



■ **Football:** Randle has all-star performance despite injury, p. 5

■ **Technology:** Internet abuzz with iPhone 5 rumored features, p. 10

# The Daily Reveille

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■ **Food:** New gelato joint offers sweet-tooth fix, p. 9



## Down in the Dumps

BENJAMIN OLIVER HICKS / The Daily Reveille

Anthropology senior Mike Skaggs dumpster dives Friday around North Gate establishments in search of food, beer and furniture. [Watch a video of Skaggs' hunt at lsureveille.com.](#)

### *Dumpster divers find furniture, brand names in trash*

**Emily Herrington**  
Entertainment Writer

Anthropology senior Mike Skaggs' house is fully furnished. And he didn't spend a penny on it. For Skaggs, an avid dumpster diver, one man's trash is his treasure.

Skaggs' definition of dumpster diving ranges from climbing into a dumpster and rummaging through garbage to picking up abandoned pieces

of furniture off the side of the road.

He said he has no problem jumping into a dumpster and digging around for something he finds intriguing or useful.

He's picked up desks, couches, chairs, recliners, tables, stools, hutches, bed frames and bicycle parts from the trash. Skaggs said he has five televisions in his house, and he only paid for one.

"I usually go [dumpster diving] because I see something tantalizing sticking out," he said.

Skaggs has also gone dumpster diving for food. He said some of the local homeless taught him that the best time to go searching is immediately after restaurants' closing time.

Skaggs said he also learned that move-in and move-out days are jackpots for dumpster divers, especially near campus dorms.

Other students like Anneke Miller,

**DUMPSTER**, see page 4

## Graduate School dean to step down

**Brian Sibille**  
Staff Writer

University Graduate School Dean David Constant is stepping down from his position to return to the College of Engineering, where he previously worked for 25 years, according to a University news release on Monday.

Constant was named dean in March 2010 after nearly a year as interim dean, the release said. An internal search committee will be formed to select a successor, and Constant will remain in his position to assist with the transition to new leadership.

His most recent contributions to the Graduate School include working with an ad hoc committee to improve efficiency and produce a report that will institute 13 "significant improvements" to the school's procedures and policies, the release said.

Constant worked in numerous administrative and faculty positions during his 25 years with the College of Engineering.

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## POLITICS

# Honors College organizes on-campus voter registration

**Josh Naquin**  
Staff Writer

Decades after the civil rights struggles of the 1960s, the fight to register voters continues.

Inspired by a book about the turmoil, the Honors College is helping students register to vote at several booths on and off campus through the Every Voice Registration Drive.

The drive, planned in preparation for the Oct. 22 gubernatorial election, will run through Sept. 19.

Honors students volunteered to work the registration drive after reading "Freedom Summer," a book

about civil rights in 1964.

"We want them to engage with the topic of the book in a real way," said Mark Dochterman, student activities coordinator at the Honors College.

The registration drive is part of a service project in which many Honors College freshmen participate. More than 140 students volunteered to help register, he said.

According to Colette Childress, secondary education freshman, community service is the main theme of the Honors College.

"We are using the right we were given to register people to vote,"

Childress said.

Turnout for voter registration has been surprisingly large, she said.

To register to vote, students must be 18 years old by the time of election and must be Louisiana residents. Students are required to fill out a 15-step form that includes students' addresses and either a Social Security or driver's license number. On-campus registration sites are located in front of the Journalism Building, the 459 Dining Hall and Free Speech Plaza.

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AMY BROUSSARD / The Daily Reveille

Mass communication freshmen Kierra Johnson and Lunden Chenevert register to vote Monday outside the Student Union at a table set up by the LSU Honors College.

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FACULTY

# College of Art and Design names 2011-12 chairs

**Catherine Parsiola**  
Contributing Writer

Lori Ryker and W. Gary Smith have been selected as the College of Art and Design's 2011-12 Marie M. Bickham Chair and Nadine Carter Russell Chair, respectively.

The two chair positions are reserved for specialized experts who can help students and professors improve in their areas of expertise. Ryker, executive director of the Artemis Institute in Livingston, Mont., and Smith, landscape architect and artist, applied online for the positions through a process involving curriculum submissions, portfolio pieces and statements of personal interest.

Van Cox, professor and interim director of the Robert Reich School of Landscape Architecture, said faculty and alumni made several nominations, including Ryker and Smith, both of whom will be compensated for their travels and time as chairs.

Cox said the University typically looks for candidates who have spent extended time practicing and are specialized in certain fields

— something many faculty members cannot offer. He said the school was especially looking for experts in plant material because this is one of the areas in which the school seeks to improve.

"We want to get them thinking more creatively about plant materials and the outdoors in general," Cox said.

He said hands-on, outdoor experiences assist students in developing creative perspectives.

Cox said the school made the best decision for the strength of its programs. He said Ryker brings a creative yet structured perspective on natural systems, while Smith contributes a more artistic component.

Ryker said her plans for the year include a series of three lectures and research on the area wetlands. She said she hopes to include students in her research project as opportunities arise.

► [Read more about the new chairs at lsureveille.com.](#)

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RYKER



SMITH

**DUMPSTER**, from page 1

elementary education senior, don't practice "dumpster diving" quite so literally.

Miller used to work as a resident assistant in Miller Hall and said she's found dozens of salvageable items residents tossed in the trash, including brand-name products like Vera Wang perfume, a North Face jacket and a Prada bag.

Miller said she never took anything from inside the dumpsters but had no problem with reclaiming items laid next to them.

"I never thought of it as weird or even as an activity," Miller said.

She said she thinks dumpster diving is "awesome and free," and the "free" section of Craigslist is also a good place for bargain finds.

But diving on campus could have some unexpected consequences.

Jay High, communications manager for Residential Life, said the department does not permit dumpster diving.

"We're all about sustainability and recycling, but it's a safety issue," High said.

If students or campus visitors are caught rummaging through dumpsters, High said ResLife will contact the LSU Police Department.

Skaggs said he's also concerned about the dangers of dumpster diving.

"I'm really careful," Skaggs said. "It used to be a thrill to just jump in, but now I take a good look, put a foot in and just see what's in there."

Andres Harris, LSU Recycling manager for Facility Services, said he dumpster dives on a weekly basis,

but not for the usual reasons.

"I don't encourage it because it's risky business," Harris said. "I do it because I don't want the wrong materials going in the trash."

Though Harris dives to ensure garbage and recyclables are properly sorted, he said he's found some prizes in his excursions.

Harris said the majority of his office's decor and furniture were salvaged from the trash. He's found a mini fridge, frames, tables, chairs and computers.

Harris said one of his best finds was a Toshiba laptop with a black leather carrying case and accessories. He said the computer was infected with viruses, but a simple reformatting put it in perfect working condition again.

"People dispose of stuff because of lack of knowledge, but I was able to donate [the computer] to someone who needed it," Harris said.

But not everyone is interested in going through the garbage.

Amanda Tabor, biology junior, said when she thinks of dumpster diving, one word pops into her head — dirty.

"I wouldn't [dumpster dive] unless I dropped something important in the trash," Tabor said.

Harris said the University switched to single-stream recycling in 2006, which means all recyclables — paper, cardboard, plastic, etc. — may be placed into the same bin.

The University recycles approximately 1,500 tons of materials a year, Harris said.

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TECHNOLOGY

# Adults embrace social media

**Claire Caillier**  
Contributing Writer

Denying friend requests from Great-Aunt Sally, chatting with Mom, hiding photos from Dad — all signs social media is no longer unique to younger generations.

According to a recent report from the Pew Research Center, 65 percent of adult Internet users utilize social networking sites, an increase from 61 percent last year.

It is the first time Pew Internet surveys found 50 percent of all adults online use social networking sites, according to the report.

Compared to last year, the frequency of usage of social

networking sites among adults ages 50 to 64 rose dramatically from 20 percent to 32 percent, equating a 60 percent increase.

Sixty-one percent of young-adult users under the age of 30 use social networking sites on a daily basis, according to the report.

Sheri Thompson, University IT communications and planning officer, said she thinks the trend is attributed to the fact people want to maintain social networking sites.

"Those college students who were the first on [social networking sites] have graduated and are married with kids now," Thompson said.

Thompson said social networking sites have replaced the mass

e-mails people were sending out several years ago.

She said the majority of older adults use these sites to keep track of their children and to stay in touch with loved ones. Others were introduced to social media for professional purposes such as marketing and have evolved to use social media for personal reasons.

Meghan Sanders, deputy director of the Media Effects Lab, said many businesses rely on social media, which is used for personal branding and is now also part of some job descriptions.

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oct 6

## DIO Disciples

oct 20

## Galactic

nov 2

## NEEDTOBREATHE

