Support LSUA athletic expansion

By: Ashley Fitzpatrick
Assistant Editor

The LSUA community will be voting March 18th-20th on whether the university will accept five additional sports to the LSUA campus. Although this means an increase of about $7 dollars for each student, the benefits seem to outweigh the cost.

In order for LSUA to remain in the National Association for Intercollegiate Athletics, the university must add new sports to be able to keep the ones we have currently. If we do not add these new sports we could possibly lose all of the current students that are at LSUA for our baseball and softball teams. Also we will lose any new students that may wish to come to LSUA for the sports. Adding in new sports will help recruit new students interested in sports and may help students that wish to stay local to stay in Cenla.

The sports that are being proposed are Men and Women's Basketball, Men and Women’s Soccer and Women's Tennis. There was a forum held with more detailed information held on March 6th and 7th. Please remember to vote as this affects our university!!

Spring Fling

By: Ashley Fitzpatrick
Assistant Editor

Spring Fling week is filling up with many fun activities. What follows is a breakdown of events by day; those that are still pending are marked as tentative. We hope that many students come to participate in all the events that week as they are for the student body. Spring Fling week is scheduled for April 8th – 13th.

- Monday: BINGO for Charity (will be raising money for Martin Park Elementary) Will be approximately $5 per card to play- there are multiple prizes for winning, this event is sponsored by CLIO Society.
- Tuesday: Tobacco Free Fun day, there will be (tentatively) all or some of the following: rock wall, space jumpers, DJ from the Frosty Factory will do karaoke and Larry Williams will be grilling burgers.
- Wednesday: Student Government will be hosting their annual Crawfish Boil
- Thursday: LSUA Green team will be hosting a family movie night, The Lorax will be playing in the ballroom at 4:00 p.m. Popcorn and beverages will be supplied. Tentatively there may perhaps be a performance by the LSUA Choir and perhaps music played by a few members of the Red River symphony
- Friday: No events scheduled yet

Spring Dates

Spring Fling Week
April 8th-13th

Earth Day Green Party
April 22nd

Spring Break
April 1st-7th

Shakespeare on the Green
March 21st-23rd

Campus closed for Good Friday
March 29th

Alexandria Art Walk
May 10th

LSUA Easter Egg Hunt
March 25th
Simplifying the financial aid process

By: Ashley Fitzpatrick
Assistant Editor

Several issues ago there was a story run about the financial aid office and the varying opinions on what that office does. What follows here are some things students can do to ensure a speedy and more efficient financial aid process for you.

Students should remember that only four of the staff members of financial aid execute every step of the process. Budget cuts nixed two of the full time staff positions in their office. The list of advice that follows are things students can do to help ensure a quicker process with financial aid. This advice comes direct from staff and faculty involved with the financial aid process.

- Sign up for direct deposit! The link is in your myLSUA page, it is called Bank Manager. Ensure that your account number and all personal information you enter there is accurate and matches what your bank has on file for you.
- Know exactly all of the paperwork you need to submit and drop all forms off at the same time. This cuts down on the probability of one sheet being misplaced. It also speeds it up because if you turn in all the forms, they may be able to process it that same day. Also make copies of everything you turn in: this is an important habit to get into anyway!
- Beware of conflicting information between your taxes and your completed FASFA, especially marital status and the information on your W-2’s!
- There are tutorial videos on navigating IQ Web located on the Self Service splash page. (The splash page is that first page that loads when you click on the link). Also watch for the videos to be expanded to include more of the sites.
- Always be sure to update personal information with the admissions office. Also keep yourself updated on changing policies.

Last but not least, here are dates that serve as guidelines for when you should turn in your paperwork. (These dates serve as an example for your financial aid for the Fall 2013 semester.)

- Turn in FASFA by March 1, 2013
- Submit all requested paperwork by May 1, 2013
- Make Fall schedule no later than May 10, 2013
- Make satisfactory academic progress so that you remain academically eligible for your financial aid.

Also a reminder that registration for Summer 2013 started on March 18th! So this needs your immediate attention.

 Sigma Tau Delta Conference

By: Ashley Fitzpatrick
Assistant Editor

Sigma Tau Delta’s Alpha Mu Iota Chapter will be hosting LSUA’s second Conference in the Humanities. The conference will take place on April 18th from 1-5pm. The conference will be held in the Bayou Roberts Room. Last year’s conference went well with several students reading personal papers submitted throughout their time at LSUA.

The conference held here is great experience for anyone going on to graduate school, as conferences become part of graduate school. They generally consist of the student or faculty reading their paper aloud; then there is a panel and an audience who can give the reader feedback on their work. It is a wonderful exchange of ideas and a great way to feel more confident in your academic abilities.

Corrections for Dr. Treuting’s Faculty Focus

By: Ashley Fitzpatrick
Assistant Editor

I would personally like to take this space to apologize to Dr. Treuting for the mistakes printed in her Faculty Focus story in the last issue of the Sentry. I would like to apologize on my part to my fellow staff and extend extensive apologies, personally to Dr. Treuting for these egregious errors. The mistakes and their corrections are as follows:

- Dr. Treuting’s ‘current’ husband is the only husband she has ever had.
- Dr. Treuting does not have an associate’s degree; she has a bachelor’s, Master’s and PhD all from LSU.
- She attended Ole Miss for 2 years not 2 semesters.
- The QEP (Quality Education Plan) has not started yet but will focus on improving student learning on our campus.
LSUA fires back in response to article published in LSU Reveille

By: Ashley Fitzpatrick
Assistant Editor

There were two articles that recently ran in LSU’s student paper, The Reveille, by a student named John Parker Ford. Needless to say his two part article caused quite a stir with students on the LSUA campus. Although Ford had some relevant arguments and the right to his own beliefs on the issue, his support for his argument was faulty at best. Also with the position on the student committee for the LSU transition one could say his opinion seemed fairly biased to be serving on such a commission. Read through the articles and decide for yourself. After included is a response sent by SG President Ginger King in response to the articles published by Ford. Needless to say Ford lost his spot on the committee but was able to keep his opinions.

PART I

I wrote a two-part series on Louisiana’s education problem this week in the Reveille. Because those articles ran in the actual paper, I was a little less personal about the issues than I would like to have been. Everyone in the state started paying attention to the “education issue” a few years ago in 2009 when major cuts for state higher education institutions were announced. I was involved in LSU Student Government that semester, and SG President J Hudson led the staff on a mission to fight the cuts. We did everything we could think of. We wrote letters to Governor Jindal, wrote letters to the editor in popular state (and, in some more popular cases, out-of-state) newspapers, met with legislators and even the Governor himself. During our campaign against the cuts, other organizations were working hard too. LSU’s administration pulled together the Flagship Coalition, which was a group of prominent businessmen who had financial ties to Jindal. He was more likely to listen to them for this reason. I also did some work for a nonprofit called Educate LA. Our goal was broader than fighting the budget cuts. We wanted to restructure the higher education funding formula in a way that rewarded outcomes instead of inputs, which it currently works. For example, schools are currently funded more for the diversity of its students than how many of their students actually graduate or stay in school. Diversity is important, but it isn’t as important as achieving the goal of higher education, which is the development of students into productive members of society. That’s why schools like LSU, LSU, SUNO, South Eastern and others should not be funded as four-year public universities. These schools are refuges for students who can’t make it into a better school or don’t have the means to leave a specific area for schooling. In both of these cases, a community college is the answer. There’s no need for all these costly four-year schools. Let’s get rid of most of them so we can properly prioritize the best of the best.

PART II

Louisiana’s population is about 4.6 million people, and the state has a whopping 14 four-year public higher education institutions to support. Florida’s state population is a little more than 19 million people. America’s retirement home state is supporting 15 four-year public universities. Only seven of them even specialize in anything more than a bachelor’s degree. This reveals the problem with Louisiana higher education: There are too many options. Want to go to LSU but can’t get in? Try the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. It turned you down, too? Try Northwestern State University. Still no luck? That’s OK LSU at Alexandria will take you. It’s too easy to get into a four-year college here. Our philosophy on higher education, which seems to be that everyone should go to a four-year public school immediately after high school, is wrong. In a state doing so poorly in primary and secondary education, do we really think graduating from high school is proof of the abilities needed to go to a four-year school? I think not. States that have successful higher education programs, such as Florida, have extensive junior college systems. If a student isn’t ready to go straight into a university when he or she graduates, he or she simply attends junior college for a year or two. In fact, it’s incredibly common in a lot of other states for a majority of high school graduates to attend a community college before attending a university. Of course, they have better options than the mismanaged-from-the-state-down choices Louisianians have, namely Delgado Community College and Baton Rouge Community College. There’s no shame in that — unless you live in Louisiana. We are setting students up for failure. We should raise admittance requirements across the board in our public universities. In a state like ours, more students should be going to community colleges first instead of to four-year universities. When we admit students with poor GPAs and ACT scores to four-year schools, we’re not only holding back those schools, but we’re also wasting student and taxpayer money. Southern University at New Orleans and LSU at Alexandria both have exceptionally low entry requirements for four-year universities. Both schools only require 2.0 GPAs and at least a 20 on the ACT. Their six-year graduation rates stand at 8 and 9 percent, respectively. Meanwhile, LSU’s 67 percent six-year graduation rate is the best in Louisiana. It should be noted that although Southern University at New Orleans and Louisiana State University at Alexandria are four-year public universities, many students who attend them aren’t necessarily aiming to get a degree from those institutions. A good number of those students are planning on transferring to a better school or taking a few courses to pad their résumés. While these goals are positive, the fact that some of our institutions are funded like four-year universities and are being treated like community colleges

"LSUA is a refuge for students who can’t make it into a better school or have no means of leaving a specific area for schooling.” - John P. Ford
News

Rebuttal continued...

John Parker Ford is a 22-year-old mass communication senior at LSU from Alexandria.

Mr. Ford,

As Student Government President at LSUA, I would like to respond to the two-part article you published in The Reveille on January 29th and 30th. Although you make a couple of valid points in your article, any beneficial thoughts you may have shared were negated by the derogatory and demeaning way in which you presented them. Most would agree there is a need for improvement to Louisiana’s higher education system; however, it does not start with the closing of smaller, community-based, 4-year universities.

When you look at the role these universities play, it is obvious that the closure of these schools would be detrimental to the community, and the State of Louisiana.

The landscape of 4-year universities is ever changing with the increased enrollment of non-traditional students. For many, the goal of receiving a higher education has to be postponed for various reasons including, but not limited to, the need to seek immediate employment, rearing a family, or simply not having available financial means. Non-traditional students have ties to their community, family, and jobs which prevent them from relocating to another city to attend school, which is why they usually attend college later than traditionally-aged students. Traditional and non-traditional students alike do not always have the financial capability to attend a larger, more expensive and distant university. The universities you mentioned in your article are meeting the needs of their local communities in an area LSU is not able to reach. LSU is a good institution; however, with the cost of tuition climbing higher every year and the economy’s downward spiral, the accessibility of the local 4-year university is more important than ever.

You mentioned the low graduation rate of LSU, but you must keep in mind that the effect of increasing numbers of non-traditional students accompanied with transfer students skews the graduation rate of universities because these students are not considered in the graduation rate formula. Being unable to include the many students we do educate makes LSUA appear as though it is not graduating as many students as it actually does. However, since the transition of LSUA from a 2-year school to a 4-year college eight years ago, our campus has granted an average of 300 associate and bachelor degrees per year.

You say in your article that "There’s no need for all these costly four year schools", yet have you looked at the numbers? According to LA TRAC, which is the State of Louisiana Website for transparency and accountability, your argument is invalid. Campus expenditures for fiscal year 2013 are as follows:

- LSUS: 6,237,376.46
- LSUE: 7,777,060.8
- LSUS: 10,362,024.52
- Southeastern: 58,417,179.6
- BRCC: 46,062,143.74
- BPCC: 10,224,339.92
- Delgado: 9,145,816.99
- SUNO: 18.10%

Campus expenditures for fiscal year 2013 total 229,261,229.76 as reported by LA TRAC. According to LA TRAC, the percentage breakdown of the State’s expenditures for Higher Ed is as follows:

- BRCC: 14,975,816.99
- LSUE: 33.64%
- Southeastern: 58,417,179.6
- BPCC: 10,224,339.92
- SUNO: 18.10%
- Delgado: 9,145,816.99
- LSUS: 6,237,376.46
- LSUE: 7,777,060.8
- LSUS: 10,362,024.52

Top 8 community colleges account for 8% of Louisiana’s Higher Ed expenditures totaling 18.10% of total Higher Ed expenditures for fiscal year 2013, yet your argument is flawed. The "costly schools" you speak of do not appear to be very costly in comparison to LSU. The costs of LSUA, LSUE, and LSUS combined is barely over ½ that of ONE community college. Tell me again how the closing of these schools is more cost effective? You refer to our school as a "refuge for students who can’t make it into a better school or don’t have the means to leave a specific area for schooling" and you are partially correct. As I explained earlier, not having the financial means necessary to attend college is one reason schools like LSUA are so important. But I promise you, the students attending LSUA have the intelligence and aptitude to be successful at what you call the “best of best” school also. You are completely and erroneously assuming LSUA is an “easy” school to complete. That is a misperception on your
Rebuttal continued
part. Because our school is small, we have a lower teacher/student ratio which allows more interaction with our professors resulting in a better understanding of the material being taught. The professors at LSU are dedicated professionals who not only encourage critical thinking, but also set the bar high. When we leave LSU, we are as academically prepared as any graduate of a larger university anywhere, and certainly one in our home state. We leave LSU to go on the graduate and law schools; we succeed in business, and become local teachers, making our community stronger and informed, not bad for a small school that receives almost no funding and spends far less than LSU. Do LSU students stay in Baton Rouge?
LSU professors set high standards they expect to be met, and with their guidance and instruction we excel and achieve personal and public goals. Why would you want to take that away from the very area in which you grew up and in which we, students and alums of LSU, continue to make better? Sincerely,
Ginger King
LSUA SG President 2012-2013
Giovanni Rueda, VP
Matthew Roberts, Administrative Asst.
Domenica Burgess, Treasurer
Senators:
Faith Norman
Micki Johnson
Yogesh Patel
Robert Lewis
Earl Jeansonne
Alex Charrier
Kabrina Tyler
Brandon Atkins
Milton Gordon
Amelia Malone

Voices of LSUA Alumni

By: Amber Wesse
Editor
LSUA is the only public four year university in the Alexandria area. However, unlike other college towns in the state such as Monroe, Natchitoches, Lafayette, and Baton Rouge there is minimal focus, support, recognition or inclusion by the community for LSUA. Local businesses, public figures and media outlets do not actively promote campus functions enough.

Two LSUA graduates expressed their opinions regarding lack of community support and infrequent public relation coverage of university events and activities.

Alumni Cade Cascio holds a bachelors in History, and although he is no longer student, he is on campus almost daily. LSUA is a second home for Cade. “I never know about campus events unless I hear about them while I’m on campus.” Prior to attending LSUA, Cascio attended ULM in Monroe and ULL in Lafayette. “The restaurants and stores in Lafayette and Monroe cater to students by allowing them to use funds on their student IDs as currency for services and merchandise.” Few if any businesses in the Alexandria area allow students to use their identification cards as currency. Many college students depend on their families to deposit money in their school accounts for living expenses. Businesses could support students by making providing student discounts and more convenient payment methods available.

There is very little local recognition of LSUA sports. With the possibility of athletic department expansion, a variety of intercollegiate sports programs are potentially on the horizon. “Different sports programs will attract student athletes who would otherwise not consider LSU an option.” says Cascio.

The best thing about LSU according to Cascio is the tight knit community of students and faculty. “LSUA is a small university which allows professors to know their students individually. LSU is the size of a private university, at the price of a public university.” Cade’s message to all current and future students is, “Take opportunities that arise in college, take advantage of the knowledge of your teachers and seize the day.”

Andrew Farhand, a recent graduate, Andrew Farhand, recently re-enrolled at LSUA to pursue a second degree in nursing. Andrew explained that there is not enough community involvement with professors. “Don’t let the small size of the school you attend determine how large your success can be.”

More of the LSUA Alumni articles can be found in the LSUA Alumni magazine located in the student union, or at https://alumni.lsu.edu/
Features

History of Saint Patrick's Day

By: Jason Lacombe
Sentry Reporter

St. Patrick’s Day has been celebrated on March 17th for over 1,000 years now. A day of remembrance for the saint who brought Christianity to the Irish people, the day of St. Patrick’s death has traditionally been a day of reverence in Ireland, where national laws held until the 1970’s that even pubs were closed. Since the 1990’s, Ireland began to use the holiday to spark up tourism, all centered around their capital city of Dublin; home of the famous Guinness brand of beer since 1759, here they hold parades, fireworks showcases, and this year even the lighting up some of their buildings with bright green lights. Over 100,000 tourists are expected to travel to the city for the events this year! Stateside, St. Patrick’s Day began to gain popularity after 1762, when the first parade took place in New York City for returning Irish soldiers in the British army. Since then, the public celebrations have been a sign of the strength of community for Irish-Americans, where they remember their heritage and celebrate their Catholic roots. Though it was unsuccessful, Savannah, GA was the first city to try to dye their river green back in 1961. The very next year Chicago began their annual tradition of doing so with much better results; the first attempt left the Chicago river green for a week! Now over 100 American cities hold parades every year; New Orleans is known for the Irish Channel parade and for the unique tradition of throwing Irish stew ingredients into the crowd!

This millennium-old holiday continues to grow each year, and however you choose to celebrate, keep in mind the rich history of Ireland and the Irish-Americans who helped to found our country and our local communities.

Sources: http://www.history.com/topics/st-patricks-day

Finnegan’s Wake celebrates St. Patty’s Day

By: Laura Saucier
Sentry Reporter

Much like downtown Alexandria’s Tamp and Grind, local bar Finnegan’s Wake was born out of necessity. Nine years ago, co-owners Shannon Nolan and Galen Bohannon were dissatisfied with Alexandria’s beer selection. (Their establishment caters to beer drinkers, and at first had a large amount of imported and craft beers.) After a bit of complaining, they decided to take the initiative and do something to change that selection. Although Mr. Bohannon attended LSUA for a number of years (totaling 160 credit hours before leaving) he has no formal business training.

The building is rented, and they did all of the interior work themselves. “Everything that you actually see, we did.” he said. “Everything you actually see” involves a lot. A painted red ceiling, antiqued wall hangings and a scattering of tables all give the space a comforting feel, despite the large room size.

The bar is tall and strong, still standing in its original place, and re-faced with original tin tiles. “As far as everything else goes, we did all this. [Including] wood work, painting, ceiling textures, of the two of us, but Shannon has more far reaching ideas. He’s good at looking at where we’re going to be next year, while I’m a little better at managing where we’re going to be in six months.”

While Mr. Bohannon wishes the traffic flow in the downtown area would be a bit more like it is in other parts of the city, he acknowledges that downtown has a certain aesthetic charm. “We’re sort of a destination spot.” he said, “If anyone wants to come here, they come here.”

Business does seem to be booming with no sign of slowing down. This Saturday (March 16th), the annual block party will be held in honor of St. Patrick’s Day, lasting from noon until two a.m. Three bands will be attending. “We’ve got Reverend Charlie’s Medicine Show, which are local guys, The Onlies, who are from Lafayette, and a girl from Tennessee named Amy Leviere. She actually has family in Louisiana so she’s familiar with the state.” Amy’s played at Finnegan’s once before, about four months ago. Galen thinks she’ll be a good fit with the folksy music of the other bands. Food will be available that day, bratwursts, hamburgers and possibly hotdogs will be freshly grilled outside.

If St. Patrick’s Day is not your holiday of choice, Finnegan’s has year ‘round events. “We have a Harry Potter Yule Ball around Christmastime, we have a prom party on my birthday every year, and regular patrons have birthday parties here that sort of turn into costume parties. Actually, we just had a Conan the Barbarian party for two friends” Galen said. They also celebrate may the 4th (national Star Wars day.) May the force be with them indeed.
Spring break traditions

By: Laura Saucier
Sentry Reporter

Ahhh spring break. A time allocated for students to unwind and recharge before hitting the books near the end of the semester. Whether you take an annual road trip, hit up the party scene, or just spend time sleeping in at home, the week of spring break is always a welcome one.

Have you ever wondered how it all began? What did early spring breakers do for entertainment? What are some alternative ways to spend spring break if you happen to be strapped for cash? Spring Break is believed to have roots in the Greek and Roman empires. Men and women of those ancient days often took part in “fertility festivals” once spring arrived. The respective gods of wine and song were praised, foods were eaten, and the women were believed to be at their most fertile. Flash forward to 1928, when Fort Lauderdale Florida boasted the first Olympic sized swimming pool at one of the resorts. The coach at one New York University took the opportunity to let his swim team practice in the Floridian pool. The team was so successful after the extra practice, he made it an annual event. Ten years later, coaches from around the nation would annually bring their swim team to practice in Fort Lauderdale. It wasn’t long after that other college kids started pouring in to soak up the sunshine. From then, other coastal towns and resorts have catered to the growing crowds, allowing spring break to evolve into what we see it as today. Traditionally, Spring Break has been seen as a beach-oriented occasion. In the 1960s, Connie Francis starred in Where the Boys Are, a wholesome movie about young ladies who go to the beach in search of love. In today’s society, spring break movies still exist, although with a slightly less wholesome edge. In fact, this year audiences will see the release of Harmony Korin’s Spring Breakers. Its plot centers around young ladies who rob a diner in order to fund their trip to the beach … where they probably hope to find some semblance of love. Any romantic notions aside, spring break has been typically seen as a chance to venture away from the norm and be a tad more adventurous.

With that in mind, many beach resorts are prepared for masses of college students during the spring break season, and some even offer packaged deals for students. Springbreak.com (www.springbreak.com) offers information on packaged deals ranging from cruises to student travel. Don’t forget that on certain excursions, such as a cruise, a passport will be required. If the beach is not your scene, www.studentuniverse.com offer alternative plans such as taking a road trip with friends. With a map, a sense of adventure and a friend’s car, you could have the land-locked trip of a lifetime. If gas prices continue to climb, taking a road trip might not be the best option. In that case, why not consider camping? Our own Alexandria area boasts of beautiful designated camping areas in the Kisatche National Forest. If you’re more of a keep-it-inside kind of person, there’s always something to be said for movie marathons and game nights at home. You’ll save money on transportation, and maybe prove your skill once and for all in front of your friends and family.

From the 1920’s to now, Spring Break has become a massive undertaking. Please have fun and be safe, whether you’re surfing waves … or the internet.
Features

History of April Fools Day

By: Amber Wesse

The history of April Fool’s Day or All Fool’s Day is uncertain, but the current thinking is that it began around 1582 in France with the reform of the calendar under Charles IX. The Gregorian Calendar was introduced, and New Year’s Day was moved from March 25 - April 1 (new year’s week) to January 1.

Send invitations to nonexistent parties and have other practical jokes played upon them. Communication traveled slowly in those days and some people were only informed of the change several years later. Still others, who were more rebellious refused to acknowledge the change and continued to celebrate on the last day of the former celebration, April 1.

These people were labeled “fools” by the general populace, were subject to ridicule and sent on “fool errands,” sent invitations to nonexistent parties and had other practical jokes played upon them. The butts of these pranks became known as a “poisson d’avril” or “April fish” because a young naive fish is easily caught. In addition, one common practice was to hook a paper fish on the back of someone as a joke. This harassment evolved over time and a custom of prank-playing continue on the first day of April. This tradition eventually spread elsewhere like to Britain and Scotland in the 18th century and was introduced to the American colonies by the English and the French. Because of this spread to other countries, April Fool’s Day has taken on an international flavor with each country celebrating the holiday in its own way.

In Scotland, for instance, April Fool’s Day is devoted to spoofs involving the buttocks and as such is called Taily Day. The butts of these jokes are known as April ‘Gowk’, another name for cuckoo bird. The origins of the “Kick Me” sign can be traced back to the Scottish observance.

In England, jokes are played only in the morning. Fools are called ‘gobs’ or ‘gobby’ and the victim of a joke is called a ‘noodle.’ It was considered back luck to play a practical joke on someone after noon.

In Rome, the holiday is known as Festival of Hilariar, celebrating the resurrection of the god Attis, is on March 25 and is also referred to as “Roman Laughing Day.”

In Portugal, April Fool’s Day falls on the Sunday and Monday before lent. In this celebration, many people throw flour at their friends.

The Huli Festival is celebrated on March 31 in India. People play jokes on one another and smear colors on one another celebrating the arrival of Spring.

So, no matter where you happen to be in the world on April 1, don’t be surprised if April fools fall playfully upon you.

Why is the Harlem Shake popular?

By: Amber Wesse

A five-minute video? Ain’t nobody got time for that. Not to watch one, or to make one. But Harlem Shake dance videos are capped at 30 seconds. That’s why we’re so willing to watch just one more incarnation, and why it’s easy to recruit friends to make them. The result is one of the most pervasive gags in history. A “Symbiotic Meme,” the Harlem Shake has a lesson to teach all content creators.

Give people a formula, and they’ll substitute in their own variables. Most people just aren’t all that creative. They’re not going to come up with some entertaining meme on their own. With a little structure, though, our minds fill in the blanks.

To break it down, the Harlem Shake meme is:

\[14T \times (A1 + V1) \Rightarrow \Delta \Rightarrow [14T\times (A2 + V2)] \Rightarrow [2T \times (A3 + V3)]\]

Or

[14 seconds of (build-up music) played as (one person passively dances while others linger around them motionless)] then an instant video cut to [14 seconds of (bombastic dance music) played as (many people dance aggressively)]

then [2 seconds of (a slurring sound) and (slow-motion video of the aggressive dancing)]

Or in “Harlem Shake v3 (office edition),” for example:

[14 seconds of (the build-up of Baauer’s “Harlem Shake”) played as (one person in a helmet nods and thrusts while others sit at desks or work on computers)] then an instant video cut to [14 seconds of (the climax of Baauer’s “Harlem Shake”) played as (people shadow box, do hand stands, ride bicycles, and punch stuffed giraffes)]

Anyone can sub their own variables into this equation, and practically everyone has. The formula is very easy to replicate with little video production skill, and it’s not asking a lot for people to stand around and then dance for a total of 30 seconds. Stick a camera somewhere, film part one, get everyone riled up, film part two, cut them together, add the slow motion effect. The end product is remarkably snackable. When you see someone share a Harlem Shake to Facebook or Twitter, there’s very little risk to clicking the link. Worst-case scenario, you burned 30 seconds. Best case, you get a nice surprise and a laugh. No one wants to sit through several minutes of

home-made content where the payoff is uncertain. It’s part of the reason why Twitter’s 6-second video sharing app Vine is succeeding where un-capped video sharing apps have failed.

Source: http://techcrunch.com/2013/02/18/what-is-the-harlem-shake-so-popular/
Annual LSUA Shakespeare-on-the-Greene

By: Laura Saucier
Sentry Reporter

It’s almost that time of year again! Thursday, March 21st and Saturday, March 23rd at 7:30 p.m. marks LSUA’s annual Shakespeare-on-the-Greene. Theatre professor Dr. Rhonda Shook says, “We are having an open dress rehearsal Wednesday, the 20th. All performances are FREE and open to the public.

We encourage families to attend together. Bring lawn chairs and snacks and insect repellant. Grab a blanket if it’s chilly and come experience Shakespeare outdoors.” This year’s production centers on Shakespeare’s Measure for Measure. Dr. Shook refers to it instead as Measure for Measure. “We’re adding to Shakespeare’s script,” she notes.

The play is a farcical comedy. Leading lady Isabella is at a nunnery, preparing to take the necessary steps to enter the sisterhood. She gets word that her brother, Claudio has been arrested and is being sentenced to death for fornication. Claudio planned to marry his pregnant girlfriend, so Isabella implores the magistrate Angelo to spare her brother’s life. Angelo falls fast and hard for Isabella, and makes her an offer: if she sleeps with him, her brother’s life will be spared. Dr. Shook says that in her version, Isabella responds in an unexpected way. Only a friar can say who will be spared … Measure for Measure for Measure will be done in the style of Commedia Dell’arte. For those who are unfamiliar, that involves physical, improvisational comedy. This particular style comes from the Italian Renaissance Period. Dr. Shook explains it like this: [the] characters are divided into three classifications: Lovers (Innamorati), Masters, and Servants (Zanni), and each character has her or his own stage business, or lazzi. Characters may sing, or dance, juggle, or walk on stilts. Everyone wears a mask except the lovers. “Visual and Performing Arts major, Maura Herbolsheimer, is Isabel, Jim Weinzelte plays the Duke, and Jeff Goelz is the smarmy Angelo. The traditional commedia trickster, Arlecchino, is embodied in the character of Lucio, played by Jeremy Poe.”

Although the play will be done in the Commedia style, Dr. Shook maintained the classic structure of the play. All the acts are in sequence. There are seventeen actors playing thirty roles. Dr. Shook says that “Costuming has been a nightmare” and that “Nine or ten of the actors are LSUA students; the rest are community members. Rosemary Robertson-Smith, who has been in several Empty Space Player shows, is one of our stage managers for this production, and Tommy Brasher, who has been an avid supporter of LSUA theatre for years, is the other. Between them, they will keep actors under control and on cue.”

Shakespeare-on-the-Greene originated fourteen years ago at the hands of Richard Gwartney. Last year was officially LSUA’s last Shakespeare-on-the-Greene. This marks our first Arts on the Greene, so Dr. Shook aimed to soften the blow by using Shakespeare as raw material for a commedia performance. She also noted that none of this would even be possible without the grant received from the Roy O. Martin Foundation, given by the Arts Council of Central Louisiana.

What does that mean for the upcoming semester? “We have a reader’s theatre version of an original student work later in the semester - we’re still ironing out details - but sometime in April, we’ll showcase a piece by Belle Rollins.” To keep updated with Empty Space Players, like their page on facebook.
Bachelors of English from the from a small Methodist college in Alabama. Shortly after earning his degree he joined the Peace Corps which took him to Africa. “It changed me.” Elmore says of his experience in teaching in Africa. He discovered he had a passion for teaching and wanted to pursue it further. When he returned to the united states, he attended The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, where he earned a Masters degree in English. He experienced difficulty finding a job in higher education with only an Masters degree, so he hit the books again. He earned a PhD. of English from Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama. Dr. and Mrs. Elmore have a beautiful six year old daughter named Mira. Dr. Elmore is dedicated to each of his students at all levels. “Working with students as individuals, learning their strengths and weaknesses are what I Love the most about teaching. I take great pleasure in seeing students responses to classic literature, being able to get inside their minds. I just love reading peoples writing.” A class with doctor Elmore is a one of a kind experience. Although he teaches a variety of classic literature, he focuses a lot on southern authors. Dr. Elmore says, “If there is one thing I could instill in students it would be for them to know they belong to something much larger than themselves and they have a responsibility to find their purpose or place in society.”

ArtWalk is a free, family-oriented, self-guided walking tour of over 60 participating artists, vendors, and live entertainment acts, held bi-annually in the Cultural Arts District in downtown Alexandria. Sidewalks, green spaces, and the alleys come alive as local artists demonstrate and sell their works of art. All original artwork sold within the Cultural Arts District is tax-free. ArtWalk is currently scheduled for Friday May 10, 2013. The primary goal of the Artwalk is to unite Central Louisiana’s vibrant arts community in one evening of coordinated events. This evening celebration of the arts will provide entertainment for all ages, bring in cultural tourists and generate revenue within the Cultural Arts District of downtown Alexandria. ArtWalk has been signature event for the City of Alexandria for many years, and is now being organized by the Arts Council of Central Louisiana, which has added new life to the event. Local artist and LSUA graduate, Andrew Farhand has participated in the ArtWalk for several years. His work has been featured by Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB), in a piece spotlighting Louisiana artists. “The ArtWalk has something for everyone,” says Farhand, “musicians, vocalists, painters, sculptors and artists of all kinds have an opportunity to display and sell their work to the public.” The vibe is a lot like Jackson Square in New Orleans, where diversity and creativity abound. “It’s fun for all ages. Also, if rain is in the forecast, all of the artists move inside the downtown convention center.” Drew’s art will be on display and available for purchase in the upcoming ArtWalk.
Students

Student Spotlight

Meet Jason Lacombe

By: Ashley Fitzpatrick
Assistant Editor

Any of us who have visited the LSUA bookstore have probably interacted with Jason Lacombe at some point in your time here. I encourage you to join me in getting to know just a little bit more about him.

Jason was born here in Alexandria and moved back here after spending some of his younger years in San Antonio and Dallas. He graduated from Buckeye High School in 2000. He is an only child and his extended family is not very large either. One of his favorite childhood memories was spending a substantial amount of time on his Grandfather’s farm. He did this from about age 7 to age 13; his Grandpa had horses and cattle, pecan trees and about 80 acres of land.

One of Jason’s favorite vacation memories was visiting London when he was around 25- he is not usually a fan of large cities but said London was very nice. He also enjoyed kayaking in Missouri with his Aunt and Uncle last year since he is a big fan of the outdoors. His dream vacation has always been to spend a few months camping/living out in Yellowstone National Park.

Jason is an English major who has plans to teach, which he has longed to do. He is contemplating graduate school but has not decided as to whether he will go or not. When asked what his dream job would be Jason said producing music. When I asked him what he thought two of his strengths would be he said the following “situation resolution (either with other people or situations in general) and I am good at analyzing things objectively.” When I asked what he thought two of his weaknesses are he said procrastination and how to dedicate time to helping others with overburdening himself.

He is currently reading At the Mouth of the River of Bees which is a collection of short stories in the genre of Sci-Fi and reality-fantasy. When I asked him what three of his favorite movies were he said Pulp Fiction, Dune, and Alien (the whole saga). Currently in Jason’s cd player is Holy Other, which to be very generalized is in the electronic genre.

Jason is a wonderfully interesting individual and a delight to be in company with. I encourage you all to get to know him.

Word on the street

By: Laura Saucier
Sentry Reporter

Each month Laura asks random students impromptu questions regarding global, national or local issues.

This month she asked students their opinions about having healthier food choices available on campus. These are the responses.

“I think it would be a good idea, it would give people more options. It would keep people from having to go to Subway, or off campus. The cafeteria does have the wraps, and the fruit cups, but a little more variety wouldn’t hurt.”
- Kenneth

“I think it was a good idea to present that kind of food to students, so that we could have the option. You can’t force people to eat healthier, but it would be beneficial to give them a choice. That would make it easier for them to choose to eat healthy.”
- Heath

“I think we should have more healthy options. If people want to eat from the fast food line that we have here, that’s their choice, but if we could supplement it with healthier options, I’m all for that. Having a new initiative come to the school for nutritional education … having it passed around through student services instead of just having it as a major, would be great.”
- E.J.

“I think it’s a good idea.”
- Richard “Buck”
## Sports

### 2013 Generals baseball/softball schedule

**Lady Generals 2013 Schedule**

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**2013 Generals schedule**

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Entertainment

Gamers... It's not about the destination, it's about the Journey

By: Laura Saucier
Sentry Reporter

I am not an avid gamer. Growing up, my sister and I played computer games or board games, but we never owned a video game console. Because of my lack of familiarity with them, I assumed video games just ... weren't for me. This assumption stuck with me ... until the fateful day I caught my first glimpse of Journey. The teasers promised a game with rich visuals and sweeping landscapes. After downloading a trial run and playing it for about 10 minutes, I was absolutely hooked. I had never cared much for games before, but Journey was unlike any other game I had previously seen. Fast forward a few months, to me sitting on my bed, fully immersed into a world of beautiful desert landscapes, sweeping musical scores and delightful surprises. Journey marked my first full gaming experience (the entire play through from beginning to end took about 2 hours or so, a fraction of the time that most games require.) I don’t think any other game would have been as perfect for my “first time” experience. Journey is an independent game, manufactured by Thatgamecompany for the PlayStation3. This is the same company that created the oh-so-soothing Flower (a game where you guide flower petals in the breeze, aiming to connect with other petals along the way) and Flow, a game where deep sea creatures get bigger by eating smaller sea creatures. This company is obviously on the market to sell beautiful games that evoke emotion, and they do it so well.

Players begin by guiding a robed figure through the sweeping desert, bringing them ever closer to a mountain in the distance. The figure can walk, and the player controls camera movement. There are no true instructions given, and the player is left to learn as they travel. I found this to be an exciting way to experience game development.

As the game continues, players meet up with other players, but they cannot communicate through text, speech, or see each other’s identity. I signed out of my account, which allowed me to play the game solo. I tried again with a partner the second time around, and I really recommend playing by yourself the first time through. This allows you to play at your own pace and explore at will, instead of following someone else’s lead. As game play progresses, the robed figure uses their ability to “sing”, giving off a halo-like light. This light affects the landscape and various red pieces of cloth, that when sung to, come to life and aid you in your travel. The figure also wears a scarf, which, when “charged” by the animated cloth, allows him to briefly float through the air. As time goes on the scarf becomes longer (allowing for greater distance of travel.) As the robed figure moves through the landscape and various “levels” are reached, a piece of the figure’s past is revealed. There is no speech, name-giving or score-keeping. The game has a minimalist feel to it, allowing players to be fully invested in the actions of their character and the situations they encounter. The music is beautiful and only serves to enhance the emotional connection made between the figure and the player. I personally felt responsible for the figure’s safety and well-being, and cried upon completing the game. A twist at the end left me in awe, but only served as a reminder that ... it’s not about the destination. It’s about the journey.

The Bite
Khan’s

By: Laura Saucier
Sentry Reporter

Watch our Hana Japanese Steakhouse! You’ve got some stiff competition, all thanks to a small squat restaurant simply called “Khan”. I recently had the pleasure of dining there with family and the vote was unanimous: from the blue lighting, to the way the meal is ordered and prepared, Khan’s offers a unique dining experience.

Upon arriving, guests are seated at numbered tables and handed small red and white cards. Using a marker, diners use their card to line and chooses the various components of their dish. Proteins are available first: raw chunks of beef, chicken and pork, eggs and even various types of sausage. There is also a vast array of seafood: shrimp, white fish, crab meat and even squid (officially known as “calamari”) … the list goes on. For vegetarians tofu is available. Next guests are faced with different vegetables and greens (some familiar, such as peas, carrots, spinach and broccoli) and some a little more foreign, like Bok Choy, snow peas, bamboo shoots or straw mushrooms. The line is at first dizzying; there are so many choices! But, if you are like me, you will soon go a little power-mad and start to pile many foreign flavors into your bowl. As if the array of foods wasn’t enough, the line ends with a variety of sauces and spices, able to be added to your heart’s desire. Do you like a little heat? The yellow curry spice, chili powder or Bourbon sauce might be for you. Looking for something a little closer to home? Why not try the honey sauce, brown sauce or garlic salt? Once the meal has been perfectly seasoned and prepared by expert hands, it is given to the chefs. This in itself is unique, due to the fact that the customer hands over his or her tray, and can (if they wish to) stand and watch the chefs prepare the meal. There is no dividing wall between the large wheel-shaped grill and the customer. After a suitable amount of time (frankly, no time at all in my opinion) the food is done and guests are handed back their (delicious, delicious) masterpiece. It was such a neat experience knowing that all the complexity of flavors and textures was thanks to my own design. Although the pineapple (yes, pineapple) in my father’s dish tended to make things a bit too sweet, it was great having the option to add or subtract pineapple in the first place. The restaurant layout is very open, which makes handicapped patrons a welcome addition. The dining room and the bathrooms are kept very clean, and the staff seemed helpful. Our waitress was willing to answer any questions for what flavors tasted best together, etc. My family did not order appetizers (egg rolls, pot stickers, french fries, salad and bacon wrapped shrimp are just a glance at what’s available), but I feel that with the portion size of the meal (large) eating any more would have been overkill. I highly recommend this restaurant, and plan on going again in the near future.

Besides, I’ve got to perfect my recipe!