

# LSUA

# Alumni & Friends Association

LSUA Alumni Magazine  
Summer/Fall 2019



# DR. COREIL RETURNS TO LSUA

*Read the story on page 6*



Accounting students in a club meeting.



Students visit the Great Wall of China.



LSUA Cheer Team at the Block Party.



Student Government Crawfish Boil.



Student headed to class.



LSUA again represented in the NAIA National Basketball Tourney.



Freshmen learning about LSUA at Orientation.

Dear LSUA Alumni and Friends:

Returning to LSUA for a second time as chancellor is a tremendous honor and privilege. Even though it is again on an interim basis (this time it's a two-year appointment), I am committed to doing everything I can to expand educational opportunities available to everyone living and working in central Louisiana. LSU of Alexandria is an outstanding four-year university within the LSU System committed to post-secondary educational advancement for everyone, whether it is a recent high school graduate or an adult already in the workforce, and has been providing these great educational opportunities for almost 60 years! As the fall 2019 semester quickly continues, our highly committed faculty and staff eagerly anticipate greeting potential students, including those considering enrolling for the first time, greeting returning students, and/or welcoming visitors and parents seeking a quality university degree that will position a graduate for a successful career working in critical areas important to the economic well-being of our region. What an awesome privilege it is for all of us at LSUA to serve the wonderful people of Central Louisiana!

Exciting LSUA advances and ongoing career tracts include the following:

- New Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting
- New Bachelor of Science Degree in Kinesiology
- 100% job placement in radiation technology and medical lab technology
- Outstanding degree programs in nursing, education/teaching, psychology, chemistry, business administration, criminal justice, history, English, communications, mathematics, biology, world religions, long-term care administration/management, and clinical laboratory science/medical technology
- Average class size of 23, resulting in more personal interaction with professor/instructor
- Affordable tuition with low student debt at graduation
- More than 30 student organizations available for on-campus student engagement
- Outstanding on-campus athletic programs – 12 conference and regional championships and 9 NAIA national tournament appearances in past two years, including national runner-up in men's basketball in 2018

With crucial support from our dedicated alumni and friends, the LSUA Foundation, more stable funding from our State Legislature, and with the loyal support provided by our state, parish and municipal leaders, we continue to be optimistic about the future, and stand ready to build new workforce development partnerships with the business community across the region. As chancellor, my door is always open and I will continue to listen and seek new, innovative ideas and opportunities to improve the student experience that result in increased enrollment, university educational attainment and increased graduation rates across the board. In 2020, we will invite Central Louisiana to celebrate 60 years of success at LSUA and challenge everyone to help us build a stronger, student focused four-year university that will be positioned to serve new and exciting career opportunities over the next 60 years!



Paul Coreil, Ph.D.  
Interim Chancellor, LSUA



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# LSUA by the numbers



494  
students who  
graduated over the  
previous academic year.



LSUA will celebrate its  
anniversary in 2020. 60<sup>th</sup>



FIVE  
teams represented LSUA  
in national tournaments.  
in 2018-2019.



1  
Scholar Day at A  
letting students  
present research.

# Headlines and Happenings

## LSUA Welcomes Back Dr. Paul Coreil



Paul Coreil, former vice chancellor and director of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service for the LSU AgCenter, and now vice chancellor and professor emeritus, has been named Interim Chancellor at LSU of Alexandria by LSU President F. King Alexander.

"I can think of no one better to serve LSU of Alexandria and Central Louisiana as interim chancellor than Paul Coreil," said LSU President F. King Alexander. "Dr. Coreil has served LSU admirably for many years, and he is a proven leader that will help guide LSUA forward and build on the successes already established there over the last few years."

Coreil will serve as interim chancellor through June 2021, to provide consistent leadership to LSU of Alexandria. He previously served as interim chancellor at LSUA from February 2013 to February 2014.

"Coming back to serve LSUA and Central Louisiana is extremely exciting," Coreil said. "I look forward to advancing the mission of this great university, and re-engaging with students, business leaders, faculty, and staff in seeking and achieving excellence."

A native of Ville Platte, La., Coreil earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Southwestern Louisiana – now the University of Louisiana at Lafayette – in zoology in 1976. He earned a master's

degree in wildlife management in 1984 and a Ph.D. in extension education in 1995, both from LSU. His Ph.D. research focused on landowners' perceptions related to wetland regulatory policy in coastal Louisiana.

Except for a brief stint in 1998-1999 with private industry, he worked at the LSU AgCenter since 1978, serving as an extension agent, specialist, assistant director and vice chancellor.

Coreil has been a national leader for the Cooperative Extension Service. He was chair of the Association of Southern Region Extension Directors in 2006 and chair of a committee that developed a national Web-based extension information system, called eXtension.org. He also served as the chair of the Extension Committee on Organization and Policy, or ECOP, in 2009.

The recipient of numerous awards, Coreil received the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana's Coastal Stewardship Award, the LSU AgCenter Chancellor's Diversity Leadership Award and the Association of Southern Region Extension Directors Excellence in Leadership Award. He currently serves on the Louisiana 4-H Foundation Board of Trustees and is a past member of the board for the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. He was inducted into the Louisiana 4-H Hall of Fame in 2015 and into the National 4-H Hall of Fame in 2017.

Coreil has been married to Arlene Pitre Coreil for 45 years. They are the parents of three children: Abram Luke, who is deceased, and two living adult children – Dr. Ashley Coreil Record, a dermatologist in Baton Rouge, and Adam Paul Coreil, a cyber risk and security professional for a global commercial real estate firm in Dallas, Texas. He is also a grandfather to three beautiful grandchildren.

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# Headlines and Happenings

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## Black History Month Art Show

In February, LSUA presented *Grounding* a collection of central Louisiana black artists.

The event featured works by Clementine Hunter, Morris Taft Thomas, Ethel Dixon, Kelvin Spears, Chad Kristian, and more.

## Christmas on the Quad

Christmas came early to LSUA as the campus celebrated *Christmas on the Quad* in November 2018. The event, which is quickly becoming a favorite campus tradition, included “snow”, carolers, delicious treats, and a visit from Santa Claus.



Students, faculty, staff, families, and community members all came out to campus to welcome Santa to LSUA and central Louisiana and the little ones got a chance to tell him what they wanted under the tree.

Of course, the night was not complete without the fireworks display at the end of the evening.

This event gets bigger and better every Christmas season and we can't wait to welcome in the holidays with another edition of *Christmas on the Quad* this year!

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## LSUA Opens Generals Galley Food Pantry

LSUA is excited to partner with university organizations and community groups to establish a new food pantry on campus, known as the Generals Galley. The food pantry is available to all students in need to help combat hunger.



Studies show that only 18 percent of students report being able to cover college expenses by working a job and most are nontraditional meaning they are financially independent.

The Generals Galley is located in the Division of Student Engagement in the west wing of the Student Center on the second floor. It is open Monday-Friday 9am-4pm during the semester and is available to any student in need of a meal. Students will find various items and a microwave to heat food.

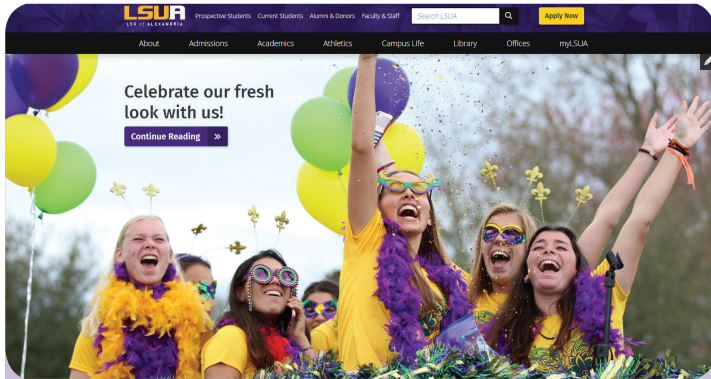


# Headlines and Happenings

## Pumpkin Carving Contest

Students were in full concentration mode during the pumpkin carving contest held just before Halloween.

Students got to pick out a pumpkin and carve a design of their own choosing before the final winners were revealed.



## LSUA Launches New Website

In February 2019, LSUA threw the switch on a completely redesigned and re-imagined website.

The new site is more user friendly, features many more photographs and videos, in addition to being more streamlined in its layout.

"This new website is the result of many hours of hard work and could not have been done without the dedication of Deran Schilling, Elizabeth Jonson, and Takeyra Wagner," said Sarah Black, director of marketing and strategic communications. "The feedback so far has been very positive and we are happy that we could provide LSUA with a quality website for now and in the future."

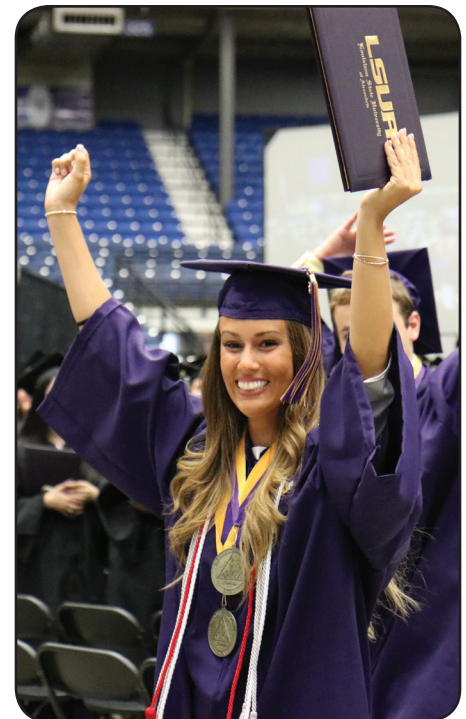
## LSUA to Celebrate 60th Anniversary in 2020

LSUA has come a long way and will celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2020.

Get ready for a year-long celebration as we look back at where the University has come from, but most importantly, look forward to the next 60 years and beyond.

There will be many events taking place on campus and online as we celebrate the many accomplishments of the University and its many students.

Stay tuned as more information is to come regarding events and news about this diamond milestone for LSUA!



# Headlines and Happenings

## Ms. LSUA Pageant

One of the most revered traditions on campus is the Ms. LSUA Pageant.

This year saw nine contestants vying for the crown. In the 59th edition of the pageant, Saije Cousin came away with the title of Ms. LSUA and will represent the university at various functions throughout the year.



Everyone looking their very best!



The top-3 finalists!

## Mardi Gras Parade

Another favorite tradition on campus is the annual Mardi Gras Parade. Students, faculty, and staff all came together to make the parade a success and entertained children from throughout the area.



Everyone loves a parade!



Throw me something!



# Headlines and Happenings

## Cookout with Coreil

As part of the **Weeks of Welcome** events in August 2019, Dr. Coreil and his wife Arlene hosted over 200 faculty, staff, and students to their on-campus backyard for a cookout. Dinner included hamburgers, hot dogs, food, fellowship, and fun! Thank you to the Coreils for hosting a great welcome back event.

Everyone participated in the line dancing, including the Chancellor's wife, Mrs. Arlene Coreil.



A little more dancing!



All smiles with the Chancellor.



Thanks to all who made this possible.



Everyone braved the heat and humidity for a good time.

All smiles!

# Headlines and Happenings

## LSUA Students Travel to China

Late this past spring, a group of five LSUA students along with two staff members and two faculty members set out for the Republic of China.

Ana Hackett, Molly Parks, Andrew Griffin, Mimi Richelle, and Janai Labbe were the students on the trip accompanied by Nina Cox, Dr. Eamon Halpin, Min Wu, and Long Li.

Upon arriving in Beijing, the group was welcomed by the Capital University of Economics and Business (CUEB) where they spent several days with CUEB students and visiting places such as the Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Summer Palace, and the Great Wall of China.

Upon traveling to Qufu, members of the LSUA group stayed on the Qufu Normal University campus and took classes in the Chinese language, calligraphy, martial arts, music history, and paper cutting. They also got the chance to visit many of the places associated with Confucius' life and teachings.

"Thank you to the LSUA faculty, staff, and Foundation, as well as the community that worked so hard to make this trip possible. It was a trip of a lifetime," said Ana Hackett.



## LSUA Participates in City Events



LSUA faculty and staff participated in several community events this previous year including the Louisiana Dragon Boat Races™, the United Way's Wild Cook-off, and Relay for Life.

The LSUA cooking team came away with two trophies during the Wild Cook-off for Best Cajun Dish and Most Spirited. The LSUA Dragon Boat team also won Best Tent Area during the day of the races.

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Look for LSUA faculty and staff members to continue to support Alexandria throughout the upcoming year.

## Brazzel Elected to LSU BoS

LSUA Student Government President Ricky Brazzel was elected to serve as the student representative for the LSU Board of Supervisors over the next academic year.

He was elected by the council of Student Body Presidents, a group of all public university student body presidents from across Louisiana.

Brazzel is a senior at LSUA and is entering his second term as SG president. He is a history major with a political science minor and intends to go to law school following his graduation in May 2020.



# Headlines and Happenings

## Annual Student Government Crawfish Boil

The LSUA Student Government couldn't have picked a better day for the annual Crawfish Boil. Under perfectly blue skies, faculty, staff, and students were entertained with live music and enjoyed some tasty mud bugs!



Great live music from former student Adam Pearce.

A big crowd was on hand.

## Trick 'r Treat Street 2018

Despite the fact that Trick 'r Treat Street had to be moved indoors this past year due to weather, it was still the perfect setup for ghosts and goblins to head to LSUA for a little trick or treating! Treated by faculty, staff, and students, all participants had a great time and came away with plenty of candy!



The Greatest Showman was a hit.

Superheroes were in the house.

# Headlines and Happenings



## First Day of Fall 2019

LSUA began classes for the Fall 2019 semester a little later than usual with students coming back to class on August 26th. However, there was still plenty of excitement in the air as everyone was getting settled in to a new semester.

This year, students found some new things on campus beginning in the first weeks with the **Weeks of Welcome**. Over the course of two weeks, students were treated to a number of on and off-campus activities to know each other a little better and become better connected to LSUA.

Additionally, students will discover a new version of G4 on campus for grilled food items such as hamburgers. There will also be plenty of campus events held throughout the semester for all to join in on.

## Orientation Sessions A Success

LSUA hosted students and parents from all over the state and the world this summer during three Orientation programs. In a change from previous years, these Orientation sessions were all held during the month of August. Students had a choice of three sessions to choose from with international students having an additional session.

This year, LSUA welcomed 600 freshmen to Orientation where they learned about the university, financial aid, university resources and more in the day-long program. They also got a chance to interact with and meet new friends throughout the day during a number of activities.

Parents spent the day at LSUA learning about the campus, having questions answered, and learning more about what university life will be like for their children while attending LSUA.

"We put a lot of work and planning into Orientation sessions to make sure that the students get all the information they need and are prepared for the beginning of the semester," said Ethan Lipsey, Director of the First Year Experience. "Of course, we also have plenty of fun, too. It has been exciting to see how Orientation has grown over the past several years."



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# Headlines and Happenings

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## LSUA Earns Most Affordable National Rankings

Both online bachelor degrees in criminal justice and business administration have been identified by [affordableschools.net](http://affordableschools.net) as being among the most affordable programs in the country.

The ranking considered average cost of attendance as well as the student-to-faculty ratio.

LSUA is also home to one of the best online emergency management programs in the nation according to [BestColleges.com](http://BestColleges.com).

The University has seen a considerable increase in its online programs enrollment over the previous several years. As a result, LSUA continues to add more programs and degrees to its staple of online offerings each year. All courses are taught by faculty who have previous experience in their respective fields.



## LSUA Recognized by *U.S. News & World Report*

LSU of Alexandria is being recognized by U.S. News & World Report in the Best Colleges 2020 rankings as a top university for students graduating with the lightest debt load.

According to the publication, LSUA ranks among the best national liberal arts colleges with 42 percent of students graduating with an average debt load of \$18,454. LSUA is the only Louisiana institution to be recognized by the publication for having low amounts of student debt.



"This is another excellent example of why LSUA should be the university of choice when anyone is considering where they want to enroll after graduation or when seeking or completing a degree after entering the workforce," says Chancellor Dr. Paul Coreil. "We take pride in being ranked as one of the best universities in the nation when considering low student debt upon graduation. We know affordability is a major consideration for students and parents. We hope this ranking will motivate more potential students to take a much closer look at LSUA."

According to Student Loan Hero, among the class of 2018, 69 percent of students took out loans and graduated with an average debt of \$29,800. In Louisiana, the average amount of student loan debt is \$27,210, according to The Institute for College Access and Success.

The data collected by U.S. News & World Report includes loans taken out by students from their colleges, private financial institutions, and from federal, state, and local governments.

# Headlines and Happenings

LSUA welcomed back students with two weeks of activities for freshmen and returning scholars to enjoy. Named the **Weeks of Welcome, or WOW**, the events included a dive-in movie at the pool, a city of Alexandria tour, an escape from the Library game, kickball, service projects, laser tag, soccer games, game nights, bingo, Total U, and a cookout with Dr. Coreil.

Overall, the events were a large success and the University looks forward to expanding on this new tradition before the start of every fall semester.



These games are hard work.



International students learn more about LSUA.



All smiles during lunch.



Taking part in the scavenger hunt at AMoA.



They made it out of the library despite the ghost.



Dr. Coreil is having a good time.



# Headlines and Happenings

More Weeks of Welcome activities from August 2019!

A dance party broke out at the cookout.



Trying to win tickets to an LSU football game.



LSUA student athletes participate in Generals Games.



Dr. Coreil shows off his grilling skills.



A break from the action.



Dr. John Rowan addresses a group of students.

Charlie concentrates hard on the game at hand.



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# LSUA Academics

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## LSUA Celebrates Mulder Scholars

During the Spring of 2019, and in a first for LSUA, the University was able to offer two full-ride scholarships to an incoming student and a continuing student this past year.

The scholarships were made possible by the generous donation made to the University from the Mulder estate. Howard and Eloise Mulder were staunch supporters of LSUA. Both were founding members of the LSUA Foundation and served on the Board of Directors for eight years.

Through a competitive process, the winners of the scholarship selected were Kendall Powell, a recent Holy Savior Menard High School graduate, and Gonzalo Rodriguez from Chile. Both will have the full cost of a semester's tuition, fees, books, and on-campus housing and meal plans covered. Additionally, the scholarship will be awarded to both students throughout their academic career at LSUA, while not exceeding more than eight consecutive semesters.

Powell and Rodriguez were chosen from ten finalists and over sixty total applicants. All finalists took part in a series of day-long interviews with the chancellor, department chairs, and the scholarship committee.

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## Students Take Home Top Prize at Conference

Three LSUA students not only got a chance to participate in the 2018 Southern Public Relations Federation conference in New Orleans, but they also walked away with the Best of All Student Teams (BOAST) Award.

Claudia van den Brink, Ana Hackett, and Brianna Allen teamed up with two additional students from the University of North Alabama to form a five-man team for the competition.

The competition was two-fold and involved communicating with PR professionals along with applying the public relations process to develop a campaign announcing a fictional partnership between Tabasco and the Salvation Army.



## Business Department Receives Accreditation

LSU of Alexandria recently received a 10-year accreditation for its business program from the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). The international accreditation certifies that the teaching and learning processes meets the highest of educational standards as outlined by ACBSP.

Randall Dupont, Chair of the Department of Business Administration, said "the recognition signifies the level of excellence in LSUA's business program." ACBSP is the premier accrediting body for business programs focused on student learning.

Established in 1988, the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs is modeled after the Baldrige National Quality Program. ACBSP evaluated LSUA's business programs for academic quality, leadership, strategic planning, relationship with stakeholders, faculty credentials, and educational support to assure a rigorous educational experience with demonstrated continuous improvement.

Dupont said the accreditation is in keeping with LSUA's mission to offer undergraduate degrees in a robust academic environment that challenges students to excel. "For employers," he said, "it means our graduates are high performers who are more able to lead, solve multi-disciplinary problems, and be effective decision makers."

LSUA offers a B.S. in both Business Administration and Accounting, along with concentrations in Entrepreneurship, Finance, Management, Management Information Systems, and Marketing. Several new business programs are currently in development including International Business which starts in the Fall.

## Additional Programs Also Awarded Accreditation

Three additional programs either received re-accreditation or accreditation certification for the first time over the previous academic year.

LSUA's Radiologic Technology program received re-accreditation for eight years from the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT).

"I am so very proud of the radiologic technology faculty and what they bring to our students on a daily basis," said Dr. Haywood Joiner, chair of the Department of Allied Health.

Additionally, the Associate of Science in Medical Laboratory Science along with the Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science received accreditation for 10 years and five years, respectively. The accreditation was awarded from the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science (NAACLS).

"We are extremely proud to offer NAACLS accredited programs at LSUA for we believe when it comes to allied health education, no one does it better than LSUA," said Dr. Haywood Joiner.

The NAACLS accreditation process is an extensive review process that includes a self-study, site visit, and evaluation by a review committee, quality assurance committee, and Board of Directors.

NAACLS is the premier accrediting agency for medical lab science programs in the United States.



## New Program in Kinesiology

In mid-December, the Louisiana Board of Regents voted to approve a new Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology for LSUA.

The new degree offers students a comprehensive foundation in kinesiology and an opportunity to concentrate in three specialty areas including Health and Physical Education (leading to a K-12 teaching certification); Sports Management, and Administration; and Health and Fitness Studies.

Dr. Melissa Parks and Dr. Julie Gill, LSUA's two full-time kinesiology faculty members, developed the degree's curriculum.

"Over the past several years we have had numerous students express interest in and support for the new degree, so we are happy that this is now a reality and available to LSUA's current and prospective students," says Dr. Eamon Halpin, LSUA vice provost and associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs.

## BS in Accounting Launched

LSU of Alexandria launched a new accounting degree in August of this year.

Now, students in central Louisiana and throughout the country can earn a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. This program is offered both on-campus and in a 100% online setting.

"The degree equips students with the knowledge and skills necessary for successful completion of the CPA exam and for entry into public accounting, industry, or governmental/non-profit employment," states Dr. Kent Lachney, coordinator of Accounting.

Dr. Lachney expects the new accounting degree to attract both on campus and online students to fill the workforce need and provide high paying jobs in the community. In addition, working professionals who already have a bachelor's degree in business or non-business programs can enroll for classes to meet the education requirements to sit for the CPA exam.

## Dr. John Rowan is Welcomed to Campus

LSUA welcomed Dr. John Rowan as the next provost and vice-chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University in August of 2018.

Rowan comes to LSUA from Purdue University Northwest where he served as dean of the Honors College. He also served as the dean of the College of Education, interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and the chair of the Philosophy Program.

At Purdue University Northwest, Rowan was the founding dean of the Honors College and was awarded Outstanding Administrative Leader in 2015.

Rowan earned his undergraduate degree in Philosophy and Economics from the University of Virginia. His master's degree and doctoral degree are also from the University of Virginia in Philosophy.

Rowan took over for Dr. Eamon Halpin who had been serving in an interim role since the retirement of Dr. Barbara Hatfield in December of 2017.



# LSUA Holds First-Ever Scholar Day at A

LSUA held its first-ever Scholar Day at A on April 26, 2019, as a one-day event highlighting scholarly achievements of LSUA students. This multidisciplinary event celebrated the scholarly and creative activity transpiring at LSUA.

Both poster and oral presentations were judged by university staff and faculty, as well as community members. Students were judged on content, presentation style, and communication.

Almost 100 students from eight departments presented their work on Friday with winners being announced at the end of the day. Awards for Outstanding Presentation went to:

- Biology – Arvie Martello, a junior from Mamou, LA (*Comparison of Three DNA Extraction Methods for Biological Barcoding*)
- Business – Jessey Mason, a senior for Jena, LA (*LaSalle General Hospital Information Systems Research*)
- Chemistry – Ben Dufour, a senior from Bunkie, LA (*Prediction of Cardiorespiratory Fitness Gains in Response to a Standardized Dose of Exercise Via a Genetic Algorithm Based Predictive Modeling*)
- Criminal Justice – Jacob Rickard, a Senior from Alexandria, LA (*Judicial Selection Methods, Qualifications, and Proposed Additions*)
- English – Kelly Quackenbush, a senior for Riveria, TX (*William Faulkner's Use of Greek Mythology in As I Lay Dying*)
- Math – Inga Woods, a freshman from Belize (*I Spy Treasure and Trigonometry*)
- Nursing – Nakeisha Larcart, a senior from Carencro, LA (*Catheter-Associated UTI*)
- Visual Arts – Lisa Leblanc, a senior from Glenmora, LA (*Rural Louisiana*)

The award for Outstanding Poster Presentation went to Bishop Lake and the award for Outstanding Oral Presentation went to Inga Woods.



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# Commencement

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LSUA has seen a record number of graduates in each of the last two Commencement ceremonies.

In Fall 2018, the University graduated a record 200 students making it the largest fall graduating class in the history of LSUA. For the ceremony, Lieutenant Governor Billy Nungesser served as Commencement speaker.

In Spring 2019, over 280 graduates received 294 degrees making it the largest overall graduating class in LSUA history. The Honorable Jeffrey "Jeff" Hall, mayor of Alexandria, served as speaker.

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## Graduate Dinners

In a new tradition to the University that began in Spring 2017, the LSUA Foundation hosts a graduate dinner for all students earning a degree two nights before their respective graduation ceremony.

All graduates are encouraged to attend and are treated to a special meal along with hearing from local leaders in business who impart on them words of wisdom as they prepare for the next chapter of their lives.



Connie Cooper addresses the graduates.



Everyone is all smiles and ready for Commencement.

# Commencement



Cody Hamilton shows off his diploma.



Proud students with their diplomas.



Congratulations!



Students watch the ceremony.



Claudia van den Brink smiles for the camera.



Students walk into the ceremony.

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# LSUA Employee Recognition

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LSUA held its annual Employee Recognition Dinner on Tuesday, March 19, 2019, to celebrate the hard work and dedication of faculty and staff.

The most prestigious award given out is the Bolton Award for Teaching Excellence. Established in 1989, the estate of Mrs. James C. Bolton provides funds to the University for an award to recognize excellence in teaching at LSUA.

The Bolton Award for Teaching excellence is presented annually to the full-time faculty member who best exemplifies the University's commitment to teaching, service, and professional development. The recipient of this honor is recognized with a cash award and a plaque for his or her outstanding contributions to the University.

The Bolton Award for 2018-2019 was presented to Dr. Nathan Sammons. Sammons is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences with a Ph.D. in plant biology from Michigan State University. In 2018, he was the recipient of LSUA's Teaching Innovation Award and considers teaching to be among the most rewarding aspects of his career.

Also presented at the recognition dinner were seven endowed professorships. The professorships are established through private donations to the LSUA Foundation and matched through the Board of Regents Support Fund to establish a \$100,000 professorship endowment.

The 2019-2020 endowed professorships and winners are:

Jack and Sue Ellen Jackson Endowed Professorship in Education - Dr. Arlene Duos

Cliffe E. Laborde, Sr. Endowed Professorship in Education – Jessica Thacker

Henry Dade Foote Family Endowed Professorship – Dr. Nathan Sammons

R. O. Martin Lumber Company Professorship – Lisa Bradford

Huie Dellmon Trust Professorship in Science – Dr. Gerard Dumancas

Howard and Eloise Mulder Endowed Professorship #2 – Stephen Peters

Howard and Eloise Mulder Endowed Professorship #3 – Dr. Christof Stumpf

Endowed professors receive a salary stipend as well as additional funds for professional development or professional travel activities. They are awarded for a two-year term.

Additionally, Dr. Cathy Cormier received the award for Staff Senate Boss of the Year. The award goes to a LSUA faculty or staff member who is nominated by their direct reports and is awarded to those who exhibit outstanding supervisory skills.

The Outstanding Staff Service Award program began in the 1970-71 academic year as a means of recognizing and rewarding superior performance and outstanding contributions to the University by non-teaching employees. The recipient of this honor receives a plaque and cash award for his or her service to LSUA.

This year's recipient of the Staff Outstanding Service Award was Hope Love. Love is the assistant to the director of the library. She administers the budget, runs the Interlibrary Loan Service and many other additional tasks.

The evening also included honoring Service Learning employees as well as all employees who have five, 10, 15, 20, or 25 years of service to LSUA. Those who have retired in the previous year are also honored.



# LSUA Employee Recognition

Jerri Weston and her husband.



Dr. Hal Langford and Shere' Thaxton.



Kristen Miller and Ethan Lipsey.



Enjoying the dinner.



Debbie Wood and Dr. Cathy Cormier.



Dr. John Rowan, Dr. Nathan Sammons, and Melinda Anderson.

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# Letter from Alumni Relations

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The Fall 2019 semester has begun! So many awesome things are happening on the LSUA Campus!

On October 1st, 2019, we will hold our 2nd annual LSUA Giving Day. I hope that you will plan on being a part of this fundraiser for our students! Last year we raised over \$5000 for student scholarships, Alumni & Friends initiatives, and LSUA Athletics. We hope to double that amount this year! As you consider helping an LSUA student achieve their life goals, please remember that no donation is too small!

In the coming semesters we are focusing on filling "The Giving Tree" that is housed in the F.H. Coughlin Hall Auditorium. The beautiful tree was added to the lobby area during the renovation of the auditorium back in the summer of 2016. Each leaf on the tree can be purchased in honor of your graduation from LSUA, in memory of someone, or simply to commemorate a special event in your life. This tree is a great way to make sure your name is permanently associated with LSUA!

In 2020, LSU of Alexandria will celebrate its 60th Anniversary! There will be many opportunities to celebrate this milestone with us! Be on the lookout for the exciting events we have planned!

In closing, we want to know where our alumni are and what they are doing!! If you haven't already been to the LSUA Foundation webpage ([www.lsuafoundation.org](http://www.lsuafoundation.org)) make sure you check it out! You can click through to the Alumni & Friends tab and sign up for the latest news and events. You can ALWAYS email me directly with any questions or concerns; or if you just want us to know what you are doing now!

If you would like to become a member of LSUA Alumni & Friends, you can fill out the form below or click on "Give Now" on the website. We've made it super easy for you to stay active and engaged!



Shere' Thaxton  
Alumni Relations & Event Coordinator Assistant  
[sthaxton@lsua.edu](mailto:sthaxton@lsua.edu)



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## 2019/2020 LSUA Alumni & Friends Dues

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Children \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name at Graduation \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_

Profession/Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle one: \$35/Individual or \$60/Couple

Please make check payable to and mail to:

LSUA - AFA Annual Dues

P.O. Box 5512, Alexandria, LA 71307

25

Credit card payments accepted at [www.lsuafoundation.org](http://www.lsuafoundation.org)

# 2019 LSUA Homecoming



Free Homecoming shirts.



Drawing of Tank in the Starbucks window.



Colby Harrison and Whitney Jacobs are crowned king and queen.



Chris Scroggs and Thane Lanclos before the festivities.



Whitney shows off her crown.



Cheerleaders get in on the action.

# LSUA Athletics Success Continues

The record-breaking LSUA Generals continue to thrive both on the field and in the classroom. In the past two seasons (2017-2018), all seven NAIA programs have won a conference championship or advanced to the NAIA National Tournament as an at-large selection.

In those two years, LSUA has compiled 12 conference and regional titles with nine NAIA national tournament appearances including a national runner-up for men's basketball in 2018.

In the classroom, LSUA's student-athletes posted a department best 2.91 GPA in 2018-2019 and saw three teams recognized as NAIA Scholar Team status (team GPA 3.0 or higher) with 80 student-athletes earning Conference Commissioner's Honor Roll (3.0 GPA or higher). LSUA has also been recognized at the NAIA's highest status as a Five-Star GOLD institution.

## "Tank" Introduced as LSUA Mascot



In August 2018, LSUA said hello to a new athletic mascot logo. "Tank" is a white bull terrier donning a military helmet and will represent the Generals nickname along with the deep connection to LSUA Athletic's roots to the armed forces.

"This is an exciting step in our branding efforts as well as a fun addition to our campus and athletic programs," said Adam Jonson, Director of Athletics. "We will continue with our current LSUA marks, and through the new logo we will also enhance the brand of our 'Generals' nickname."

The nickname "Generals" honors many facets of military operations in central Louisiana throughout the years. From modern-day partnerships with the Louisiana National Guard to the Louisiana Maneuvers of World War II and the presence of multiple military bases in the area, LSUA's athletic nickname is a perfect fit.

One of numerous noteworthy US Army officers to walk the grounds of Central Louisiana during World War II, General George Patton is regarded as one of the most successful US field commanders of any war. While tough and fearless enough to earn the nickname "Old Blood and Guts," Patton had a soft spot – his bull terriers. He acquired his first bull terrier as a family pet shortly after World War I and owned many in his lifetime.

The last of Patton's terriers – Willie – was special to him. Not only did he have G.I. dog tags made for his furry friend, the pup was even thrown a birthday party by the General. Patton once wrote in his journal that Willie "took to me like a duck to water."

The name "Tank" was the result of the winning vote among students. Students were given the choice of three names and then given the opportunity to vote on their favorite. "Tank" was the overwhelming choice and pays homage to General Patton's time as a tank commander in the U.S. Army.

## Another Successful Season for Men's Basketball

The men's basketball team continued its success during the 2018-2019 season. Under fifth-year head coach Larry Cordaro, the team earned a #1 ranking in the NAIA Division I Men's Basketball Top 25 Coaches' Poll which it held for most of the season, marking the 13th time in program history that the Generals held the number one spot.

Despite the ranking, the Generals season came to an unfortunate end during the NAIA Men's Basketball National Tournament quarterfinals again Lewis-Clark State College. The team finished the year with a 30-4 record, going 17-1 in Red River Athletic Conference play.

The Generals wrapped up the season receiving numerous accolades. Coach Cordaro was named Louisiana's Coach of the Year by the Louisiana Sports Writers Association while senior William Claiborne was named to the All-Louisiana Third Team. This was Cordaro's second time receiving this award.

Claiborne was also named to the NAIA All-American list as a first team member. Earning an honorable mention award was senior JaMichael Brown. Claiborne and Brown also notched spots on the RRAC's All-Conference First-Team. Other Generals earning RRAC postseason honors include: senior Devin Jackson (Second-Team), senior Phillip Rankin, Jr. (Second-Team), senior Malek Harris (Honorable Mention), and senior Colby Harrison (Champions of Character).



## New Heights Reached for Men's Soccer

The men's soccer team, guided by head coach Michael Poropat, continued its storied success while accomplishing many program firsts, including, receiving votes in the Postseason NAIA Top 25 Coaches' Poll, most wins in a single season, most shutouts (11), and numerous individual records broken. The Generals also won a share of their first ever RRAC Regular Season Championship, made it to the RRAC Tournament Finals for the third straight season and won the Conference Tournament Title for the second time. Unfortunately, the 2018 campaign ended sooner than expected in a 2-0 loss to Baker University in the first round of the NAIA Men's Soccer National Championship Tournament.

The Generals also boasted nine players earning RRAC postseason honors. Harrison Houle, a senior from San Bernardino, California, led the way by earning the RRAC Defensive Player of the Year award as well as being named to the All-Conference First-Team. Joining Houle on the first-team was senior Ricardo Caliman (Guarulhos, Brazil), junior Brian Okpala (Surulere, Nigeria), and Freshman Alvaro Garcia (Madrid, Spain). Senior Mackenzie Young (Coatbridge, Scotland), sophomore Gylles Mitchel (Pointe Michel, Dominica), and junior Andrez Joseph (Roseau, Dominica) earned second-team all-conference honors while senior Pedro Dias rounded out the honorable mention list.

Additionally, junior Leroy Mahagayu from Nairobi Kenya was named to the Champions of Character team for his actions both on and off the field.

## Women's Soccer Makes Gains

Under the direction of first-year head coach Nea Sunila, the women's soccer team completed the 2018 season having made the Red River Athletic Conference Tournament Championship Match for the first time in program history. During the RRAC Tournament, the fourth seeded Generals advanced through the first round over Houston-Victoria on penalty kicks. During the second round, the Generals knocked off top-seeded St. Thomas, but fell short in the championship match against LSU-Shreveport.

Five Generals were honored with RRAC postseason awards. Senior Kayleigh Lambrechts (Antwerp, Belgium) and junior Cindy Parenteau (Saint-jerome, Canada) were selected to the second team while junior McKay Leos (Frazier Park, Calif.) and sophomore Cecilie Mortensen (Vejle, Denmark) earned honorable mention awards. The Champions of Character representative was Laura Correa-Ovalle.



## Successful Season for Baseball

The baseball team, under the helm of head coach Stephen Adams, concluded another successful 2019 season on the diamond, finishing the season 32-34 and once again qualifying for the Red River Athletic Conference postseason tournament.

The season ended with a late inning rally in the RRAC tournament that came up just short against LSU-Shreveport, ultimately losing 7-6.

Numerous players notched postseason honors. Senior Logan Constantine was named to the Louisiana Sports Writers Association All-Louisiana First Team while senior Clayton Doyle earned an All-Second Team spot by the LSWA. Doyle also added an NAIA All-American Honorable Mention award, as well as being named the RRAC Pitcher of the Year and All-Conference First Team Member. Constantine was also named to the RRAC All-Conference First-Team. Other honorees include: sophomore Kris Tamplet (Second Team), junior Matt Muhleisen (Second Team), sophomore Ronnie McBride (Second-Team), junior Adrian Gomez (Second-Team), senior Josh Gray (Second Team), and junior Zach Hebert (Champions of Character).



## Softball Goes to National Tournament

Under second-year co-head coaches, Adam and Annalyn Burch, the Generals softball team completed a late season surge to claim the Red River Athletic Conference Tournament Championship title and gain entrance to the NAIA Softball National Championship Opening Round in Lawrenceville, Georgia.

After claiming a walk-off winner in the opener, the Generals dropped the next two, ending the 2019 season with a 34-16 record.

Two members of the team were honored by the Louisiana Sports Writers Association. Claiming All-Louisiana Honorable Mention awards were junior Lauren Rachal and freshman RyLeigh Rutherford. Both players were also named to the RRAC's All-Conference First-Team. Additionally, sophomore Bailey McCleary (Second-Team), senior McKell Marble (Second-Team), and Senior Morgan Berry (Champions of Character) all received All-Conference honors.



## Women's Tennis Continues its Domination

Despite a team full of newcomers and only two returners, the LSUA tennis team didn't break stride during its 2019 season. With the guidance of head coach Melinda Descant, the Generals earned their fifth straight NAIA Regional Champions title and advanced out of the NAIA National Championship Tournament's first round for the fourth consecutive year.

Finishing the season with an 8-5 record, the team was led by its two returners, sophomores Patricia Perez and Miljana Milojevic, both of who won NAIA All-American awards. Perez was named to the Second-Team while Milojevic earned an Honorable Mention award for the second straight year. The team also earned six Red River Athletic Conference Women's Tennis Player of the Week awards throughout the course of the season.



## Women's Basketball Takes Big Step

The women's basketball team completed a historic season with many firsts for the program. Under Head Coach Bob Austin, the team cracked the NAIA Division I Women's Basketball Top 25 Coaches' Poll for the first time reaching as high as the number 20 spot. Additionally, the team clinched its first ever NAIA tournament appearance with the help of its record-setting 22 wins in a season.

The outstanding season came to an end against Lewis-Clark State College in the second round of the NAIA Division I Women's Basketball National Tournament in Billings, Montana. The Generals finished the year with a 22-8 record, including a record-setting 14 wins in Red River Athletic Conference play.

The team's success allowed several individuals to earn postseason honors. Sophomore Danyale Bayonne made LSUA history by being the first player on the women's side to be named to the NAIA All-American Third-Team. Additionally, Bayonne earned a spot on the All-Louisiana First-Team by the Louisiana Sports Writers Association, as well as the RRAC's Newcomer of the Year. Freshman Kelsey Thaxton was named Louisiana's Freshman of the Year as well as placing on the All-Louisiana Second-Team. Thaxton was also named the RRAC's Freshman of the Year. Both Bayonne and Thaxton were also named members of the All-RRAC First-Team. Other players receiving RRAC awards include: junior Courtney Dawsey (Second-Team), junior Brittany Hall (Honorable Mention), freshman Aja Law (Honorable Mention), and senior E'Layzha Bates (Champions of Character).



# Alumni Profile

## Why come to work for LSUA?

LSUA is home. After graduation, I was debating about my future and decided to take an admissions counselor/recruiter position on campus. It helped me develop into a professional and allowed me to establish my love for higher education. I couldn't imagine working at another institution.

## What is a fun fact about you?

Some people may not know that my dream job would be as a sports commentator. As an adolescent, I used to record myself reporting on live games, especially Saints games.

## Ideal vacation?

A place with no WiFi, where you can disconnect from social media and not be tempted to answer work emails!

## Favorite Things

*answers are in gold*

Dogs / Cats

Sweet / **Salty**

Rain / **Sun**

**Summer** / Winter

**Facebook** / Instagram

**Beach** / Mountains

**Coke** / Pepsi

Morning / **Night owl**

**TV** / Movies

Kaitlyn Nichols is the Senior Associate Director of Admissions at LSUA.

Originally from south Mississippi, Kaitlyn came to LSUA to play softball. While on campus, she was also an LSUA Ambassador and named Ms. LSUA.

As part of her job, she has recruited for the university in countries such as Canada and India.

# LSUA Foundation Board Members

The LSUA Foundation was established in 1992 to build the University's endowment and to ensure the continued availability of undergraduate, college-level educational opportunities for Central Louisiana citizens. The current Board is comprised of twenty-one individuals supporting the University and giving of their time, talents, and resources to LSUA.



Lawrence Searcy  
Chair



Aloysia Ducote  
Treasurer



Spencer Martin  
Immediate Past Chair



Mark Brown



Paul Bordelon



Julia Callis



Jason Cobb



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Senator Gerald Long



Benjamin A. Luke



Eddie Ponce



Deborah Randolph



Nell Shehee



Glenda Stock Smith



Stephen Wright



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Emeritus  
Ex-Officio



Blake Chatelain  
Ex-Officio



Charles Weems  
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[www.lsuafoundation.org](http://www.lsuafoundation.org)