

Dr. Paul Coreil - LSUA Chancellor

# CHANCELLOR'S REPORT



**LSUA**  
LSU of ALEXANDRIA

**OCT - DEC  
2021**

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

*Dr. Paul Coreil, LSUA Chancellor*



This is a busy time of year, but we want to provide an update on the exciting progress at LSUA. The Fierce for LSUA Capital Campaign is coming to an end with fantastic results to report. We raised \$5 million in private funding from many generous donors across the region, the largest including RoyOMartin, who donated \$2 million in early December. In November, we also received a generous \$100K donation from Mr. Charlie Weems. We are incredibly thankful to all of our donors, the LSUA Foundation Board of Directors, campaign volunteers, and our Foundation Executive Director, Melinda Anderson, who worked so hard to help us reach our \$5 million fundraising goal! At the closure of this legislative session, the \$5 million state match will place the total funding towards our new LSUA Student Success Center at \$10 million and allow for a Fall 2022 groundbreaking if everything goes as planned. I want to thank the entire Central Louisiana Legislative Delegation, especially Senator Jay Luneau and Representative Lance Harris, for their continued service in securing LSUA state capital outlay funding for our new Student Success Center. The new Student Success Center is crucial to reaching our goal of 5,000 students by 2025. Current enrollment exceeds 3800, which is the largest enrollment in the 60-year history of LSUA!

Our Fall 2021 Commencement was a fantastic success. Over 417 students graduated from degree programs across the summer and fall semesters. Because of the reduced COVID-19 policies, we were able to conduct graduation in the beautiful Rapides Parish Coliseum with no restrictions – masks, however, were encouraged. Many families and supporters were in attendance with our guest speaker, Louisiana Secretary of State R. Kyle Ardoin, who did a fantastic job. We also presented Ms. Glenda Stock Smith with the LSUA Distinguished Service Award, a well-deserved honor for a tremendous LSUA supporter and capital campaign fundraising champion.

The Generals Athletic Association (GAA) and LSUA are thrilled to announce our second annual Shrimp Jam slated for September 22, 2022, in the Randolph Riverfront Center in Alexandria. The previous event featured Coach Kim Mulkey and was a tremendous success. In 2022, Shrimp Jam will feature guest speaker Coach D-D Breaux, who recently retired as the long-time LSU Gymnastics Coach. In fact, Coach Breaux was selected as the overall LSU Alumnus of the Year for 2021. Under her leadership, LSU appeared at 17 NCAA Championships and has won 15 individual National Titles since 2002. Additionally, 250 of her players won All-American honors and 89 were All-SEC selections. So please mark your calendar and plan to attend this exciting event on September 22nd!

With support from the City of Alexandria, demolition of the blighted medical building adjacent to our downtown LSUA Allied Health Center was initiated just before Christmas and scheduled to be completed by January 1st. We are excited about this accomplishment and look forward to constructing additional space for our LSUA Allied Health program in the near future.

Lastly, after the groundbreaking for our Drainage & Infrastructure Project this past June, we have seen significant digging and dirt work on campus as our contractor continues with construction. While visiting campus, please pardon our progress as many roads and sidewalks may be closed temporarily. Thank you for your patience and please visit [www.lsua.edu/progress](http://www.lsua.edu/progress) for more details!

Students, family, or supporters that want to learn more about enrollment at LSUA are always welcome to give me a call at (225) 281-6443 or send an email to [pcoreil@lsua.edu](mailto:pcoreil@lsua.edu). Tuition is affordable, the quality of our education is outstanding, and our degree programs are highly valued and provide tremendous career opportunities in Central Louisiana and across the state. I am happy to meet directly with anyone interested in learning more about our programs and beautiful campus. We are eager to hear from you and look forward to seeing you at LSUA very soon! Until next time, please stay safe and keep the faith!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Coreil". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul Coreil, PhD  
LSUA Chancellor

# FEATURED UPDATES

## \$2 Million Donated by RoyOMartin Towards the LSUA Student Success Center

Martin Sustainable Resources LLC and Martco LLC d.b.a. RoyOMartin, the premier manufacturer of wood products in the Gulf South, has committed \$2 million to complete funding for the LSUA Student Success Center. The \$10 million center, slated to break ground in spring 2022, will be a central hub for student services that will serve as a front door to the university while ensuring that each LSUA student receives the level of individual support needed for success. Construction of this dedicated student space, which is a public-private partnership with the State of Louisiana, responds to the ongoing expansion of LSUA's student body and pool of academic offerings – growth that has accelerated the need to make improvements to the campus's overall appearance and add new facilities. RoyOMartin's generous gift is an investment in the future of LSUA and the future of educating the workforce of Central Louisiana.

## \$100,000 Donated by Charlie Weems Towards the LSUA Student Success Center

Under the shade of the oak tree bearing his name in honor of previous contributions, Alexandria's Charlie Weems presented Chancellor Paul Coreil and the LSUA Foundation a personal gift of \$100,000 towards the Fierce for LSUA capital campaign to build a state-of-the-art Student Success Center. Weems spoke to a crowd of more than seventy members of faculty, staff, and students expressing his commitment to the future of LSUA. Work on the Student Success Center is expected to begin after the \$5M private funding is matched through a public-private partnership with the State of Louisiana.

## LSUA Drainage Infrastructure Construction Fully Underway

Construction is in full swing across the LSUA campus. Crews have been actively progressing from the eastern edge of campus (LSU AgCenter Regional Office & agricultural research fields) to the west towards U.S. 71. Further disruptions to campus operations are expected, but the LSUA community has been patient and understanding of inconveniences. Completion is expected by the end of 2022 and will modernize campus infrastructure and improve the quality of life for existing and future students.



# CAMPUS UPDATES

## LSUA Hosts LSU President Tate at Alexandria Rotary Club

LSU System President, Dr. William Tate, was the guest of LSUA's Chancellor Coreil at the monthly meeting of the Alexandria Rotary Club. Dr. Tate was invited to speak on his vision for LSU's leadership in helping Louisiana "preserve the past" and "protect the future." To this end, Dr. Tate envisions the LSU System creating world-class programs in cyber security, coastal protection, agricultural innovation, cancer research and care, and energy independence that merge academic pursuit with necessary application across the economy and environment. Tate beamed about the unique advantage of having such a quality LSU System institution as LSUA in Central Louisiana.

## Allied Health Expansion Downtown

Demolition of the old health department building adjacent to the Allied Health building downtown will begin soon using the \$180K in financial support from the City of Alexandria. This site will be the foundation for a new Allied Health building to expand academic programs. Architectural renderings of the expansion are in development in anticipation of construction. Currently, \$1.5 million in LSUA Foundation funds are dedicated to this project.

## LSUA & LSUE Partnering to Offer a 2-Year Associate Degree in Surgical Technology

A new Associate Degree in Surgical Technology will be offered in LSUA's Downtown Allied Health Center in partnership with LSUE. Funding for the remodeling of a section of the downtown Allied Health building for this new program has been provided by Rapides General Medical Center. Remodeling is complete and student enrollment in the program starts in fall 2022.

Learn more about campus progress at  
[WWW.LSUA.EDU/PROGRESS](http://WWW.LSUA.EDU/PROGRESS)



## LSUA - LSU Dental School Partnering to Offer Dental Hygiene Program

Dr. Haywood Joiner and the Allied Health Department are partnering with the LSU Dental School to offer students the opportunity to become a Dental Hygienist in Central Louisiana. Students will take General Education courses through LSUA and Dental Hygiene courses through the LSU Dental School. This is a win-win partnership that will help address the critical shortage of dental hygienists in the region.

## LSUA Conducts Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Training

Ms. Connie Cooper, LSUA Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, has been instrumental in conducting mandatory faculty and staff training. Additionally, she has restructured the Diversity & Inclusion Advisory Committee to better inform and advise the University on what actions, initiatives, policies, and programs will increase diversity and inclusion, reinforce equal opportunity for all, and create a welcoming environment for everyone regardless of race, color, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religious beliefs or disability. Heading into 2022, the director will also help develop an LSUA Diversity and Inclusion Roadmap which should be finalized during the first quarter of 2022.

## Summer & Fall 2021 Commencement Hosted at the Rapides Parish Coliseum

On December 16, LSUA held an in-person commencement ceremony for graduates and supporters. Graduates had the opportunity to hear from guest speaker R. Kyle Ardoin, the Louisiana Secretary of State. During the ceremony, LSUA awarded Glenda Stock Smith the 2021 Distinguished Service Award, the highest recognition to those whose efforts have been instrumental to the institution's advancement. LSUA congratulates all 420 graduates and looks forward to their future success!

## College of Business Recognizes Leadership Cenla Graduates at Alexandria Rotary Club

The Rotary Club of Alexandria recognized the graduates of Leadership Cenla at the November meeting. Thirty-four Leadership Cenla participants earned Certificates of Completion from LSUA's College of Business. Dr. Randall Dupont, Dean of the College of Business, along with Chancellor Dr. Paul Coreil and Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Deborah Randolph presented the awards. In addition to certificates being awarded, the winning team members of a highly competitive peer-to-peer simulation were presented with the Strategic Leadership Award for outstanding performance in managing and leading a global enterprise.

## LSUA School of Nursing Achieves Continuing Accreditation Through 2029

In late October, Dr. Cathy Cormier, LSUA Director of Nursing, learned that both the ASN and RN-BSN nursing degree programs earned continuing accreditation from the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) Board of Commissioners. This achievement further attests to the programming excellence of LSUA School of Nursing.

## LSUA Foundation President Search

With Melinda Anderson's transition to a new position as Chief of Staff for the LSUA Chancellor, we are currently advertising for the soon-to-bevacant position of President for the LSUA Foundation. The President will have the primary responsibility to lead, plan, and execute fundraising and development that supports LSUA. A joint LSUA/Foundation search committee has been appointed with Stephen Wright, LSUA Foundation Chair, and Chancellor Coreil jointly leading this effort.

## LSUA Welcomes New Assistant Vice Chancellor of Strategic Communications

On October 1, Adam Lord was appointed head of LSUA Strategic Communications. The Division of Strategic Communications works directly with the Office of the Chancellor and other campus constituents to orchestrate university marketing and communications. Adam is a resident of Central Louisiana and brings significant experience and fresh ideas. Thus far, Adam and the Strategic Communications team have done an outstanding job advancing and promoting LSUA's brand and successes across the community. We are delighted to have Adam on campus and look forward to his future contributions to LSUA.

## LSUA Hires Director of Intramurals & Wellness

LSUA welcomes Caleb Funderburk as the first Director of Intramurals and Wellness. This position works directly with the Office of Student Engagement to create opportunities for students to be mindful of their health and wellbeing. Programs include intramural sports, fitness courses, open gym time in LSUA athletic facilities, and more.

## Missy Laborde Inducted Into the Public Relations Hall of Fame

On October 12, LSUA Communications Professor Missy Laborde was inducted into the Southern Public Relations Hall of Fame. This well-deserved achievement further illustrates the quality of the faculty at LSUA and the quality of the education students receive at LSUA.



# SAFETY UPDATES

## LSUA's Crime Rate Nearly 1,000% Lower Than National Average

By national standards, LSUA is an incredibly safe community of students, faculty, and staff committed to providing an environment conducive to learning. Utilizing the University Police's public records for each month of 2021, the violent crime rate on LSUA's campus so far this year is 0.76 per 1,000 residents. The likelihood of being a victim of violent crime is 1 in 1,315. A violent crime rate of 0.76 is 386% lower than the national average and 31% lower than the fifty safest cities in America. The likelihood of being a victim of property crime at LSUA in 2021 is 1 in 658, with the data evidencing a property crime rate of 1.52 per 1,000. LSUA's property crime rate is more than 1,288% lower than the national average and 439% lower than the fifty safest cities as ranked by Safewise.com.

## COVID-19 Updates

In late October, the Governor lifted the mask requirement across most of the state. LSUA delegated authorization to faculty and staff to require masks in their classrooms or offices based on their safety preferences. Starting with the Spring 2022 Semester, COVID vaccination will be required for students and employees with opt-out options available as per state law. Those opting out of taking the vaccine may be subject to periodic COVID testing, pending the availability of tests and state requirements. Currently, 80% of employees and approximately 40-50% of on-campus students are vaccinated. LSUA will continue following recommended quarantine procedures for anyone who tests positive on campus. COVID vaccinations and testing are offered daily in the LSUA Health Center.



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