



# CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

*Dr. Paul Coreil, LSUA Chancellor*

**APRIL - JUNE 2022**



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

*Dr. Paul Coreil, LSUA Chancellor*



Great things are happening at LSUA, and we are excited to share all the good news from the second quarter of 2022. LSUA has achieved its sixth record-breaking semester for spring 2022 with 3,538 students – the highest spring enrollment in school history. This accomplishment

reflects a 6.1% increase from spring 2021, with students representing 26 countries, 45 states, and 63 parishes.

Our much-needed \$12.9 million Student Success Center can now become a reality! After the LSUA Foundation raised \$5 million in private funds, we received the remaining \$7.9 million in state capital outlay funding during the most recent Legislative Session. With the recent approval and signing by Governor John Bel Edwards, the groundbreaking for the LSUA Student Success Center will be held in early spring 2023! Stay tuned for the imminent announcement of the date. Thank you to the entire Central LA Legislative Delegation, the LSU Board of Supervisors, the LSUA Foundation Board, the Governor, and the whole community for their strong support of this vital project.

After significant progress with the Drainage & Infrastructure Project, construction is expected to be complete by August 2022. We have scheduled a ribbon-cutting ceremony for September 12 at 9:30 AM. Everyone is encouraged to stop by campus, see the tremendous improvements, and celebrate with us.

Our Campus Edge Project is moving forward with the LSU Board of Supervisors (BOS) approving an Intent to Lease agreement at the June 2022 Board of Supervisors meeting. This approval will allow LSUA to send a request for proposals (RFP) and consider viable retail development opportunities for the intersection of U.S. 71 and State Highway 3170, the LSUA golf course, and additional LSU AgCenter land frontage on the north side of 3170. The final Market Study report revealed a positive market potential for retail establishments that can provide both campus and community amenities that will make LSUA more appealing to students and benefit residents and commuters around campus.

Effective June 6, Melinda Anderson transitioned to a new position as LSUA Chancellor's Chief of Staff, while Kelly Pepper accepted the role of President for the LSUA Foundation. Additionally, Dr. Beth Palmer has joined the university's leadership as the new Assistant Vice Chancellor of Holistic Education and Career Development.

Dr. Palmer's role will involve heading LSUA's new Center for Career Development to connect students with job training and internship opportunities. We are excited to welcome these new appointments and are eager to see the fantastic results from their programming efforts.

Recently, Coach Kody Gautreaux was named permanent head men's baseball coach after serving this past season in an interim capacity and capturing the first RRAC Conference Tournament Championship since 2018. Under Coach Gautreaux's tenure, the Generals ended the season with an outstanding 33-14, earning them the Conference Tournament Championship and an automatic bid to the NAIA National Championship Playoff regional in Oklahoma City. We are very excited about Kody accepting this permanent position and look forward to working with him.

With a perfect season under their belts, six players of the No. 3 LSUA women's tennis team and head Coach Melinda Descant were honored by being named to Red River Athletic Conference All-Conference teams. Coach Descant, the program's leader since its inception, was named RRAC Coach of the Year and most recently named Louisiana Tennis Coach of the Year! She has led the team to its first undefeated regular season and its second-most wins in program history. LSUA (17-0) placed three members on the first and second all-conference teams. In the NAIA National Championship playoffs, the Lady Generals made it to the Semi-Finals, a first-time historic achievement by the LSUA Women's Tennis Team.

We look forward to celebrating the upcoming ribbon cutting for the drainage and infrastructure project and the groundbreaking for the LSUA Student Success Center in the months ahead. Our campus has seen extraordinary growth and progress, and we welcome everyone to help us celebrate!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Coreil". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Paul Coreil, PhD  
LSUA Chancellor



# FEATURED NEWS

## LSUA's Coreil Inducted to Louisiana Ag Center Hall of Distinction

Dr. Paul Coreil was inducted into the Louisiana Agriculture Hall of Distinction during a ceremony in Baton Rouge on March 24th. The Louisiana Agriculture Hall of Distinction is a joint effort between multiple organizations to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to agriculture or agriculture-related industries. Previous inductees represent farming, ranching, forestry, aquaculture, education, and agribusiness.

## Rotary Club of Alexandria Honors Dr. Haywood B. Joiner, Jr. with 2022 Service Above Self Award

The Rotary Club of Alexandria has bestowed its highest honor, the Service Above Self award, upon LSUA's Dr. Haywood Joiner. Dr. Joiner, an Air Force veteran, a twenty-five-year employee at St. Frances Cabrini Hospital, and an educator and administrator at LSUA since 2004, has lived a life devoted to service. The committee chose this year's award winner through a competitive nomination process. It represented the 22nd time Alexandria's club has awarded it.



## Mulder Scholar Recipient Announced at LSUA

LSUA announced the recipient of the prestigious Howard and Eloise Mulder Endowed Scholarship. Makenzie Mulberry, a senior at Tioga High School, will be the 2022-2023 Mulder Scholar. Makenzie plans to major in pre-veterinary science. The scholarship will cover the total cost of each semester's tuition, fees, books, on-campus housing, and meal plans incurred directly from the recipient's attendance at LSUA. Howard and Eloise Mulder staunchly supported the university and pioneered the establishment of the LSUA Foundation.

## LSUA Tennis Coach Melinda Descant Earns Coach of the Year from RRAC & LSWA All-Louisiana Teams

LSUA's perfect season resulted in the naming of six players from the No. 3 women's team to the Red River Athletic Conference All-Conference team and Coach Melinda Descant earning Coach of the Year honors from both RRAC and the Louisiana Sports Writers Association. Descant led the team to its first undefeated regular season and its second-most wins in program history with 17 wins. LSUA placed three members on the first and second All-Conference teams, including Alicia Romero Gomez, Candela Bonivardi, and Maria Alvarez, who earned first team honors. The Generals won 4-3 over No. 11 Xavier in the RRAC Tournament title match to earn the automatic berth to the NAIA Tournament. In the NAIA National Championship playoffs, the Lady Generals reached the Semi-Finals, first-time achievement for the LSUA Women's Tennis Team.



# LSUA FOUNDATION

## Kelly Pepper Named LSUA Foundation President

The LSUA Foundation announced Kelly Pepper as its new president. Pepper brings years of higher education and private fundraising experience to this crucial position in the community. Previously, Pepper served as the Executive Director of Institutional Advancement for SOWELA Technical Community College. Additionally, she has served as the CEO of the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations (LANO) for over seven years. Pepper's previous experience includes the Director of Organization Services and Community Development for the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development, Development Director for the LSU College of Music and Dramatic Arts, Development Director for the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge, and Marketing and Public Relations Director for the New Orleans Opera.

## Legendary Local Swim Coach Wally Fall Honors His Grandfather with Memorial Oak Tree at LSUA

Legendary local swim coach Wally Fall honored his grandfather, John Pugh Wilkinson, with the planting of a memorial oak tree at LSUA. Fall was joined by his family, the Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce, the LSUA Foundation, and nearly fifty faculty and staff for the honorary ribbon-cutting ceremony. Coach Fall expressed his deepest gratitude to his grandfather, John P. Wilkinson, the captain of the LSU baseball team and the LSU basketball team, a remarkable achievement in college athletics. Coach Fall urged university supporters to consider planting an honorary or memorial oak tree through the LSUA Foundation.

## GAA Hosts Annual Golf Tournament

The LSUA Generals Athletic Association (GAA) hosted its 11th annual golf tournament at Links on the Bayou on April 29. Over 80 players gathered at the course and formed teams for scramble play. Players from LSUA Men's Soccer, Women's Soccer, Women's Basketball, Softball, and Baseball provided fun games for golfers to win prizes, mulligans, or free strokes. Money raised from the event directly supports LSUA student-athletes with scholarships, uniforms, and equipment.

## LSUA Foundation Hosts Belated Black History Luncheon and Ebony Scholarship Benefit

LSUA is committed to celebrating Black excellence throughout the year and joins with central Louisiana in committing to nurture and care for our young people striving toward their bright futures. The LSUA Foundation and Connie Cooper, LSUA's Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, hosted its annual Black History Luncheon on May 25, featuring the Honorable David Michael Williams, 9th Judicial District Court Judge. The event also honored the rising sophomore Anais Callegari, recipient of the 2022 Ebony Scholarship Award. Callegari is a psychology major maintaining a GPA above 3.75.



## Cleco Gives \$100,000 to LSUA to Support Accountants for the Future

Cleco completed its pledged giving of \$100,000 to support LSUA's Accountants for the Future initiative. Like many local business leaders, Cleco President and CEO Bill Fontenot supports LSUA's mission to educate qualified accountants for employment in central Louisiana. LSUA has devoted significant energy to revitalizing the Accounting degree program for the growth and sustainability of the industry. Cenla Accountants for the Future is an initiative by seven organizations to empower accounting graduates to complete the CPA exam and enter the workforce.

## LSUA Shrimp Jam 2022 is September 22, Featuring Former LSU Gymnastics Coach D-D Breaux

The LSUA Generals Athletic Association (GAA) will host its annual Shrimp Jam fundraiser on September 22, 2022. This year's event will feature D-D Breaux, former Head Coach of LSU Gymnastics, nine-time SEC Coach of the Year, Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame inductee, and LSU Hall of Distinction Alumni of the Year. Shrimp Jam will be held at the Randolph Riverfront Center in downtown Alexandria at 5:30 pm. Individual tickets are \$75 with table sponsorships available. All sales are non-refundable. Ticket sales open on August 1, 2022. All proceeds benefit the student athletes of LSUA. For more information, contact Shere' Thaxton at [sthaxton@lsua.edu](mailto:sthaxton@lsua.edu) or by calling 318-619-2918.

# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

## LSUA Baseball Captures First RRAC Tournament Title Since 2018

The LSUA baseball team has won the Red River Athletic Conference Tournament. LSUA (33-14) accomplished that feat with a 13-2 over Houston-Victoria. LSUA swept through the RRAC Tournament, outscoring its competition 47-14 in the process. The Generals ended the season with an outstanding 33-14, earning them the Conference Tournament Championship and an automatic bid to the NAIA National Championship Playoff regional in Oklahoma City. Recently, Coach Kody Gautreaux was named the permanent head coach for the LSUA Men's Baseball team after serving the past season as interim and capturing the first RRAC Conference Tournament Championship since 2018.

## LSUA Chemistry Students Secure Prestigious Research Opportunities

Destiny Harrison and Kendall Powell, junior chemistry students and Mulder Scholars at LSUA, earned summer research positions at top universities through the national Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program. Students in the REU program conduct research with esteemed professors. According to a study from the Council on Undergraduate Research, the program is incredibly selective, with less than a 6% acceptance rate nationwide. Destiny Harrison will conduct research for Sustainable Chemistry at Texas A&M. At the same time, Kendall Powell will attend the University of Cincinnati in Chemistry.



## LSUA Recognizes Undergraduate Research at Scholar Day 2022

LSUA held the 4th annual Scholar Day at LSUA on May 4, with over 120 students presenting undergraduate research. Scholar Day highlights the achievements of LSUA students and faculty through research presentations, academic papers, and lunch-and-learn sessions. In addition, students conducted and presented research projects inspired by their course material or major. Undergraduate scholarship on display this year ranged across many disciplines. The judges consisted of community leaders, faculty, and staff.

## Sophie Borhi Crowned 2022 Ms. LSUA

LSUA held its annual pageant on April 28, where recently elected Student Government President, Sophie Borhi, was crowned as the first international student (Canada) to become Ms. LSUA. The event honored the intelligence, talent, and contributions of each contestant. Ms. LSUA will represent the university at events through the 2022-2023 academic year.

## APD Officer Returns to School After 20 Years

Bobby Branton, a Sergeant and 16-year veteran of the Alexandria Police Department (APD), faces the great challenge of finishing his undergraduate degree. Twenty years after earning an associate degree in criminal justice at LSUA, Sgt. Branton decided to return to college to complete a Bachelor of Science. Branton wanted to earn a Bachelor's degree after LSUA became a four-year undergraduate institution in 2001, but life intervened. Now, Sgt. Branton is earning his B.S. in criminal justice with a minor in business. Branton noted that this degree fulfills a personal goal and conditions him for advancement with the Alexandria Police Department, which now pays officers incrementally for educational accomplishments.





## LSUA and CLTCC Sign 2+2 Articulation MOU

LSUA and Central Louisiana Technical Community College (CLTCC) signed a “2+2 Business Articulation” memorandum of understanding (MOU) that creates a transfer pathway from CLTCC’s Associate of Science in Business Administration to LSUA’s Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. CLTCC students who meet the requirements of the Associate of Science in Business Administration and are admitted to LSUA will be able to transfer all 60 of their earned hours to a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. LSUA and CLTCC hope that the transfer pathway created by the MOU will contribute to statewide efforts to expand access to higher education.

## Dr. Beth Palmer Named Assistant Vice Chancellor for Holistic Education and Career Development

To demonstrate LSUA’s investment in educating the whole student, the University has created a new position for Holistic Education and Career Development. At LSUA, academic excellence involves helping students establish a foundation for their future. Career development is central to holistic education, including exploration, internships, and experiential learning. The newly hired Assistant Vice Chancellor, Dr. Beth Palmer, is focused on supporting students during their academic career and building partnerships with local businesses for internships and on-the-job training.

# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

## LSUA School of Nursing Receives Healthcare Occupations Program Grant from The Rapides Foundation

The Rapides Foundation has awarded \$223,960 to the LSUA School of Nursing’s ASN Accelerated Momentum for Completion and Holistic Achievement Project. Grant activities include evidence-based interventions designed to assist students with program completion. The project aims to increase the number of registered nurses entering the workforce. This project also aligns with national initiatives to diversify the healthcare workforce and reduce disparities by delivering culturally competent care.

## LSUA Selected as One of Fifty-Four Institutions to Participate in AAC&U’s Curriculum-to-Career Innovations Institute

LSUA is among fifty-four institutions selected to participate in the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) Curriculum-to-Career Innovations Institute. Co-directed by AAC&U and IBM, this virtual institute will support campus efforts to strengthen connections between college learning and workforce preparation and develop productive campus-industry partnerships. Over the fall semester, teams from the participating institutions will develop projects and access mentorship from leading higher education experts.

## Fletcher Technical Community College and LSUA Create New Transfer Partnership for Students

In a signing ceremony on April 8, Fletcher Technical Community College (Fletcher) and LSUA signed an articulation agreement to ease the transfer of college credits for students from Fletcher to LSUA. This agreement will allow students to complete the Associate of Applied Science Degree at Fletcher and transfer credit hours earned toward the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration or Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences. The new articulation agreement marks the beginning of a valuable partnership to advance education and training for Fletcher graduates.



# CAMPUS UPDATES

## LSUA Student Government Association Hosts Annual Generals Jam & Boil

The Student Government Association at LSUA hosted its annual Generals Jam and Crawfish Boil on April 7 on the quad. The event featured live music by Johnny Earthquake and the Moondogs and local boiled crawfish for LSUA students, faculty, staff, and the local community.

## LSUA Hosts Juneteenth Celebration

LSUA hosted its annual Juneteenth celebration on June 16 in the Brumfield-Caffey Annex. Juneteenth is a federal holiday honoring the end of slavery in the United States. LSUA's event hosted Jamison Harris, pastor of Second New Light Baptist Church, as well as speakers from the LSUA leadership team, staff, and students. Attendees embarked on a "freedom walk" from the main campus to the Epps House, built partly by Solomon Northup, proceeding with a wreath-laying and remembrance ceremony.

## Spring 2022 Commencement Hosted at the Rapides Parish Coliseum

On May 19, LSUA held an in-person commencement ceremony for graduates and supporters. Over 310 graduates had the opportunity to hear inspiring words from guest speaker Stephen Wright, the LSUA Foundation Board Chair. LSUA congratulates its spring 2022 graduates and looks forward to their success in the future!





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