



THE CURRENT SAUCE

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BACK TO School

Kyser Hall elevator issues continue from the fall

The Kyser Hall elevators are a hot topic as the second week of classes ends. As the spring semester continues, the elevators in Kyser Hall continue to experience functionality issues from the fall.

Currently, only one of the elevators is manually operational. On the west side of the building, there is a note attached to the elevator reading: "If you need the elevator, please call..." with a subsequent list of 3 numbers in total to call depending on the time and whether someone will be available to answer.

Dale Wohletz, the NSU Physical Plant Director, otherwise known as "the proud stewards of University facilities, infrastructure, grounds, and equipment," as seen on the NSULA webpage, has more information about the ongoing plans for the elevators.

"The east has been fully out going on two years, the west off and on about a year," Wohletz said. But there are plans to restore the elevators back to a fully functional status.

"We have a working project now that has a contractor under contract to replace both elevators. They will start on the east one hopefully by late February or early March. Construction time should take about 60 days. After the east one, they will replace the west one," Wohletz said.

To overcome the issues during the meantime, Wohletz helps students and faculty to different floors manually, he said.

Some students and staff around campus have been impacted by the continued disservice of the elevators despite the manual operation ability.

A senior theater and dance major, Paige Littleton, set to graduate this May, notes that since her first year in 2018, the elevators have always been having issues, but she never had an issue with using the stairs until just recently.

"I had major knee surgery this past December. Walking up and down stairs is not easy when you're on crutches," Littleton

said.

While the use of the manual service is a temporary solution, for Littleton it has been another challenge.

"There are numbers you can call but that gets confusing and having to wait 20 minutes is not reasonable for those with back-to-back classes," Littleton said.

Littleton even said that she knows of friends who use a wheelchair who have transferred because of the lack of accessibility on campus.

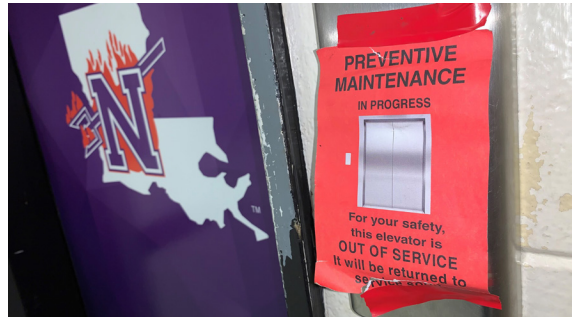
Jennifer Kelly, the Executive Director of University Affairs, goes more in-depth on the goals the university has set in place and the specific ways they have accommodated those with disabilities.

"The goal is by the end of the spring semester to have a new, operational elevator on one side," Kelly said. "We have worked with any faculty member that had classes in Kyser that came to us. We worked with the dean through the provost to tell us if there's anyone with a mobility issue. We were able to move some classes around to different locations."

Regarding the increasingly negative opinions heard around campus about the continued issues with the elevators, Kelly understands them.

"I understand everyone's frustrations, it's been very frustrating to us as the university as well, but when equipment is that old it doesn't happen overnight," Kelly said.

Kyser Hall was first built in 1968, according to the NSULA website, and is the



Photographer: Karley Martinez

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largest on campus.

"There's a process we go through. We had to secure funding because we are talking four hundred thousand dollars. It's not easy, it's very expensive," Kelly said.

Kelly also gives insight into some smaller projects the university is putting in place to maintain and repair any other issues that may also be causing issues.

"We've got some state money to do roofs. The Health and Human Performance building, HHP, over on Tarlton is getting a new roof," she said. "As well as Fournet Hall, and finally repairs are in place for many of the chemistry labs on campus as well."

Despite the status of the elevators, past and present, plans are underway to address the issue.

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"Education is not the learning of many facts, but the training of the mind to think."
- Albert Einstein

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Is Natchitoches the best place for a university?



Photographer: Samuel Bailey

Natchitoches, the oldest city in Louisiana known for its annual Christmas Festival, is also home to the college students enrolled at the Northwestern State University of Louisiana. One may say the city is one seen in a "Lifetime movie," but is its cinematic aura enough for its local college students?

There are many perceptions one may have when they hear the phrase “college town.” It is similar to the perception that a Gen-Z may have felt about high school, after the Disney Channel Original Movie, “High School Musical” debuted. The portrayal of high school and college in the media can lead to unrealistic expectations. These perceptions are not everlasting, but it leaves you to wonder what your realistic expectations of college should be.

With NSU being the core of the city of Natchitoches there are certain resources not available for its college students. The lack of transportation affects students daily. The campus shuttle, which operates only throughout the weekdays, does not service off-campus. Students without any means of transportation are left to walk. The nearest grocery store and pharmacy to NSU's campus, Super One Food is made impossible to cross. To reach the store, the student must cross one of the busiest streets, University Parkway. As a student who did not get a car until the fall

semester of my junior year, the walk to Super One Foods is one I dreaded.

Due to the city being more rural, it is unlikely that a public transportation system will ever be developed. There are other options to consider, beyond a public transportation system. Access to rideshare apps such as Uber, and Lyft could make a significant change. This would allow students to travel safely throughout the

would be a source of “entertainment.”

Night life is prevalent throughout the city, but it can become redundant, and tiring. The activities throughout the city are catered to its tourists. The city's historical background makes it a major location for museums, and tours. Outside of the attractions for tourists, it only leaves the Parkway Cinema and the Natchitoches Skating Ring.

The city is small, but there is room for entertainment for its college students. Natchitoches continues to grow as new businesses, and fast food restaurants such as Big

Lots and Arby enter the city. Many empty storefronts in the city can be renovated into places of entertainment.

Being a college student in the city of Natchitoches comes with its advantages and disadvantages. Coming from a small town, the transition to Natchitoches was not overbearing. It was easy to become acquainted with the area. Although the university does strive to make Natchitoches feel like home, there are some elements that they simply cannot provide. NSU has been a major part of Natchitoches, and it is time for Natchitoches to provide for its young adults.

Change does take time but an effort has to be made.

Tyrenisha James
Viewpoints Editor

With NSU being the core of the city of Natchitoches there are certain resources not available for its college students. The lack of transportation affects students daily.

Freshmen adjust to second semester at NSU



Photographer: Samuel Bailey

“Following their first semester on a college campus, freshmen are back to begin a new one filled with new classes, new professors and new experiences”.

Following their first semester on a college campus, freshmen are back to begin a new one filled with new classes, new professors and new experiences. Many have discovered an interest in a new major or found safety in their current programs.

For every student on campus, their second semester back is a new experience and an opportunity to feel adjusted to college activities.

Now that freshmen have had a chance to understand the routine of college, they are finding ways to focus more on their academics and find new ways to study.

“I want to spend more time focusing on my studies, and I’ll definitely have more time since my schedule is different,” said Meghan Moore, theatre major.

Scheduling is one of the

changes that students take on this semester. Students are independently figuring out how they can optimize their time.

Freshman hospitality management and tourism major Andrew Gatti is one of these students figuring out how to be productive with his time.

“My second semester seems to be a little busier just because I am in more classes this semester,” Gatti said.

After the first semester, students tend to occupy themselves in their second with a heavier work schedule. However, they also want to become more socially involved on campus and find ways to be more connected with their peers.

“I definitely want to be more productive in my academic life, but I would also like to be more involved on campus,” Gatti

said.

Freshmen can find ways to be more involved on campus by joining a Greek life organization, attending sporting events or finding a club that fits their major or interests.

“I want to experience actual ‘game days,’ like I want to go to basketball games and other sport-related activities on campus,” Moore said.

The second semester can act as a cool-down for freshmen which allows them to discover things on campus that they think would keep them entertained. There may be something for every student that can academically boost them, give them the chance to make more friends and even fill in space on their schedule.