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Administration & Faculty

Administration
First row (from left): Janet Darfus, nurse; Harriette Palmer, assistant director; Traci LaBom, counselor.
Second row (from left): Paul Jannise, coordinator of residential life; David Wood, director.

Office workers (from left): Kayla Ellender, Amanda Storrs.

Night security: Josh Storrs.

Faculty - Front row (from left): Ms. Andra Cruse (Geometry), Ms. Begoña Pérez-Mira (Web Design), Dr. Nate Pritts (Film Studies), Mr. Mazhar Jamil (Pre-calculus), Dr. Chris Hynes (Chemistry). Second row (from left): Mr. John Travis (Creative Writing), Dr. Rae Osborn (Biology), Mr. Dallas Robertson (Algebra 2).

Faculty - Front row (from left): Dr. Ron Pedro (Forensic Science), Mr. Dave Andersen (Computer Science and Lead Instructor), Mr. David Zolzer (VB.NET). Second row (from left): Ms. Jo Ann Forrest (Psychology), Ms. Lillian Cutshall (Algebra 1), Ms. Autumn Grant (Anthropology). Third row: Ms. Nancy Ellis (Gestes & Quests). Not pictured: Ms. Mary Brocato (Journalism), Ms. Shelly Hynes (Physics).
Teaching Assistants & Classes

Teaching assistants - First row (from left): Evan Boswell (VB.Net), Adam Koonce (Web Design) Stephanie Yang (Pre-calculus), Stephen Finigan (Geometry) Rebekah Olinde (Algebra 1). Second row (from left): Erick Chelette (Gestes & Questes), David Beier (Film Studies), Marie Mahe, (Chemistry), Elaine Broussard (Journalism), Josh Douglas (Psychology), Chris Cordell (Computer Science). Third row (from left): Andee Savoy (Algebra 2), Mariam Choudhury (Anthropology), Katie May (Creative Writing), Shane McCully (Physics).

Algebra 1


Algebra 2


Anthropology

First row (from left): Owen Schwartzbard, Chanel Reinertsen, Emmelyn Leung, Isobel Pribil, Daniel Segrest. Second row (from left): Ms. Autumn Grant (instructor), Hannah Garza, Clay Matthews, Brittney Dickerson, Courtney McCune, Melissa Mertz, Caitlin Brown, Mariam Choudhury (TA), Emily Gootee.
Biology
First row (from left): Joe O'Gorman, Jayni Karsan, Rebecca Swan, Sehar Khateeb, Rosa Mathai (TA).
Second row (from left): Dr. Rae Osborn (instructor), Insun Chong, Maira Gayyum, Laamia Islam.

Chemistry

Computer Science

Creative Writing
Film Studies

First row (from left): Doug Waguespack, David Beier (TA), Jessica Rash, Molly Chester, Emma Fick, Devin Mullin. Second row (from left): Brenna Slowey-Thomas, Katherine Barnett, Max New, Erica Catlett, Kate Fuller, Murphy Temple, Hannah Roberts, Jackson Wimberly, Ashlei McDonald, Naomi Siegmund.

Forensic Science


Geometry


Gestes & Quests: Arthur Through the Ages

First row (from left): Sasha Pribil, Elise Prete, Meredith Ventura, Charles Bryan, Jackie New, Vera Herbert, Patrick Johnson. Second row (from left): Erick Chelette (TA), Jacob Gautreaux, Heather Royer, Brittany Zeto, Steven Green, Maddie Ferguson, Stephen Levy.
Journalism

From left: Jennifer Shi, Anisha Chandra, Sarah Chan, Jenny Wales, Sara Lowenburg, Elaine Broussard (TA).

Physics

First row (from left): Lauren Riddle, Britney Haydel, Michael Floyd, Koby Wilbanks. Second row (from left): Ryan Stewart, Michael Kopync, Ms. Shelly Hynes (instructor), Shane McCulley (TA), Brittany Gordon.

Pre-calculus


Psychology

Residential Adviser Groups


dst

Aaron


Visual Basic.net


Web Design

Amanda Vincent

Archana
First row (from left): Chanel Reinertsen, Archana Shingwani (RA), Maria Arévalo. Second row (from left): Isobel Pribil, Lucia Borrello, Sunny Li, Lindsey Luquette. Third row (from left): Andria Buckner, Daphne Zhang, Sarah Chan, Brittney Dickerson, Brenna Slowey-Thomas, Sydney Tarkington.

Amanda Pooler
First row (from left): Ajantha Ramachandran, Courtney McCune, Molly Chester, Tammy Gudipati, Meghan Hendricks, Heather Royer, Catherine Ebey, Jackie New, Isabelle Jargowsky. Second row (from left): Alexandra Clark, Vera Herbert, Celia Mangham (RA), Jessica Rash, Madeleine Arivett.


Tiny


Seth


Versha

Kicking it up a Notch

Students play hard at sports activities

By Jenny Wales
Journalism Student

White posters cover the windows in the main lobby, advertising the nightly activities in big, neon-colored letters. Whether it is a day or weekend day, the posters are always calling to students, trying to catch their attention and entice them to sign up.

One poster describes a harucnis, testosterone-fueled dodgeball game, complete with an illustration of a boy’s head getting knocked off by a red rubber ball. Another one, made by Tny himself, tells a gruysome story of two brothers named Ping and Pong, and their tragic fates. But some posters, although they are not very eye-catching, attract most of the athletic students at ADVANCE.

This year, ADVANCE featured many activities that ranged from slumbering granitas at FF to getting enveloped in shaving cream at the kindergarten games. But one of the most popular activities was sports.

At ADVANCE, students could participate in running, dodgeball, soccer, Capture the Flag, tennis, Ultimate Frisbee, basketball, volleyball and more.

"ADVANCE is a more academic environment, so playing sports gives students a chance to get out," said Traci Lalko, the counselor at ADVANCE.

Early each morning, about five students gathered in the lobby to go running. Running was the earliest activity at ADVANCE.

"I go running to stay in shape," said Swathi Ali, a tenth grade geometry student. "It is very relaxing in the morning."

Dodgeball, also known as deathball, often attracted over 30 students. Although the games were intense, more and more students participated each time it was offered.

"I get satisfaction out of hitting other people," joked Matt Turner, a tenth grade student in computer science class.

Students at ADVANCE also had the opportunity to kick around a soccer ball in indoor or outdoor futbol. The games included about 30 players and were always exciting.

"We try to offer a variety of sports, indoor, outdoor," said Harrtett Palmer, the assistant director of ADVANCE. She said that even if some students do not play sports at their schools, they could come to ADVANCE and feel comfortable playing any sport, even if they are not good.

"It’s all about having a good time," said Jennifer Shi, a ninth grade journalism student.

Capture the Flag was the most popular Saturday activity. More than 60 students participated in the race to get the other team’s flag. Sophie Huang, a ninth grade Algebra student, said, "It was really fun because a lot of people were playing."

Tennis was an activity for the serious players who brought their own racquets. "It’s a mental game," said Andy Chong, a ninth grade forensic science student. "You have to come up with strategies."

Many students played to be with their friends, but also met new people in the process.

Ultimate Frisbee was one of the sports at ADVANCE with a rocky beginning.

Early on in the program, it was canceled because not enough people signed up or it rained. But, nonetheless, it was exciting when it didn’t get cut. Ultimate Frisbee averaged about 20 people per game.

"It is really fun and is good exercise," said James McCurry, an eighth grade Algebra student.

Basketball and volleyball were two of the less crowded, but high energy and entertaining sports at ADVANCE.

"After being cooped up in a classroom for seven hours, it’s nice to be active and have a good time," said Venita Sharma, an RA at ADVANCE. "For a lot of students, it’s a good outlet for their energy."

It’s a tough job...

and they loved doing it

By Sarah Chan
Journalism Student

"Being a RA is kind of stressful, but the kids make it soooooo much fun," said first year RA Archana Shringuani.

RAs help the students at ADVANCE. They live in Calvo Hall with the students, too. They make sure the students are comfortable and plan activities that are fun. They also make sure all the students sign in and out and that they go to their designated locations.

Why did the RAs decide to be RAs in the first place?

"I wanted to become an RA because I attended ADVANCE when I was younger, and I had the greatest RA so I decided to come," said Archana.

Second year RA Lauren Truxillo, also known as Trux, said, "I came back for the second year because of the kids and because I used to come to ADVANCE and I really enjoyed it so I want the kids here now to enjoy it as much as I did."

RA Jason Stell Got for his third year because he loves the students, and he has a lot of fun. "Mrs.Harrtett influenced me," he said. "And after my first year I really enjoyed it."

While RAs are resident advisors, TAs are teaching assistants. They help the teachers instruct the class and help the students with their work. They also teach sometimes.

"I like my class a lot because the students in it have so much creativity," said EI Chelette of his class Gestes and Quests.

This was El’s first year working at ADVANCE, and he has enjoyed it.

"The students are great here, and the camp is so active and challenging," said El.

EI is not the only one who likes his class. because Chris Cardell, TA of the computer science class, also had an opinion.

"My class is awesome because they are different. There’s like some that worry so much about their work and grades, some that don’t even care, and someone who do their work and then goof off," he said.

This was Chris’s first year being a TA, but in the past, he was a RA.

"I don’t like it when my students worry way too much about their grades," Chris said.

What does Chris think of ADVANCE?

"It’s a great program because it gives the students a really good and rare opportunity," he said.

Coordinator of Residential Life, Paul Janisse, is in charge of making sure the dorms are clean and how well the RAs are monitoring the students. As coordinator of residential life, Paul also ordered pizza for the students each night.

This was Paul’s first year as the coordinator and he liked it, but he thought it was a kind of difficult job.

"Being the head of residential life is harder than an RA because I have more responsibilities and more solutions that need to be made," said Paul.

Paul enjoys ADVANCE and hopes to come back next year with the same position.

Even though he loved his job, there are some things he disliked.

"It’s so unpredictable because you never know what might happen. Like, Dominu’s Pizza, they never seem to get the orders right," he said.
Stayin' active

Every afternoon as the school day ends, students get out and have fun with friends

By Jennifer Shi
Journalism student

All work and no play makes for a very dull day, which is why coordinators of the ADVANCE program mixed both work and play for students.

After classes ended for the day, a frenzy of ADVANCE students would rush down the stairs from their dorm rooms to experience one of many activities offered in free time. These activities included sports, art and crafts, trips, games, movies, contests, and many others.

Signs advertising these events covered the walls of the lobby, and sign-up sheets lay on tables in the middle of the room. Students crowded around the tables scrambling to sign up for the activities they wanted.

"It's like a war zone because some activities have only a limited number of spots, and people are fighting for them," said Jenny Wales, a tenth-grade journalism student.

One of the most popular activities was being hung out in the Student Activities Center or the lobby, where pool, poolball, and ping-pong were popular games. Hannah Rodia, a ninth-grade student in film studies, said that she enjoyed watching and talking to friends in the lobby.

Almost every day, there was an activity to go to. It's like a coffee shop. This was also a popular activity because many students could not wait for an opportunity to get a cup of Joe to warm themselves up.

"It's packed," said Aja Insita Ramachandran, a tenth-grader in Algebra 2.

Most days, at least one movie was shown for the students. Movies shown included Finding Neverland, Big Fish, Hook, Edward Scissorhands, Little Shop of Horrors, Pirates of the Caribbean, Monty Python and the Holy Grail, and Phantom of the Opera.

Arts and crafts activities gave students a chance to socialize with others while expressing their creativity. Popular craft activities were bracelet making, tie-dye painting, tie-dye, beading, sock puppets, duct tape, and clay sculpting.

A very entertaining activity was the RA/TA look-alike contest where students chose an RA or TA to dress like, walk like, and talk like. They were also asked questions about the person they chose. Other popular activities were Dance Dance Revolution, eating at Magr's board games, costume bowling, improvisation, swimming, and dance lessons.

Since students attended only three hours of class on Saturdays, more time was given for Saturday afternoon activities. A popular Saturday venture was Front Street, a street by the Cane River in downtown Natchitoches. The ADVANCE students who walked to Front Street shopped at the stores along the street, rode on pedal boats, ate ice cream and smoothies, and took pictures of the beautiful scenery surrounding the river.

On Sundays, there was no class at all, and students could sleep in for the morning. For the afternoon, students could sign up for two different activities. Trips to the movie theater were offered every Saturday and Sunday. Students watched Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith, Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants, and Batman Begins.

Though a variety of activities were offered, some students preferred to stay in the dorm. Algebra 2 student Sophie Huang said she and her friends like to pig out in her room.

"We do that too much," she said.

Rebecca Swan, a ninth-grader in biology, said she talked to friends during her free time. Also, a good number of students used free time to study for important tests or quizzes the next day.

Some students liked to try a different kind of activity every day, like eighth-grade anthropology student Clay Mathews.

"I enjoy doing everything," he said.

The activities were planned by the resident advisers, who met every morning to discuss which activities to include. RA Lauren Truxillo said they try to have activities for all different kinds of students.

"We always try to give enough options," she said.

Saturday Night Fever

Rows of shoes line the floor as students and staff break it down

By Anisha Chandra
Journalism student

Almost anyone who has ever gone to a school dance can tell you about all those awkward moments. The wallflowers wander alone gulping punch and munching food, and there are others who can't care less if they make a fool of themselves when they break it down in the middle of the dance floor.

The students at ADVANCE are familiar with these situations.

The ADVANCE program held dances for the students each weekend at the LBSMAs gym or the Northwestern State University ballroom. Students who didn't choose to come to the dances watched movies at the LBSMAs auditorium.

Jereemah LaForge, a tenth-grader in Algebra II, went to the first two dances and said he enjoyed both of them.

LaForge said, "I was hyper, and I knew who to be hyper with."

LaForge considers himself an outgoing person who likes to have fun wherever he goes to the dance.

"I don't care if people watch me dance or if I make a fool of myself because I don't care what people think of me. If I wasn't an outgoing person, I would be extremely boring," LaForge said.

If students got bored with the songs at the dance or got tired and wanted to relax, students usually retreated to the student activity center (SAC) if the dance was held at the campus.

Chetan Dargon, a tenth-grader in psychology, went to the first two dances and said it wasn't what he expected. He spent most of his time in the SAC.

"I hung out in the SAC most of the time because the music sucked, and I was a little tired. I still had a good time, though," Dargon said.

Some students did not go to the second dance. Yogesh Gandhi, a ninth-grader in Algebra II, said he didn't go again because at the first dance, he got bored and didn't dance that much.

Gandhi considers himself a wallflower at dances. Even if they played his kind of music, he still wouldn't have danced to any of the songs, he said.

I hate dancing. I like rap and hip-hop, but I wouldn't have danced to it if it was played. I only dance and when I have to and for cultural occasions," Gandhi said.

Stephanie Yang, the TA for pre-calculus, was the disc jockey for the dances. She explained how she selected the music.

"I'm not too much with what you young folks listen to these days, so I google searches, look at top music charts, and get a lot of suggestions from other RAs and TAs." Yang said. "The music has to be clean and danceable.

When students requested songs, the music had to meet Yang's requirements so they didn't make the cut.

"I do requests, but the music has to fit the criteria which it has to be danceable and clean. Like I get requests for Coldplay, but that's not danceable," Yang said.

Paul Jurneen, the head RA of Cadwall Hall, said, "The main reason why the dances are held is to help the students' take their minds of the intense workload."

Emmelyn Leung, a ninth-grader in anthropology, said, "I like the dances because we don't have to worry about school and work for some time."

David Wood, the director of ADVANCE, said, "The program's goal is to provide students courses they can get credit for but also create an atmosphere where they can socialize with other kinds of people."
All colors of the Rainbow

Students at ADVANCE welcome one another with open arms regardless of race, background

By Sara Lowenburg
Journalism student

If someone walked into Caddo Hall this summer, he or she was greeted by students of all colors, some wearing flamboyant clothes with extravagant designs, others remaining reserved.

The students were there to learn, but not just in the classes they were taking. They also learned from each other. They learned about cultures and places and types of people. They also learned how to get along with each other, despite their differences.

ADVANCE 2005 had many different types of people. There were 198 people who checked off their ethnicity on the application. Of those people, there were 94 males and 102 females. There were 12 blacks, making up 6.12 percent of the students. Hispanics made up 3.06 percent of the students, and there was one Native American. Fifty-eight people checked off that they were Asian or Pacific Islander, making 28.59 percent, and one person checked "other". There were 117 Caucasians, making 99.69 percent.

The Assistant Director at ADVANCE, Harriette Palmer, said she thinks that the diversity enhances the experience for the students. She said ADVANCE usually has students from all ethnic and religious backgrounds, and many students haven't been exposed to so many different types of people.

Traci LaBom, the ADVANCE counselor, said it is good for students to come here and learn about different cultures. She thinks the diversity challenges students and leads to social growth and development.

"You can pick up a textbook and learn about students from India," she said. "Whereas here, you can interact with them and share cultural experiences."

David Wood, the director of ADVANCE, said the staff encourages the students to go out and meet the other people at ADVANCE. He said that once the students make friends with the other students in their RA group, they tend to seek other friends outside of their RA groups and classes and are able to meet many different types of people. The ADVANCE staff also encourages people to sign up for evening activities because it is a good way to meet people.

Students at ADVANCE agreed that they liked the diversity, both ethnically and socially.

"There is no prejudice because everybody is different, and we all just get along," said Christie Dunson, a forensic science student.

Dylan Henson, a forensic science student, said he didn't treat anyone differently because of his or her skin color or background.

"I don't care what color or class people are," he said.

Lizzi O'Gorman, a psychology student, said students could be themselves at ADVANCE. She thinks there were more students who acted as individuals than students who just tried to blend in.

Emma Fick, a film studies student, said the diversity at ADVANCE makes her feel more welcome.

"It's not divided," she said, "it's just all one blended culture."

By Meredith Ventura, Gestes and Guests student
There lived, in a small shack by the sea, an old fisherman named Juan. Juan was a lonely old man who never had a wife. One day, Juan heard that Love herself had come to the beach, and he decided to pay Her a visit. Juan washed the fish smell off, combed his grizzled hair, ran his fingers through his beard, and set out to find Love.

Juan walked for a little while until he came to a clear blue stream. He stopped for a drink. A young woman promptly joined him. She had a jovial face, bright eyes that sparkled with merriment, and dimpled cheeks whenever she smiled. She giggled and began to speak. "I'm Friendship. I was supposed to be the first person you met, but I was helping a friend. Sorry."

"But listen. Like must come before Love. You have to be friends with someone before you can love them. Also, I can sit here all day and tell you that I love you, but it's cheaper. Thankfully, you don't have to meet her. I'm sorry. I'm running out of words. Anyway, actions speak louder than words. You must show someone you love them by doing things for them. The hugs and "I love you's" are nice, but they mean nothing. They aren't enough. I hope that you find Love. Juan, give me a hug?"

"Great," Juan smiled. "Friendship, you will remember me. Friendship, will remember what I said."

"I kept waiting. "Walt! The next person you meet," Friendship called after him. "Is the most important. It is also very...dour. Listen to what he has to say. He's really great!" Juan waved and smiled and kept searching for Love.

Juan walked for a long time. He passed an old blind man by the side of the road who had no legs and one arm. He was covered with a thin, scanty blanket and looked pitiful. Juan's soft old heart was moved with pity for him and he went to help him. "Truly, you are a good man to help an old cripple like me. My name is Sacrifice. No relationship can last without me. Sacrifice is not blind, but he looked right at Juan while he spoke. Juan was surprised, but he listened. "In love and sacrifice, you won't always get what you want. You'll make sacrifices, do things, make sacrifices for the people you love. That's where you come in. You'll have to give up a little of what you want so that love can last. You'll never get your way all of the time. Most relationships fall because they have not been given enough sacrifices. Remember me when you find Love. Juan, I hope that you will remember me."

"I nodded at this poor old wise man, beaten by the world. Juan began to walk away, but before he got very far, he turned to offer Sacrifice some more help, but he noticed that Sacrifice was not there.

"Traveling through the woods, Juan came upon a house. The house was very simple: built from a dark wood with white curtains and a red door. He knocked on the door and an old woman answered. "So, you've come to me at last, Juan. I am Love," the old woman said."

"You're Love?" Juan asked. He was puzzled and massively disappointed, but he masked his emotions. "Yes, I am. Not quite what you expected? Yes, Love isn't very pretty. I can be jealous, fickle, spiteful, and sometimes downright mean. You do things that you would never otherwise do when you're in love. Do you still wish to know me?"

"Love asked Juan. He paused for a moment before answering. "Yes, Love. I still want to know you," he said softly. Upon hearing his reply, the old woman Love personified, smiled. "I can also be the most beautiful thing in the world. It can be great, warm, all-encompassing, comforting, and wonderful. I make life worth living. Juan, I give life meaning. You have lived your life well, and all of the others you met before me have been a test. You have answered wisely and you know all of the virtues that you must know before knowing me. Now, you will be rewarded." Then Love changed Her form. She became the most beautiful woman Juan had ever seen. Juan found that he, too, had changed. His gnarled form straightened. The pain in his arthritic hands was gone, and his grizzled, grey hair was restored to the raven black of his youth. Juan and Love embraced, and Juan no longer lived as a lonely fisherman. Juan lived with Love for the rest of his days.
Zombies!

By Chris Cordell, Computer Science TA
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www.nsula.edu

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www.nsula.edu/scholars

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