- or part-time LSUA students in good standing are eligible to apply. Students can utilize the funds for expenses such as temporary lodging, essential utilities, travel expenses due to serious illness or death of an immediate family member, and replacement of essential belongings after a fire or natural disaster.

A student may apply multiple times within 365 days but will only be awarded a maximum of \$500 within that time period.



Col. Katrina Lloyd Headlines Black History Month Luncheon

The LSUA Foundation hosted its annual Black History Month Luncheon last February. Alexandria native Colonel Katrina Lloyd was chosen as the special guest speaker. Col. Lloyd is a member of the Louisiana Army National Guard where she has held many leadership roles including being commissioned in 1996 as Second Lieutenant. She is the first African American and the first woman to hold any of her leadership positions. She is only the second African American woman to earn the rank of COL/06 in the LA ARNG. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Grambling State University and a Master of Science in Nursing from Northwestern State University.

Col. Lloyd presented an extremely inspiring message about the critical importance of equity and inclusion in our society today. Dr. Haywood Joiner, chair of the Department of Allied Health, noted, “She’s writing the history that our children will read in their future.”



LSUA & Alexandria Country Day School Announce Cooperative Endeavor

December meant big news for the LSUA campus. The University and Alexandria Country Day School formally announced a cooperative endeavor agreement and partnership. In early November, Country Day announced its merger with University Academy. The cooperative endeavor was officially approved by the LSU Board of Supervisors on Friday, December 4.



“We are so excited about the opportunity to partner with Country Day,” said LSUA Chancellor Dr. Paul Coreil. “Country Day has a longstanding history of quality education and achievement. We know through this new partnership we will successfully help more students in the Central Louisiana region by growing access to dual enrollment courses and providing true college prep on the LSUA campus.”

Athletics Game Plan



Forward march! Though the last 10 months have been filled with events to alter the course for most of “life as we know it,” the continuation of sporting events has provided an outlet for many and a tinge of normalcy to which to grasp. For the LSUA Generals, the strategy has been much like that of any gameplan – adapt and overcome.

In March 2020, seasons came to a screeching halt for LSUA’s basketball, baseball, softball, and tennis programs. As classes resumed in August, the LSUA soccer teams knew their seasons had already been shifted to Spring 2021, and nearly two dozen international students found themselves waiting another semester for the opportunity to travel and commence their time on the LSUA campus.

While the Fall 2020 semester proved unable to unlock any “normalcy,” LSUA maintained a focus to provide as many opportunities to its students as possible. Thankfully, this included the resumption of athletic activities, allowing student-athletes to return to practice and competition. Many universities around the country imposed different gameplans with many prohibiting any form of athletic activities and even keeping students away from campus entirely.

Now pushing forward into the Spring 2021 semester, the gameplan has shifted to accommodate the schedules of all seven of LSUA’s athletic programs operating in full season simultaneously. Coupled with the volatile nature of schedules, which seem to change almost daily due to COVID precautions, the gameplan to ensure the safety and well-being of student-athletes and coaches requires diligence, patience, and understanding from all of LSUA’s constituents.

Weekly – and more frankly, daily – competitions are canceled or rescheduled at every level of sport from little league and high school games to college football and the NFL. And when the games are played, the gameday experience certainly has a different look and feel. Capacity restrictions, social distancing for teams, and enhanced gameday protocols represent only a few examples of new considerations in effect. Unfortunately, this means LSUA cannot accommodate the hundreds of fans who typically “Fill the Fort” for basketball gamedays and will likely see changes in attendance options for baseball, softball, and soccer, as well.

Operating through the COVID pandemic has introduced businesses to new technologies and altered operating plans for many. For the hard-working LSUA Media Team, a student-operated campus organization, the gameplan has remained mostly the same. Their dedication and efforts are now highlighted and even more valuable than ever. All home events are broadcast live for free viewing through the Generals Sports Network (www.lsua-generals.com/watch). For the media team, that’s nothing new as this group has done the same for the past five years.

Undoubtedly, the days ahead will bring new challenges and will require us to adapt to an ever-changing battleground. For CENLA’s College Team – your LSUA Generals – the gameplan is simple: Forward march!

“Tank” Live Mascot Revealed

With the tough and powerful, yet playful bull terrier adopted as the LSUA Generals mascot in 2018, the time arrived for “Tank” to come to life, and his official introduction happened in Spring 2020. Tank quickly became a rising star in the central Louisiana area with numerous appearances at LSUA athletic contests and community events.

His presence not only meant Generals spirit but also community pride and excitement. The student that made this friendly but spunky canine come to life left big shoes for the next person to fill, literally. After playing the role of Tank for less than a full year, Aldric Calhoun, or A.J., as he was affectionately known, passed the collar and paws to the next person. A.J. graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology at the Fall 2020 Drive-Thru Commencement. He was allowed to walk across the stage wearing Tank’s collar, paws, and feet. Chancellor Paul Coreil paused the ceremony to present a gift to A.J. for his dedication and service in this role. A.J. will be greatly missed, but Tank lives on. We look forward to seeing our new Tank around campus and the community this spring.



Academic Recognitions

2019-2020 School Year

- Online RN and BSN Programs named best in state of LA by RegisteredNursing.Org
- Multiple LSUA Online Programs received national rankings by OnlineU for Most Affordable Online Programs in the U.S. (English, Emergency Management, Healthcare Administration, Psychology, Criminal Justice)
- Online English Program recognized for excellence by BestColleges.com in 2020
- Online General Studies Program recognized by Online Schools Report
- Recognized as most affordable online Business Degree Program in multiple rankings
- Recognized nationally as one of the most affordable online colleges by Online Schools Report
- LSUA recognized as most affordable 4-year college in state of Louisiana by UniversityHQ 2020 Report
- U.S. News & World Report recognized LSUA as one of the best universities for social mobility for students, lowest debt load upon graduation, and in top 5% in the nation for graduation rates for Pell Grant students
- LSUA Testing Center nationally recognized as first in the state to become certified by NCTA

2020-2021 School Year

- LSUA ranked as the lowest in-state tuition in Louisiana by University HQ
- LSUA online psychology degree program ranked 2nd in nation by EduRef.net as one of 2020's Most Affordable Online Psychology Degree Programs
- LSUA ranked 21st on list of Best Colleges in the South That You Can Afford by Best Value Schools
- LSUA ranked as Best Online College in Louisiana by Best Value Schools
- LSUA tied for 13th among U.S. News & World Report's Top Public Schools in the National Liberal Arts category. Climbed three places from last year's ranking of Top Performers of Social Mobility landing at 87th. Other statistics from this report include:

59.1%
of classes have
**fewer than
20 students**

2%
of classes have
**50 or more
students**

17:1 student to
faculty ratio

Dr. Haywood Joiner

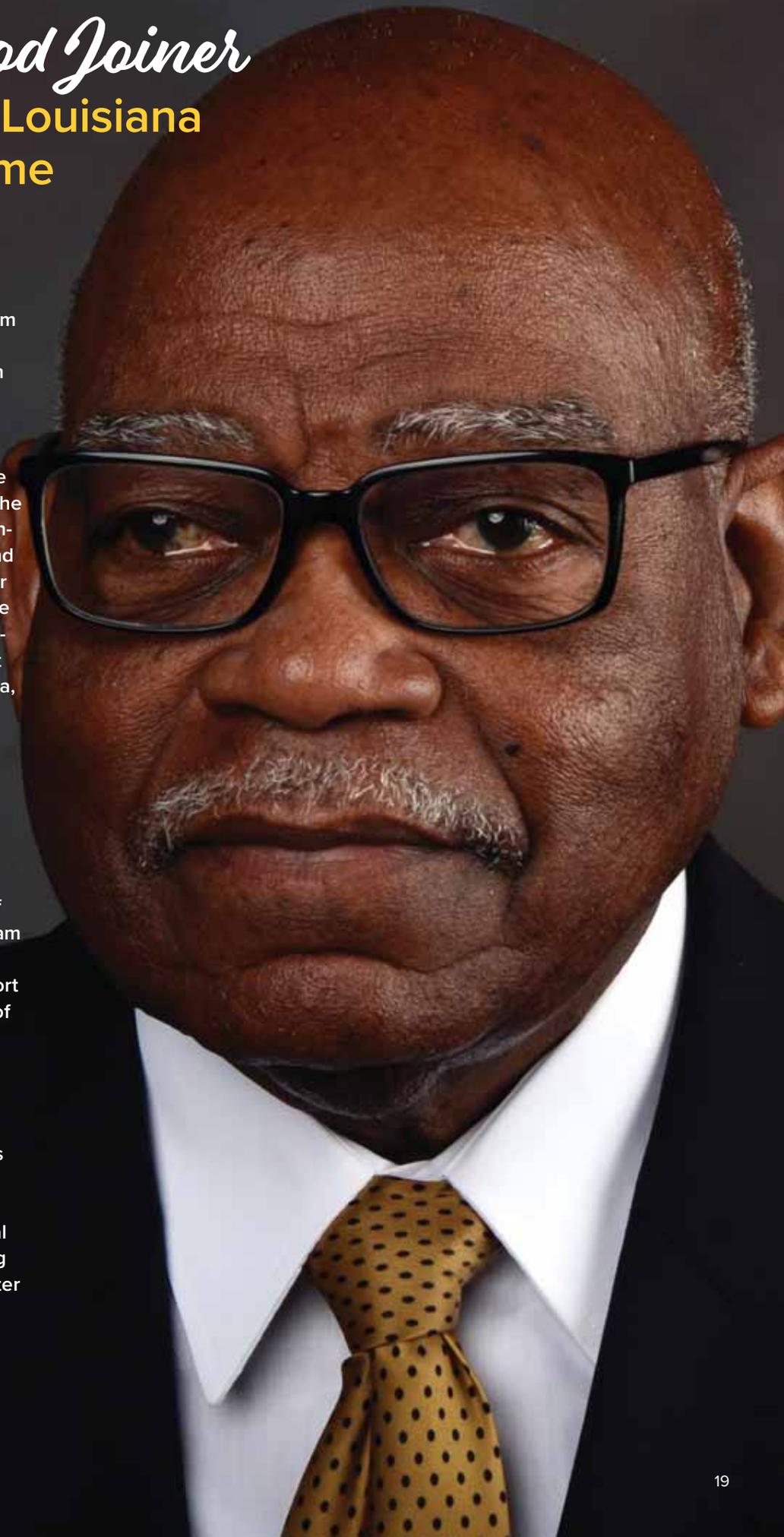
Inducted Into the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame

Dr. Haywood Joiner, Jr., Department Chair of Allied Health at LSUA, was inducted into the Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame located at the Angola Museum just outside the gates of Angola Prison. The native of Boyce and member of a high school graduating class of six, Joiner, who has long been a community leader, is now being recognized outside the local region for his life of service. The Louisiana Justice Hall of Fame was established in 2004 by the Louisiana State Penitentiary Museum Foundation Board of Directors to honor men and women of Louisiana who have served their community and their state in the honorable professions of law enforcement, the judiciary, education, criminal justice, government service, civil service, communication/media, victim services, volunteers, sponsors, and community activists.

Joiner is a graduate of Grambling State University and a veteran of the United States Air Force, as well as a long-time employee of St. Frances Cabrini Hospital. Following more than 25 years of service in a hospital setting, Joiner served as Chair of the Department of Allied Health and Program Director of the Medical Laboratory Science program at Southern University, Shreveport before returning home to become Chair of the Department of Allied Health at LSUA.

Additionally, Joiner is a leader in the community, having served on several boards including the Arna Bontemps African American Museum, Cenla Kiwanis Club, Rotary Club of Alexandria, Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce, Workforce Investment Board, Rapides Regional Port Commission, Rapides Parish Housing Authority, Rapides Regional Medical Center Board of Trustees, and many more.

For this prestigious honor, as well as all of his hard work and dedication to our area, we all congratulate Dr. Joiner.



Dr. Gerard Dumancas

Awarded Grant From the LSU Office of the President



Dr. Gerard Dumancas, Associate Professor of Chemistry at LSU, was awarded a \$72,000 grant through the LSU LIFT2 Grant Program. The Office of the President at LSU awards the research grant to an outstanding scientist throughout the LSU system. The goal of the grant is to provide funds for research technologies that are close to commercialization. Dr. Dumancas' research is based on a convenient, easy-to-use method of determining the authenticity, or purity, of honey in just one to two minutes.

Since there is no current federal standard for the identification of pure honey, Dr. Dumancas' development of a smartphone application device to detect honey authenticity is much needed. Due to a recent common practice to add hard-to-detect adulterants like corn or cane to honey, companies have been able to reduce their costs and sell the product at a much lower price. The device developed can quickly examine the fructose to glucose ratio in order to decipher whether a honey is pure or not.

The development of this application can disrupt the \$581 million honey adulteration market in the US by 2023. Numerous honey companies have already expressed interest in adopting Dumancas' application. In fact, a few even went as far as writing letters of support to LSU for Dumancas' research and the grant application.

LSUA Releases Secondary Logo

Louisiana State University of Alexandria is excited to announce the release of a new secondary logo to complement the creative assets of the university.

The logo utilizes the university fountain, one of the most iconic elements on campus, mixed with a modern, artistic feel.

"The new logo is a breath of fresh air for the university," said LSU Chancellor Dr. Paul Coreil. "As LSU quickly becomes one of the premier universities in the state, it is imperative that we continue to expand and grow the university brand."

"The new logo is a breath of fresh air for the university."

Dr. Paul Coreil

The fountain was built in 2001 as part of the Plaza Renovation Project. The LSU Foundation spearheaded this project to create a more attractive space for student functions, now known as *The Quad*. The fountain was incorporated to highlight past LSU donors

while also providing the backdrop for the stage/performance area. The walls of the fountain were painted by local artist Leslie Elliott-Smith and display the names of individuals and businesses who made substantial contributions to LSU.

Just recently, the university had the fountain restored as part of an ongoing campus beautification initiative.

"The addition of the fountain icon seeks to provide a modern look for a campus rich in history, allowing others to glean a glimpse of the beauty right here on the LSU campus," said LSU Assistant Vice Chancellor for Strategic Communications, Elizabeth Jonson.



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Department of Biological Sciences Receives **\$432K GRANT**

The LSU Department of Biological Sciences was awarded a \$432,033 grant by the Louisiana Board of Regents. The grant is part of the Departmental Enhancement Program and will be utilized for enhancing the biology curriculum through undergraduate research productivity.

Dr. Nathan Sammons and Dr. Carol Corbat, both professors in the LSU Department of Biological Sciences, co-authored (with contributions from all of the faculty within the Department) the grant proposal submitted last fall for review by a discipline-based panel of out-of-state consultants. Of the 173 proposals submitted to the Board of Regents, LSU was pleased to be ranked second, just behind Tulane University.

The grant is to be awarded over the next five years and, per the Board of Regents final report, will enhance the undergraduate research program at LSU through curriculum modification, infrastructure changes to support cellular-molecular biology research, and the creation of a Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE).

Department faculty will spend the first year developing the curriculum logistics and purchasing research equipment. Implementation of the programs will begin in year two.

The upgrade to equipment in the department will provide more opportunities for students and faculty to have research published in high-profile research journals. Current LSU equipment has been a hindrance because of its age. The instrumentation to be purchased is the “Next Generation” of its kind which includes the ability to sequence and quantify DNA at a high level of precision.

The revamp in the undergraduate curriculum seeks to attract those students who aren’t initially research driven.

“The goal is to reach a new demographic. As a university, we will always have students who know they want to do research before they ever come to campus. We want to attract those students who don’t realize this is something they can do, or have interest in, until they get here,” said Sammons.

The first step in implementing this new curriculum includes a modification to the introductory biology course which will incorporate a research component. Students can then



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choose to take a research-intensive path throughout the rest of the degree program.

Another one of the driving factors for the creation of this advanced program derives from data.

“Data has shown that increasing the opportunities students have for undergraduate research, increases student success. This results in higher graduation rates, deeper engagement in science, and the continuation to advanced degrees,” said Sammons.

The grant funding will have a significant impact on not only the students and faculty in the Department of Biological Sciences, but also the University as a whole.

Per the consultant’s comments, “It (the proposal) directly supports the departmental and institutional missions to provide quality instruction, experiential learning, and innovative teaching to LSU students, to ensure student success and to provide a robust academic environment.”

Children's Center Revitalization



Implementation of a Childcare Center Revitalization Plan is fully underway. This includes the development and implementation of a new business plan and the recent hiring of a new Childcare Center Director, Sarah Corley, all to help the Center move to a sustainable operations plan. This major initiative is supported by Foundation funds that are dedicated to support the Center. This will be a two-year initiative and will include a marketing plan and direct administrative oversight. Mr. Raphael Romero (Business) and Dr. Rob Wright (Psychology) are currently serving as Chancellor Fellows and leading this effort. They are working as co-principal investigators in developing and leading a comprehensive revitalization plan for the LSUA Childcare Center.



Bizzy Awards

LSUA was pleased to have members of its community awarded in multiple categories at the 2020 Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce Bizzy Awards.

- **LSUA** was awarded the **2020 Best Marketing Campaign** by the Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce for “RN @ LSUA.”
- **LSUA alumna Kristen Lemoine** was awarded the **2020 Emerging Leader** by the Central Louisiana Chamber of Commerce.
- **Alexandria Museum of Art Educator Cindy Cooper Blair** received the **CLEDA “We Make Good Stuff” Award**.



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to all of the LSUA
Family winners!*

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