Nursing students contribute to nearly half of the enrollment on the Lamar State College-Orange campus, so when a property was acquired to help house an area of study, it was quickly decided that nursing students would benefit the most. New labs, lecture halls, computer rooms and more much-needed space await the more than 1,000 nursing students on campus.

The concept of the new building to accommodate career training was part of LSC-O’s 2008 Campus Master Plan. The LSC-O Foundation acquired the former Orange Leader building next to the campus in 2010, and the college subsequently purchased the site from the Foundation so that it could be renovated and used for classroom space. However, in 2011, the campus hired a consulting firm to examine the feasibility of renovating the building and found it would not be cost effective to “save” it, so plans were made to construct a new building.

“As we looked at our enrollment growth over the past four years, it became evident that the demand for nursing instruction exceeded the capacity of our existing facilities,” said Dr. Shahan, president of LSC-O.

Gina Simar, director of Allied Health, says the main thing the new building will provide is room for the nursing students to learn, but all of the new accommodations don’t exactly hurt either. The new building will be equipped with a simulation lab to include two adult rooms, a birthing room, pediatric room and a home setting environment. New equipment will be included to enhance student learning and there will be two five-bed skills labs that will also be for the training of nursing students. In addition, there will be an 80-seat lecture hall, a 60-seat computer room, two 50-seat rooms and a 60-seat classroom.

“I think the new building is going to motivate students and will be a beautiful, up-to-date facility of which we are going to be very proud to be a part of,” said Simar.

Construction began in November and it is hoped that classes can be held in there by fall 2013. Moving the nursing classes to the new building will allow some of the classrooms in the Allied Health Building to be used for general instruction, as well as continue to comfortably house the EMS and pharmacy technology programs. There are approximately 160 vocational nursing students, 80 registered nursing students, and roughly 300 basic nursing students each year at LSC-O. However, with the more than 500 pre-vocational students that have to be advised through the nursing department, things have grown a little crowded.

“We are now using Simulation to help train our students,” said Simar. “My favorite feature of the floor plan of the new building is the Simulation Lab. It’s going to enhance our programs by offering many new and different learning opportunities for our students.”

In addition to the Sim Man 3G simulation mannequin, they will have a simulator capable of birthing a baby, a newborn simulator and a Sim Junior for pediatric training.

“When I first started in Allied Health, the vocational nursing program entered 40 students twice a year and the registered nursing program entered 40 students once a year,” said Simar. “These programs have grown considerably and it is time for LSC-O to grow and expand as well, in order to accommodate our students.”
New Year, New Look

It’s a new year and the former Brown Center of LSC-O got a new look, as well as a new name. Now known as the Brown Estate, the event center got a facelift for its logo and its website, one that is more modern and aesthetically pleasing. After having the same look, as well as the “old” LSC-O school colors for more than 10 years, it was time for the mansion to catch up to the changes the campus has recently received.

For the last several years, the Brown Estate has not been immune to the economic challenges we have all experienced, and business was slowing down. Weddings, retreats and corporate events were all dwindling, and most of the business booked was by and for LSC-O events. As the only true Antebellum-style estate between Houston and Baton Rouge, it is hoped the new look of the center will help the community re-discover this gorgeous gem hidden in Orange.

“With a new look and some more targeted marketing, we think that both brides and bosses, alike, will see what and commercial spots, the Brown Estate is also displaying new and more elegant menus, and new signs for the Estate and around town are in the works.

“I think the new look of the Brown Estate’s marketing tools is beautiful and will catch the eye of our potential customers more easily,” said Terrie Smith, manager of the Brown Estate.

What’s Shakin’

- Orange Savings Bank donated $4,500 for LSC-O scholarships back in December. The gift will cover tuition and fees for one student during the 2013-2014 academic year.

- LSC-O raised $3492.31 for the Orange Garth House, with a series of holiday fundraisers. The events included the 2nd Annual LSC-O Cooks for a Cause cook-off, a split-the-pot, silent auction, casual dress fundraiser for employees, and a turkey fund at Thanksgiving.

- The Ron E. Lewis Library wants to create a scrapbook for the LSC-O Cardinal Moods. If you were involved with the Cardinal Moods or know someone that was in the group, the library would love to have your help. The library has several pictures uploaded to flickr.com. When you visit this website, search “LSC-O Cardinal Moods,” and then click the “From LSC-O” link under one of the photos. You will see six pages of CM pictures. If you know the people and about what year the pictures were taken, please identify them. Also, tell the history, memories, and activities of CM. Do you have pictures or memorabilia that you want to share? If so, the Library encourages you to post them to the “Lamar State College-Orange Cardinal Moods” Facebook page. “Like” the page and you will receive updates. You may also e-mail Roseanne Jungen at Roseanne.Jungen@lsco.edu or Mary McCoy at Mary.McCoy@lsco.edu.
The Big Read is a program created by the National Endowment of the Arts designed to encourage individuals to read for both pleasure and education while presenting literature as an indispensable part of American culture. In past years, reading and literacy has been in decline, especially among the youth of America. The NEA created the Big Read to directly address the decline in literacy. The Big Read helps communities come together and support community-wide reading by allowing individuals from diverse backgrounds to come together and enjoy reading. Each year, selected nonprofit organizations across the country receive grants from NEA in order to host Big Read events within their communities. More than 1,000 grants have been awarded to organizations who have hosted The Big Read.

This year, LSC-O’s Ron E. Lewis Library received an NEA grant to host the Southeast Texas Big Read. The Big Read events last approximately one month beginning with a book launch event. Activities and events planned include discussions, community readings, and youth outreach. The book chosen for this year’s Southeast Texas Big Read is *Bless Me, Ultima*, by Rudolfo Anaya, a coming-of-age story about a young Hispanic boy set in 1940s New Mexico. Reading the book will allow us to highlight the value of the Hispanic culture and language while presenting it to the children and adults of Orange and Jefferson counties.

All events are listed at http://neabigread.org, on the SETX Big Read site at http://library.lSCO.edu/big-read/big-read.asp, or under events on http://southeasttexas.com. The SETX Big Read partners the Ron E. Lewis Library, AAUW, Department of English and Modern Languages at Lamar University, Port Arthur Public Library, Orange Public Library, Little Cypress-Mauriceville CISD, West Orange Cove CISD, Bridge City ISD, and the Stark Museum as a non-recipient partner. Join us as we celebrate reading and lifelong learning.
Get Involved!

- The LSC-O Quiz Bowl traveled to Northeast Mississippi Community College in Booneville, Miss., to compete in the NAQT Community College Sectional Championship Tournament on January 25, 2013. The champion of this event will receive an automatic bid for the NAQT Community College Championship Tournament in St. Louis on March 1-2. Quiz Bowl will enter the tournament as a prohibitive favorite, having won its previous three tournaments with a 28-1 win/loss record. Team members attending are Jeffree Hoke, Shane Marburger, Jacob Gorton, Sarah Leger, and Matt Talbot. Students who are interested in joining Quiz Bowl, plan to be LSC-O through at least the Spring 2014 semester, and have a minimum 2.0 grade point average, should contact Eric Owens at 882-3385, or Eric.Owens@lsco.edu.

- If you are interested in joining the Student Government Association (SGA), meetings will be held every Thursday at 4 p.m., in Room 202 of the Student Center.

- Do your parents and grandparents constantly ask you questions about how to use a computer? If so, have them sign up for the Beginning Computers for Senior Citizens class (55+) at LSC-O. The one-time class will be held Wednesday, Feb. 13 from 9-11 a.m., in Room 133 of the Wilson Building. The course is designed for people who have never really used a computer and they will learn how to navigate a computer, use a mouse, open programs, play games, use the Internet, set up an e-mail account, and e-mail attachments. Each participant will have their own computer for the class. Space is limited, so call (409) 882-3321 to reserve a spot!

Calendar of Events:

* February 12– Fat Tuesday/King Cake, 10 a.m. @ Academic Center
* February 18-19– LifeShare Blood Drive
* February 26- Black History Month Event, Noon @ Student Center Lawn
  * March 7- “Talk, Text, Crash,” 9 a.m.– 1 p.m. @ Academic Center
  * March 11-14- Spring Break
* April 11- Career Fair, 10 a.m.– 2 p.m. @ Student Center
  * April 17- Spring Day

Lisa Cowart, the new Director of Continuing and Workforce Education, came to LSC-O from Lamar University where she was the director of Adult Education.

“Lisa brings a wonderful ‘can do’ attitude,” said Dr. Joe Kirkland. “We are excited to have her on our campus.”