



Reminder: It's time to update COVID & departmental information

Faculty, staff and administrators, please review updates on NSU's COVID information pages for accuracy, timeliness and relevance. If your area needs a change or update, contact Leah Jackson at jacksonl@nsula.edu. She is working with IT to keep NSU's COVID pages up-to-date in advance of the Fall semester.

The link to NSU's Living and Learning During COVID-19 page is found here: <https://www.nsula.edu/return-to-campus/>.

Additionally, if there have been changes in your unit or department, such as personnel changes, title changes, phone numbers, office numbers or contact information, please notify IT to keep NSU's information directory up-to-date.



School of Education approved for reduced M.Ed tuition

Northwestern State University's School of Education received approval for a rate reduction for individuals seeking a Master of Education in Education Leadership and Post Master's Certificate in Education Leadership. NSU will charge \$280 per credit hour for the M.Ed. and PMC, including tuition and fees.

The new pricing structure will be available to all students who enroll and are coded as pursuing the Educational Leadership endorsement. The cost adjustment makes NSU's program more competitive than other educational leadership programs in the region.

Request for the approval was precipitated

when a group of PK-12 school superintendents approached administrators in NSU's School of Education about offering coursework in educational leadership for aspiring leaders within their parishes as a cohort.

Since Spring 2020, school districts are experiencing an increased number of teachers and leaders leaving the profession due to the stress and anxiety of the pandemic. School districts are looking for people to become site administrators "job ready." Expanded job requirements of school administrators include mentoring, curriculum development, culture development, assessment literacy, progress monitoring, literacy

requirements, social/emotional learning for students and mental health issues.

Courses will be offered on an 8-week schedule to help teachers manage graduate coursework and will be offered in a cohort model beginning this fall so teachers can complete the program in two years.

"School systems in the state are in need of educators willing to share their knowledge and experiences with others and, with the new pricing and extra supports, it is easier than ever to get started," said Dr. Katrina Jordan, director of the School of Education.

For information, contact Jordan at jordank@nsula.edu or visit <https://education.nsula.edu>.

Stacy named dean of College of Business & Technology

Dr. Mary Edith Stacy has been named dean of the College of Business and Technology at Northwestern State University. Her appointment has been approved by the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System. Stacy has been interim dean since October 2021. “I look forward to continuing to work with students, faculty, staff, alumni and stakeholders to advance the College of Business and Technology,” said Stacy. “Among my priorities will be attract and retain strong students and working closely with business and industry to make certain our programs are preparing our graduates for the workforce.”

The College of Business and Technology includes bachelor of science programs in accounting, business administration with concentrations in business analytics, e-sports management, entrepreneurship, finance, international business, management and marketing. The College also includes bachelor of science programs in computer information systems with concentrations in application development, core programming, cyber security, networking and system management, web development and hospitality management and tourism with concentrations in culinary arts, hospitality services, travel and tourism. The College of Business and Technology offers a Master of Science in Computer Information Systems.

“Dr. Stacy brings a wealth of experience and perspective to the role of Dean,” said Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs **Dr. Greg Handel**. “She understands student engagement, faculty development, and has perspectives and connections to Business and Industry that will help expand our advisory councils. We are excited for her to continue to our work with public and private partnerships, and look forward to the development of new international connections.”

Stacy has been a member of the staff and faculty at Northwestern State since 1992. She has worked in the Office of Financial Aid as coordinator of university scholarships from



Stacy

1992 to 1998 and as director of auxiliary services from 1998 until 2003.

From 2003 to 2011, she was director of enrollment management where she was responsible for NSU’s student recruitment and retention plan and future enrollment forecasting. Under her leadership, the university had a record enrollment and made a successful transition to selective admissions which strengthened the institution.

Since 2011, Stacy has been a faculty member in the Department of Psychology and School of Business. In the School of Business, she has taught classes in business statistics and operations management to an average of 120 students per semester. Stacy has designed assessments to demonstrate a student’s knowledge of real-world business problems and finding solutions through problem solving techniques.

Stacy earned her bachelor’s and master’s degree at Northwestern State and a doctorate at Louisiana State University.

As a faculty member, Stacy has made numerous presentations to state, national and international professional conferences often collaborating with colleagues at Northwestern State.

Northwestern State names new director of bands

Dr. Anthony Pursell has been named director of bands at Northwestern State University. His appointment has been approved by the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System.

Pursell will lead the nationally acclaimed 300-member Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band which has pleased audiences throughout the South and in international performances in London and Dublin, Ireland.

“Returning to Louisiana and leading the band program at Northwestern State fulfills a career goal of mine,” said Pursell, a native of New Orleans. “Twenty-six years ago, I began teaching high school band in the southeast part of the state and frequently brought my bands to NSU for the marching festival led by Bill Brent. I was so impressed with the quality of the event and the people that I would make certain the festival was on our calendar each year. To have an opportunity to return home, lead the program that inspired me as a young teacher and continue the great work NSU is known for is a tremendous honor.”

For the past five years, Pursell has been director of bands at the University of Central Missouri. For the past year, he served as coordinator of music education and coordinator of summer graduate studies.

“We are excited to have Dr. Pursell join us as our director of bands,” said **Scott Burrell**, director of the Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts at Northwestern State. “He is recognized as one of the best in the nation in his field and he is sure to take our band program to another level of excellence. He and the band team have already been meeting and organizing this upcoming year’s band performances which will promise to be favorites with both our NSU and Natchitoches communities.”

“While our alumni have already proven to be a force for good for the university and this program. I would love to see them become a greater part of the current student experience and culture,” said Pursell. “This will foster a cyclical relationship



Pursell

where our current students can benefit from understanding our ideals from an alumni point of view, and also allows the opportunity for networks to form that may assist the student and the alumni in a professional setting.”

Pursell intends to expand the reach of the NSU Wind Symphony and other concert ensembles he will be involved with. That would include regional recruiting tours with the long-term goal of an international tour for the Spirit of Northwestern and concert ensembles.

“Getting the good word about music in Natchitoches, the State of Louisiana and the United States is important and the opportunity to be an ambassador for NSU will be an opportunity that will fulfill our students in very meaningful ways,” said Pursell.

As director of bands, Pursell intends to increase hands-on learning experiences for students.

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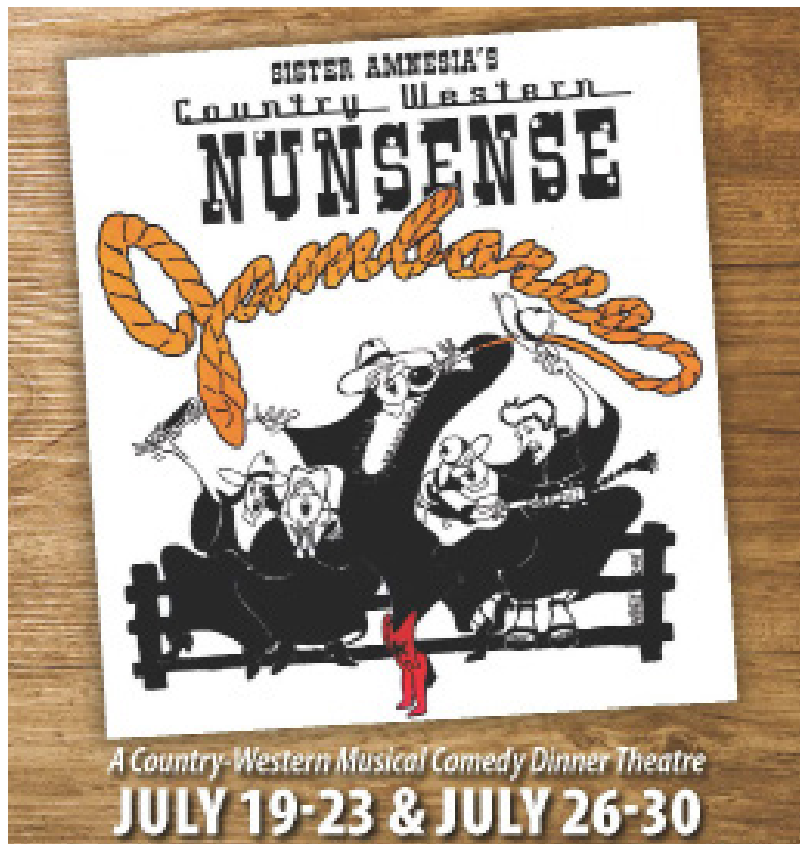
Dinner Theatre will stage ‘Nunsense Jamboree’

The NSU Summer Dinner Theatre will present the comedy “Sister Amnesia’s Country-Western Nunsense” on July 19-23 and 26-30 on the A.A. Fredericks Auditorium stage.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and dinner service starts at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$35 which includes a meal (soup, salad, entrée, dessert, tea, coffee) and the show.

A cash bar will be available. The price does not include a suggested gratuity of \$8 per guest. Dress is casual. Tickets are available at Eventbrite.com by searching for NSU Summer Dinner Theatre. For more information, contact **Yolanda Britton** at (318) 357-4483 or email brittony@nsula.edu.

“Sister Amnesia’s Country-Western Nunsense” is the story of whether a



former country singer leaves the convent for the Grand Ole

Opry. The show is appropriate for all ages.

Pursell ... Continued from Page 3

Pursell was director of bands at Tarleton State University from 2010-2017 after five years as assistant director of bands at Kansas State University and one year as interim assistant director of athletic band at Northern Illinois University. He was a director of bands at Destrehan High and Woodlawn High in Baton Rouge and assistant director of bands at Fontainebleau High School.

Pursell holds a D.A. in Instrumental Conducting and Music Education from Ball State University, and an M.M.E. and B.M.E. from Loyola University (New Orleans). Pursell has conducted concerts throughout the United States and the South Pacific (Auckland, New Zealand; Sydney, Australia). He serves as an adjudicator, conductor and clinician and is in demand as a halftime show writer, arranger, conductor and clinician for marching bands, concert bands and

jazz bands throughout the United States. He served as the National Band Mentor for the National Association of Music Education’s Mentoring Project and has given clinics and sessions at the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic and at several state and regional conferences including Kansas, Missouri, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Louisiana and Texas on a wide variety of topics related to wind band education. He has contributed to GIA’s Teaching Music Through Performance in Band and has had articles published in *The Instrumentalist*, *The Journal of Band Research*, and *The Southwest Musician* (Texas). His book, “Improving Music Sight Reading: An Iconic-Based Approach to Teaching Rhythm,” is published by VDM Verlag Dr. Müller Aktiengesellschaft & Co. KG (Saarbrücken, Germany).

Office of Sponsored Programs

CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Adonay Sissay, Louisiana Scholars' College, College of Arts and Sciences, received notification of a \$19,488 award from the Louisiana Board of Regents for "Equipping Honors Physics Laboratory with Essential Tools."

Dr. Tammy Curtis, School of Allied Health, College of Nursing and School of Allied Health, received notification of a 116,200 award from the Louisiana Board of Regents for "Digital Radiography Imaging System to Enhance Simulation Training for Radiologic Science at Northwestern State University." **Dr. Ben Wood, Ms. Angela McKnight, and Ms. Jessica Despino** are collaborators.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Dr. Shane Rasmussen, LA Folklife Center, College of Arts and Sciences, submitted a proposal to the Louisiana

Office of Tourism entitled, "42nd Annual Natchitoches – NSU Folk Festival."

Ms. Julie Longlois, Office of Electronic and Continuing Education/Carl D. Perkins Program, Office of Economic Development, Innovation and Outreach, submitted a proposal to the Louisiana Community and Technical College System entitled, "Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Perkins V Basic Grant."

Mr. Jon Caliste, University Police Department, submitted a proposal to the U. S. Department of Justice entitled, "University Police Body Camera Grant." **Mr. Wesley Harrell** is collaborator.

Mr. Andrew Ferrell, National Center for Preservation, Technology and Training, submitted a proposal to the National Park Service entitled, "Tenant Cabin Documentation." **Jason Church and Isabella Jones** are collaborators.

Bridging the Divide Summer Series - Money Matters is underway

The 2022 Bridging the Divide Summer Series is a slate of interactive online professional development programming driven by the Universities of Louisiana Content Experts. Each of our four experts will lead a program focusing on their area of expertise: financial literacy, mental health, grant writing & research, and online teaching & learning. For inquiries and questions, please contact katie.dawson@ulsystem.edu or reach out directly to our Content Experts.

Money Matters: A UL System Financial Wellness Series

Wednesdays at noon

Through August 3

We all have financial dreams and goals that we want to achieve in the future. Knowing how to invest both strategically and responsibly is the foundation for achieving these dreams and goals. This series will help UL System faculty, staff and students gain the skills and confidence necessary to navigate the world of investing now and in the future.

Zoom with Dr. Bolton to have your questions answered in real time or access the recordings at any time upon conclusion of each session.

7/14 – Investing for Retirement, Education & Special Events

7/21 – Investing for International Students

7/28 – Tax Planning

8/3 – Career Planning: Your Money & Your Future

Resources and Assistance

For assistance in seeking information about funding opportunities, preparing proposals or administering projects, contact the Office of Sponsored Programs by phone, 357-5222; e-mail at orsp@nsula.edu, or visit the OSP website at <http://www.nsula.edu/orsp>.

OSP Staff

Carla Howell
Director

Alysia Jones
Associate
Director

Folk Fest will feature Cajun guitar workshop

The 42nd Annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival has announced the addition of an interactive workshop entitled “Beginning Cajun Guitar,” which will feature instruction by Lafayette-based guitarist and songwriter Yvette Landry with support from fiddler Beau Thomas. The workshop will be held at 12 p.m. on Saturday, July 23 in the N-Club Room of Prather Coliseum on the campus of Northwestern State University in Natchitoches. Guitarists of all experience levels are encouraged to bring their instruments. Admission to the workshop is included with paid admission to the festival. The 42nd Annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival will be held, 9 a.m.-10 p.m., on Saturday, July 23 in Prather Coliseum at 220 South Jefferson Street on the NSU campus. Admission is \$10 for the entire day, \$6 after 5 p.m., and free for children ages 12 and under.

The workshop “Beginning Cajun Guitar” was added to the festival lineup following the cancellation, due to illness, of a harmonica workshop featuring blues musician Ed Huey. Landry’s workshop will focus on playing rhythm guitar in traditional Cajun music using open and closed guitar chords. Several traditional Cajun songs will be used as



Yvette Landry

examples. The workshop will also demonstrate how to incorporate “bass runs” when changing from chord to chord in order to add bass and rhythm when playing as part of a traditional Cajun ensemble.

“Sharing music is like sharing sunshine,” Landry said. “Even on the darkest days it can bring joy. So come help spread a little Cajun sunshine!”

Landry plays a variety of instruments in bands such as the Lafayette Rhythm Devils and Bonsoir, Catin, as well as fronting her own bands, The Yvette Landry Trio and Yvette Landry and the Jukes. Her debut award-winning album titled

“Should Have Known” was released in 2010 and was named Offbeat Magazine’s “Best Country/Folk Album” and Landry “Best Country/Folk Artist.” Landry has traveled the world and played countless cultural festivals and venues and toured Russia and served as a Cultural Ambassador on behalf of the Library of Congress to perform at the Festival of Traditional American Music and graced the stage at both the Library of Congress and John F. Kennedy Center of Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. Landry is an educator, teaching American Sign Language

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and Song Writing at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She has also taught bass, guitar, accordion, and vocals at notable music camps including Cajun/Creole Week at the Augusta Heritage Center and the Louisiana Folk Roots Camp. Recently inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame, Landry strives to bring cultures and traditions together, ensuring that they will be passed along. Since her debut album in 2010, Landry has released four more CDs and was nominated for Offbeat Magazine's "Best of the Beat Awards" in two categories (Best Roots Rock Artist and Best Roots Rock Album).

Thomas, born and raised on the bayou in Abbeville, began playing the fiddle at the age of 17. With absolutely no training or musical background anywhere in his family, he immediately realized he had a gift from above. Within six months he was literally halfway around the world on a three-week tour.

When he returned home, he began playing professionally and has since shared some of the largest stages with the finest world class musicians, far too many to list. Thomas plays every style of music and is most known for his unique and crafty improvisational solos. He has recorded on over 1,200 recording sessions locally and for numerous

international artists. One of his latest received a Grammy award with recording artist Jo-El Sonnier. Thomas is a Louisiana State Fiddle Champion and winner of many local awards which he considers a great honor as there are so many accomplished musicians in Louisiana. His greatest joy is having the opportunity to work with virtually every artist around his home area of Southwest Louisiana.

Landry and Thomas will also perform a music set at the festival from 11:00-11:30 a.m. For more information on Yvette Landry visit www.yvettelandry.com.

[yvettelandry.com](http://www.yvettelandry.com). For complete festival details, visit www.nsula.edu/folklife.

Support for the Festival is provided by grants from the Cane River National Heritage Area, Inc., the Louisiana Division of the Arts, the Louisiana Office of Tourism, the Natchitoches Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival and Foundation and the Shreveport Regional Arts Council.



Earn comp time as a Folk Festival volunteer

The Natchitoches-Northwestern Folk Festival will be July 23 and volunteers are needed for many components of the Festival.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact **Dr. Shane Rasmussen** at rasmussens@nsula.edu.



JULY 23, 2022

Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival

The 2022 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival is seeking volunteers to join the fun and experience the festival from within. Every year the festival relies on volunteers to help with the various components such as providing Security and other positions as needed.

Volunteers will work inside air-conditioned Prather Coliseum and will be needed **Saturday, July 23 from 6:00 am until 10 pm.**



The Festival would not be a success without the valuable and deeply appreciated help of our Volunteer Corps. Thank you so much for being willing to help keep the Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival Alive and Kickin'!

Volunteers will receive no financial remuneration for the hours they work.

Perks for Festival Volunteers include:

FREE admission to all events on the day you work!

Listening to awesome live music & meeting great people!

FREE commemorative Festival T-shirt for working 5 or more hours!

***You do NOT have to be an NSU employee or student, resident of Natchitoches or a resident of Louisiana to volunteer.**

Louisiana Folklife Center

For more information on job descriptions, shifts, and how you can be a Festival Volunteer,

send an email to: folklife@nsula.edu or call 318-357-4332.