



## Presidential investiture Sept. 9

The investiture of **Dr. Marcus Jones** as Northwestern State University's 20<sup>th</sup> president will take place with a formal ceremony at 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 9 in A.A. Fredericks Auditorium and will be followed by a community reception in the Sylvan Friedman Student Union Ballroom.

Other events that will take place surrounding the investiture of Dr. Jones include a day of service and an outdoor event for students and a breakfast for faculty and staff. The breakfast will take place beginning at 8:30 a.m. Sept. 9, prior to the investiture ceremony.

More details will be available as plans are finalized. Updates will be posted at [www.nsula.edu](http://www.nsula.edu).

Jones was named the university's president last November.

## Keele earns Excellence in Advising Award

**Dr. Rondo Keele**, professor of philosophy in the Louisiana Scholars' College at Northwestern State University, was named the 2022 recipient of the Faculty Excellence in Academic Advising Award. The award, presented by the university's Academic Advising Services office, recognizes faculty for their mentorship and commitment to student success. Criteria include knowledge, helpfulness and accessibility and is based on student nominations.

"My philosophy on advising is one I took from a doctor I knew," Keele said. "He told me that he takes as much time with each patient as needed, and that this differs considerably from one case to the other. It sounds simple but it stuck with me. Some students practically advise themselves, and I just make sure they are on track and let them go. Some need a lot more, and I try to give it. I also try to get to know a bit about their backgrounds, and always look for red flags: does this student work long hours, or have a fear of math? First



Dr. Rondo Keele, right, is the 2022 recipient of Northwestern State University's Faculty Excellence in Academic Advising Award. Steve Hicks, left, presented the award, which is based on student nomination.

generation? Clear career goals or quite uncertain? Anticipating possible roadblocks in advance lets me give better advice."

One student who nominated Keele provided the following insight.

"My advisor has been incredibly helpful to me in that he tells it like it is. Not everyone benefits from people sugarcoating things. Not only does he tell it like it is, but he also offers concrete solutions to whatever situation you're in, good or bad. In fact, I'd venture to say he was like a

second parent to me."

"In the spring of 2001, the provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, along with the dean of the University College, established this recognition," said **Steve Hicks**, director of NSU's Academic Advising Services. "The intent was to recognize 9-month faculty advisors for outstanding service."

Keele took a B.A. in Philosophy and a B.S. in Anthropology at the University of Utah, where

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**INVESTITURE GUIDE FOR  
FACULTY & STAFF**



**SCHEDULE**

- » 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM: Faculty/Staff Breakfast, Hanchey Gallery
- » 9:15 AM - Faculty/Staff meet in Magale Recital Hall
- » 9:30 AM - Faculty/Staff photo
- » 9:45 AM - Faculty/Staff begin lineup for procession
- » 9:55 AM - Faculty/Staff procession into A.A. Fredericks
- » 10:00 AM - Investiture Ceremony

**ATTIRE**

- » Academic regalia; no caps
- » Hanging racks will be available on Magale Recital Hall Stage

**MACE BEARER**

- » Dr. John T. Dunn, Faculty Senate President and Assistant Professor of Fine Arts

**FACULTY MARSHALS**

- » Dr. Neeru Deep, Department Head of Psychology
- » Dorothy Jones, Assistant Professor of Economics
- » *Marshals are responsible for gathering and leading faculty/staff in procession*

**FACULTY/STAFF HOSTS:**

- » Gallaspy Family College of Education and Human Development: Dr. Christy Hornsby and Dr. Jaehun Jung
- » College of Arts and Sciences: Dr. Keith Dromm, Dr. James MacDonald, and Professor Michael Yankowski
- » College of Business and Technology: Dr. Ronnie Abulakef and Professor McKenna Marsh
- » College of Nursing and School of Allied Health: Dr. Tammy Curtis and Dr. Tamara Manns

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- » Following the ceremonial Investiture of Dr. Marcus Jones, all are welcome to attend the Community Reception in the Sylvan Friedman Student Union Ballroom.
- » The Investiture Community Reception is open to the public and will start at approximately 12:00 p.m. For more information on Investiture activities visit <https://nsu.la/investiture>

*Keele ... Continued from Page 1*

he also completed a master's degree in Philosophy. For his philosophy Ph.D. at Indiana University he studied medieval philosophy, logic and German Idealism, also completing a Ph.D. minor in Religious Studies and a certificate in Medieval Studies.

His research areas include

William of Ockham (d. 1347) and his contemporaries, and late medieval scholasticism more generally. He lectures in the College's great books sequence, and also teaches ancient philosophy, medieval philosophy, logic, gnostic Christianity and classical Latin poetry. He has written books

and articles on Franciscan theologian William of Ockham, and his contemporaries Walter Chatton and Peter Auriol.

In his spare time during the semester he enjoys racquetball and bird watching, but in the summer he disappears into the dusty warrens of Cairo, Egypt, and is seldom heard from.

# Faculty tenure, promotions approved

Thirteen Northwestern State University faculty have received tenure and 16 faculty have been recommended for promotion, according to Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs **Dr. Greg Handel**. The university's tenure and promotion recommendations have been approved by the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System.

Those receiving tenure are **Hassan Ardakani** of the School of Social Sciences and Applied Programs, **Alicia Book**, **John Jarvis** and

**Leah Pearce** of the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health, **Anna Dugas**, **Li Ma** and **Daniel Rivera** of the School of Biological and Physical Sciences, **Benjamin Forkner** and **Rebecca Maciejcki** of the Department of English, Foreign Languages and Cultural Studies, **Chialing Hsieh** and **Robert Richoux** of the Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts, **Weiwen Liao** and **Valerie Salter** of the School of Business.

Receiving promotion to full professor were **Jafar Al-Sharab** of the Department of

Engineering Technology and **Masahito Kuroda** of the Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts. Receiving promotion to associate professor were **John Dunn** and **Melody Gilbert**, Hsieh, **Karn Richoux** and **Robert Richoux** of the Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts, Forkner and Maciejcki, Jarvis, **Stacey Joslin**, Pearce and **Melissa Rennie** of the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health, **Dean Konstantaras** of the

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You are cordially invited to the Investiture Faculty and Staff Breakfast at Orville Hanchey Art Gallery from 8:30am - 9:30am on Friday, September 9, 2022. Kindly RSVP at the link below.

Attached you will find an Investiture Guide for Faculty and Staff with the schedule and other important details. I look forward to seeing each of you at this event and request that you RSVP below.

<https://www.engagensu.com/facstaffbreakfastsvp/>



**Yonna Pasch & Vanner Erikson**

## Pasch, Erikson have new roles at Northwestern

NSU has named **Dr. Yonna Pasch** director of Student Affairs and **Vanner Erikson** interim director of Enrollment Management and director of Recruiting.

As director of Student Affairs, Pasch is responsible for the leadership and oversight of seven Student Affairs departments including Accessibility & Disability Support, Counseling and Career Services, First-Year Experience, Fraternal and Civic Engagement, Health Services, Student Activities and Leadership Development and TRIO & Student Support Services. The Division of Student Affairs professionals connect with students to provide vital services, resources and learning opportunities preparing them for work and life beyond NSU.

“We are dedicated to ensuring each student and staff member can learn, grow, and develop while at NSU,” Pasch said.

Pasch earned a bachelor’s degree in hospitality management and tourism and

a master’s degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education at NSU and a doctorate in higher education with certification in higher education administration from Louisiana Tech. She has worked in higher education for 19 years, starting as an adjunct instructor in the Student Affairs in Higher Education degree program. Her work in student affairs includes student activities programming, fraternity and sorority life, student organizations, student union facilities, intramurals and leadership development.

As an undergraduate, Pasch was part of the NSU rowing team and Alpha Sigma Alpha Sorority. She has been married to Alan Pasch, a 2001 and 2006 graduate of NSU, for 21 years and they have a son, Amsden, 12.

“It is an extreme honor to serve as the next director of Student Affairs at Northwestern State University,” Pasch said. “NSU is an outstanding academic institution with a diverse and talented student body and caring higher education professionals. I am

excited to work alongside the leadership, staff, faculty, students, alumni and community members in this new capacity as we chart a path forward for Northwestern State University.”

As interim director of Enrollment Management and director of Recruiting, Erikson’s purview includes Recruiting, Financial Aid and Admissions. Prior to his current role, he’s been a part of the NSU Family since 2007, as an undergraduate and graduate student, recruiter, Alumni director and director of First Year Experience.

In the community, Erikson serves as the chair of the Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission, chair of the Board of the Directors of both the Chamber of Commerce and Cane River National Heritage Area and member of the Ready Start Natchitoches Early Childhood Board. He helped recharter the local Boys and Girls Club in Natchitoches, and now sits on the state board. He and his wife Aly, also an NSU graduate,

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# LACE names Cunningham Outstanding New Professional

**Rachel Cunningham**, assistant director of Counseling and Career Services at NSU was named Outstanding New Professional in the Louisiana Association of Colleges and Employers (LACE).

LACE is an organization whose goal is to create an understanding between individuals in career services who are focused on the career development and employment of the college educated. LACE supports professionals who promote and foster relationships among the constituents, serve as the voice of the profession and create and retain leaders in the profession by facilitating the exchange of knowledge and insight. LACE provides professional development, promotes high professional standards and identifies trends, issues, challenges and opportunities in the profession.

Cunningham's nomination read as follows.

"Rachel joined Career Services one month before the COVID transition to virtual services. Being new to the profession, she had to learn about her role and career services from home. She jumped into the LACE community without hesitation asking about resources and learning on-the-go. She joined the coffee chats and was featured in the LACE newsletter. In her short time in the field, she has been promoted



**Rachel Cunningham**

to assistant director and brought in a new team of staff to help continue the quality services of her center. Without a doubt, I know that this individual has much more to show our career services and LACE community in her determination for success and team-oriented mindset."

Prior to joining the staff in Counseling and Career Services, Cunningham was an educator who taught in Natchitoches Parish for 28 years and coached for 20 years. She was a Master Teacher for eight years, worked with student teachers and was an adjunct instructor in NSU's School of Education. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education at NSU in 1992 and a Master's of Education in 1996. She joined the NSU staff in 2020 and faced a steep learning curve working from home

during the pandemic. Her colleagues in LACE were helpful in answering questions and sharing knowledge as she learned best practices and how to help students while working remotely, she said.

NSU's Office of Career Services assists students with career planning by hosting career fairs and offering guidance with resumes, mock interviews, internships, career counseling, career assessments and full- and part-time employment.

Cunningham said the benefits of LACE, and the larger related organizations National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) and Southern Association of Colleges and Employers (SOACE) are the shared ideas and resources. Almost every college in Louisiana has a representative in LACE.

"One of the first things I did was join LACE, NACE and SOACE to stay familiar with continuing education opportunities and learn about resources that were available to me that were beneficial for our students and outside employers," Cunningham said.

Information is available at [careercenter.nsula.edu](http://careercenter.nsula.edu). The office can be found on Twitter (@NSULAJobs), Facebook (NSULA Career Center) and Instagram (nsulacareercenter) using the hashtag #hirepurple.

## *Pasch, Erikson ... Continued from Page 4*

have two daughters, Landry and Gray.

"I'm looking forward to implement new strategies in automation, data-analytics and customer service in regards to recruiting and retention, where we will become more student-centric in all that we do," Erikson said. "We

have a great team in Enrollment Services and Student Affairs that make up the Student Experience Division and I look forward to cross-collaboration and innovative initiatives that bridge the gap to External and Academic Affairs."

*Tenure, promotions ... Continued from Page 3*

Louisiana Scholars' College, Ma and **Vianka Miranda** of the School of Business.

Ardakani earned his bachelor's degree in theoretical economics from Shiraz University in Shiraz, Iran, and his master's degree in economics from the Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran, Iran. After coming to the United States, he entered the doctorate program in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness at Louisiana State University and received his doctoral degree in August 2009.

After working on a project at LSU for 18 months, he returned to school and received a Master of Science in Analytics from LSU in 2013.

He started his second doctoral program in 2013 in Business Administration with emphasis on business analytics at LSU and received his second doctoral degree in August 2020. He has been working as an assistant professor at Northwestern State since 2017.

His research interests are biofuel, big data analytics, human trafficking and statistical modeling. His teaching interests include data analytics, statistical methods, macroeconomics, microeconomics and international trade. Ardakani is teaching courses in macroeconomics and microeconomics.

Book, an assistant professor of nursing, completed her ASN at Louisiana State University at Alexandria, Bachelor of

Science in Nursing in 2005 and Master of Science in Nursing in Maternal-Child Nursing Education in 2007 at Northwestern State. Her areas of interest include active learning strategies in the classroom and utilization of simulation in nursing education.

Book began her nursing career in pediatrics, then moved to the emergency department. She served as a charge nurse and mentor new to new graduates. She began teaching as an adjunct faculty at LSU in 2006, then moved to a full-time position after completing her MSN. She was tenured at LSU and received the Bolton Award for Excellence in Teaching. She joined the Northwestern State faculty in 2016 when the ASN program expanded to the CENLA Campus. She is active with numerous committees within the NSU College of Nursing and the university. Book is involved with the National League for Nurses, the Sigma Theta Tau Nursing Honor Society and several community organizations supporting mothers and babies.

Dugas instructs physics courses and is the principal investor for the Biological & Electrical Applied Physics (BEAP) laboratory where environmental sensing, robotics and biomechanical applications are explored. She also serves as the Louisiana Space Grant Consortium (LaSPACE) Affiliate Institutional Coordinator for NSULA and the Louisiana

School for Math, Science and the Arts, and is the mentor for the active LaACES sounding balloon student team who have launched three payloads to space for atmospheric study. Dugas is a 2021 winner of the Excellence in Teaching Award for the College of Arts and Sciences and has been involved in the cross-disciplinary project CAPA-COVID to design and make personal protective equipment for music classes.

Forkner was born in Nantes, France. After finishing his License and Masters in English at the Université d'Angers, Forkner moved to Baton Rouge and completed his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature in 2012 at LSU. As coordinator of the Foreign Languages Resource Center, the center has flourished, with the addition of more tutors, needed equipment and an extensive library of French and Spanish films. Forkner worked closely with the administration in the implementation of a highly successful international student exchange program between NSU and the University of Angers. Forkner's recent scholarship has been fruitful. In 2020 he participated in the LFLTA regional conference and the Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars conference. In 2021 he presented research at both the Louisiana Studies and ACLA annual conferences and has had two academic articles

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## *Tenure, promotions ... Continued from Page 6*

accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed Louisiana Folklife Journal.

An avid performer of contemporary music, Hsieh is devoted to promoting new piano solo and chamber works. Hsieh has been a featured pianist on seven CD's for the Centaur, Innova, Enharmonic and Ballpark record labels. Hsieh has received several grants to promote new American music, including an Artist Enrichment Grant from the Kentucky Foundation for Women and Prince Endowed Professorship in Music.

Hsieh has performed recitals in Europe, Asia, and throughout the United States. A sought-after collaborative pianist, she performs regularly at universities and conferences for CMS, MTNA, NATS, SCI, North American Saxophone Alliance, National Flute Society, International Clarinet Association, International Viola Congress, World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles and the Southeastern Composers' League. Hsieh has given master classes throughout the United States and abroad and served as a judge and adjudicator for competitions and events.

Jarvis is an associate professor of English and coordinator of graduate studies in English at NSU. Jarvis teaches courses on literature, especially British literature broadly defined in relation to British imperialism. He loves teaching "Introduction to Literature," part of NSU's

core curriculum, and has recently conducted courses on Black British writers and conversation in and among 18<sup>th</sup> century novels. He is a faculty advisor for NSU's Nu Iota Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta International English Society and humanities content editor for a regional peer-reviewed journal of undergraduate research "Papers and Publications."

Jarvis specializes in British literature of the long 18th century (1660-1830). His research, which often focuses on interactions between literature and social systems, includes publication on Thomas Sprat's "The History of the Royal Society" and political partisanship as social networking in late 17<sup>th</sup> century England. His article "Olivia's Kingdoms: Referencing Carby's 'Imperial Intimacies in The Woman of Colour (1808)'" is forthcoming in fall 2022.

Liao is an associate professor of management/international business and holds the Karl & Linda Moore Endowed Professorship in Business. She joined NSU in 2015 after more than a decade of teaching and research in both China and Canada. Her teaching focus is international business and operations management. She holds a Ph.D. in Management.

Liao has more than 20 publications in peer-reviewed academic journals, proceedings, and books in both US and China. Her latest articles are with the Journal

of Education for Business and the Journal of Behavioral and Applied Management. She is the member of the Academy of Management (AOM), the Academy of International Business (AIB), the Association of North America Higher Education International (ANAHEI), the National Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association of America (NCBFFA) and Phi Beta Delta – Honor Society for International Scholars (PBD).

Ma is an associate professor in the School of Biological and Physical Sciences. Ma graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Ph.D. in cellular and molecular biology and performed his postdoctoral training at Baylor College of Medicine before joining NSU in fall 2017. During his years at NSU, he has taught a number of courses at various levels ranging from General microbiology to chemistry for the College of Nursing and Allied Health. His research focuses on bacteriophage therapy. His research work has led to two endowed professorships, John McIlhenny Endowed Professor of Biology in 2018 and University of Louisiana System Foundation and NRMC Foundation Endowed Professorship in Biological and Physical Sciences in 2022.

Macijeski is an associate professor in the Department of English, Languages, and Cultural Studies, where she is

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also coordinator of Creative Writing Programs. She earned her Ph.D. from University of Nebraska—Lincoln and her MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts. Since joining NSU faculty in 2017, she has overseen the creation of a creative writing concentration and minor. She also serves as the faculty advisor for Argus, NSU’s student Art & Literary Magazine. Her poems have been published in dozens of journals and anthologies, including abroad. She has been nominated for Best of the Net and a Pushcart Prize, and her manuscripts have been named finalists for numerous prizes. She enjoys advising student writers in the development of their own aesthetic and voice, and finding new ways to collaborate with other areas of the University. Her poetry chapbook, “Autobiography,” will be released through Split Rock Press in late 2022.

Pearce has been a member of Northwestern State’s faculty since 2005 and has been Cenla campus coordinator since 2021. In that role, she is responsible for day to day functions of the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health on the Cenla campus. Pearce plans and coordinates campus events and does strategic planning for the campus. As a faculty member, she was the instructor for didactic and clinical courses for the ASN and BSN program. Pearce worked in the private sector for a decade as a charge nurse, staff nurse and director. She

has made presentations to several regional and state organizations and is active in professional organizations on the local, state and national level. Pearce earned a Bachelor of Business Administration Finance/Economics at Northeast Louisiana University, a Bachelor of Science, Nursing from Louisiana College and a Master of Science, Nursing and Doctor of Nursing Practice from Northwestern State.

Robert Richoux is a 2007 graduate of Northwestern State in Theatre: Design and Technology and Performance and Directing. He worked for the Alabama Shakespeare Festival for a year before entering graduate school. Robert Richoux attended The Florida State University where he received his Master of Fine Arts in Technical Production. He then moved to New Haven, Connecticut, to work for Global Scenic Services where he worked on Broadway and Off Broadway productions and fashion shows. He then moved to Austin, Texas, to work as the assistant technical director for the ZACH Theatre. He spent one year as the ATD, before becoming the technical director. He is director of new BFA in production and design, as well as the technical director for NSU Theatre and Dance. Some of his favorite shows to contribute to have been “Les Miserables,” “Peter and the Starcatcher,” “Harvey,” “The Drowsy Chaperone,” “All the Way,” “Parade” and “One

Man, Two Guvnors.”

Rivera has been a member of Northwestern State’s faculty since 2017, teaching undergraduate classes and laboratories of general chemistry for majors and non-majors and organic chemistry laboratories using a classroom-based approach and online course material. He earned a Bachelor of Science in chemistry and a Ph.D. in applied chemistry from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez campus. He held the Senator Gerald Long Professorship in the 2021-22 academic year. Rivera has been the co-author of nine publications for professional journals. He served as principal or co-principal investigator for five grants worth more than \$140,000 to the university. The largest grant was \$116,000 for the purchase of a desktop 80-MHz NMR instrument.

Salter holds a B.S. in Hospitality Management and Tourism from Northwestern State, an M.A. in Teaching from Louisiana College, and a Master of Hospitality Administration from University of Nevada, Las Vegas. In her current role as interim coordinator of Hospitality Management and Tourism at Northwestern State, she teaches courses in professionalism, personal finance and serves as an internship supervisor. As a Ph.D. candidate (ABD) at Iowa State University, she is researching food safety at fairs and festivals.

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Al-Sharab is serving as the Head of Engineering Technology Department at Northwestern State. He received B.S. In Industrial Engineering from the University of Jordan, M.Sc. in Metallurgical and Materials Science Engineering from the Science University of Malaysia, and Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University/ Nashville, Tennessee. Prior to joining NSU, Al-Sharab was an Instructional and Research Faculty at Rutgers University where he was heavily involved in research and teaching at both graduate and undergraduate levels.

Al-Sharab's research interests are in the areas of nanotechnology, and structure-property correlations. He is an active member of the ICDD, ASEE and other professional organizations related to his professional career and research interests. He is currently serving as a director on the Engineering Technology Council (ETC). Al-Sharab authored more than 70 technical papers, most of which in high impact journals. In the last few years, he has been heavily involved in STEM related activities.

Kuroda joined the NSU faculty in 2001, teaching euphonium, tuba and sound recording. He received B.M. degree from Tokyo Gakugei University, M.M. from Morehead State University, and Artis Doctor Musica in euphonium performance from National Academy of Music and Performing Arts in

Slovak Republic. Receiving full scholarship from Japanese Ministry of Education, he studied with many renowned low brass artists in the U.S., U.K., Netherlands, and Germany. He has appeared as a guest euphonium artist in music schools in the U.S., Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, and Far East Asia. Most notably, he held the county's first euphonium recital/masterclass in Slovak Republic. He has performed with Baton Rouge Symphony, Rapides Symphony, South Arkansas Symphony, Shreveport Symphony/Opera, and Camerata Academica Chamber Orchestra Tokyo, and is a founding member of British Brass Band Society of Louisiana. Together with NSU Euphonium-Tuba Ensemble he directs, he researches the new possibility of musical expression utilizing various tuba family instruments and electronic enhancement.

Dunn serves as the course steward for the core curriculum fine arts courses. At NSU, he has taught fine arts survey, music history, music for stage and screen, a seminar on music and disability studies and several music theory courses. He is currently the President of the Faculty Senate and has been the faculty sponsor of the NSU Gamers' Guild. He recently completed his doctorate at Louisiana State University in Musicology; his dissertation explored the representation of disability in the music of Alfred Hitchcock films. His emphasis

of study is film music, romantic and 20<sup>th</sup> century music history, music and disability studies and music in popular culture, presenting papers on "WandaVision," music, trauma and nostalgia and also magical realism and "Encanto" at recent Popular Culture Association National Conferences. Dunn is affiliated with the Film Music Society, the Society for Disability Studies, the American Musicological Society, the Popular Culture Society, the National Council For Faculty Senate and the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates.

Gilbert is an award-winning documentary filmmaker who has directed, produced, filmed, and edited 12 feature-length documentaries (and a couple of shorts) that have screened at noteworthy film festivals and been distributed internationally via broadcast or VOD (Amazon, iTunes, Netflix, etc.). Two films she produced recently received national recognition: a national Emmy nomination for "BENEATH THE INK" (2019) and an Alfred I. duPont award for "LOVE THEM FIRST" (2020). Gilbert is also a passionate educator who has taught journalism and filmmaking for more than 20 years at universities around the globe, from Bulgaria (American University in Bulgaria) to Minnesota (Carleton College, University of Minnesota). A recipient of the prestigious McKnight

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Foundation Artist Fellowship, Melody is also the founder of Docuclub Minnesota, co-chair of the Film Fatales MN chapter, and founder of Docuclub MN.

She is also a tutor for emerging filmmakers in Eastern Europe, most recently in Moldova. Prior to making films, Melody was an award-winning broadcast journalist. The Documentary Channel once called her “one of the most fearless filmmakers in contemporary documentary cinema.” To see trailers of all her films, go to: [www.frozenfeetfilm.com](http://www.frozenfeetfilm.com).

Joslin, DNP, RN teaches in the Associate of Science in Nursing program at Northwestern State. She completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Louisiana College, Master of Science in Nursing at Lamar University and Doctor of Nursing Practice at Northwestern State. Joslin has more than 25 years of nursing experience in medical/surgical nursing, geriatrics, case management and rehabilitation. Her masters and doctoral work focused on identification and implications of hydration status among rehabilitation patients.

Kostantaras has been a member of the faculty in the Louisiana Scholars’ College since 2017. In addition to his teaching duties, he is the external relations manager for the Scholars’ College. He earned a Ph.D. at George Washington University in European history and is the author of “Nationalism and

Revolution in Europe, 1763 – 1848” published in 2020 and “Infamy and Revolt: The Rise of the National Problem in Early Modern Greek Thought” published in 2006. Kostantaras has had 10 articles published in national and international professional journals. He has made numerous presentations at professional conferences. He has taught at Northern Virginia Community College, Prince George’s Community College, George Washington University, York University and the University of Illinois at Chicago before joining the Scholars’ College.

Miranda has been a member of NSU’s faculty since 2017. She has worked closely with colleagues on professional research and presentations which have helped enhance the reputation of the School of Business. Three publications have been published in the past three years in professional journals with one other article pending. Miranda is active as a peer reviewer for several professional publications.

Miranda is the School of Business’ coordinator of accreditation and strategic planning. She was the Tommy Johnson Endowed Professor in Business from 2019-22 and was named the Kilpatrick Life Insurance Endowed Professor in Business earlier this year. She has been responsible for developing two new courses in the graduate program in computer information systems. Miranda earned a Bachelor of Art in Economics from Tulane University,

a Master of Business Administration from the University of New Orleans and a Doctor of Business Administration from Walden University.

Rennie has been a member of NSU’s faculty since 2008. In 2016, she became second level coordinator in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. In 2021, she was the recipient of Northwestern’s Excellence in Teaching Award for the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health. Before joining NSU’s faculty, she worked for a decade in the private sector at Christus Schumpert Hospital and LifeCare Hospitals of Shreveport.

Rennie earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Louisiana at Monroe and a Master of Science in Nursing and a Doctor of Nursing Practice at Northwestern State. She is active in professional organizations including being a member of the board of directors of the Shreveport District Nurses Association.

Karn Richoux received her M.F.A. in Technical Production of Theatre from Florida State University, where she met her husband and fellow Technical Director, Robert Richoux. They lived in Austin, Texas, for three years, where she expanded her love of teaching the next generation of theatre technicians and artists at McCallum Fine Arts Academy.

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## Faculty/staff honored for years of service



Northwestern State University recognized several long-time faculty and staff with years of service honors during the university's faculty/staff lunch Monday. From left are Denise Dubois (25 years), Terry Isbell, Curtis Brossett, Dr. Frank Serio, Yvette Ceasar-Williams, David Antilley, Betty Creamer and Dale Wohletz (30 years) and Cindy Davis (25 years), all congratulated by NSU President Dr. Marcus Jones. Not pictured are Dr. Richard DeVault, Brenda Milner and Angie Perot (25 years), Dr. Ann Deshotels, Juddy Hamous, Jennifer Long and Jana Lucky (30 years), Diane Blake-Jones, Ann Spillman, Dr. Lisa Wolfe and Michael Yankowski (35 years), Rosetta Patterson (40 years), and Dr. Pete Gregory (60 years).

## People: Thompson returns to Lancaster Festival



**Dr. J. Mark Thompson**, professor of music, returned for his 25th season as bass trombone with the Lancaster Festival in Ohio

from July 19-30.

This season's highlights included a Gala Orchestra Thirty-Fifth Anniversary Concert, a Disney-themed family concert, and several performances with the Festival Low Brass Quartet.

Highlights this season included the first weekend concert with Grammy Award winner Rick Springfield and the final concert with CMT Music Award winner Billy Currington.

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Minnesota, she went to Hamline University in St. Paul, and worked for four summers at the Paul Bunyan Playhouse in Bemidji, and

one summer at the Guthrie Theater.

In addition to her role at NSU teaching Intro to Theatre, Applied Theatre, Stage

Management and Portfolio classes, Karn Richoux is the technical director at the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts.

# Office of Sponsored Programs

## Resources and Assistance

For assistance in seeking information about funding opportunities, preparing proposals, or administering projects, contact the Sponsored Programs Office (SPO) by phone at 357-5222, email at [spo@nsula.edu](mailto:spo@nsula.edu), or visit the [SPO](#) website.

## SPO Staff

Carla Howel, Director of Purchasing and Sponsored Programs Administration & ULS Research/Grant Content Expert

Alysia L. Jones, Associate Director

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## CONGRATULATIONS

**Ms. Anna Dugas**, School of Biological and Physical Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, received notification of an \$11,058 award from the Louisiana Space Grant Consortium (LaSPACE) entitled, “DemonSats-4: Continued Student Payload Design Program at NSULA.”

**Dr. Kent Peacock**, LA Creole Heritage Center, College of Arts and Sciences/School of Sciences and Applied Programs, received notification of a \$10,000 award from the Cane River National Heritage Area entitled, “Creole Heritage Center at NSU.”

**Ms. Nancy Alexander**, Child and Family Network, College of Education and Human Development, received notification of a \$2,023,859 award from the Louisiana Department of Education for “Statewide Early Learning and Child Care Scholarship Program.” **Ms. Jenny Cowan** is collaborator.

## CURRENT ACTIVITIES

**Dr. Shane Rasmussen**, LA Folklife Center, College of Arts and Sciences, submitted a proposal to the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation, Inc. entitled, “The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Natchitoches – NSU Folk Festival.”

**Dr. Shane Rasmussen**, LA Folklife Center, College of Arts and Sciences, submitted a proposal to the National Endowment for the Arts entitled, “2023 Natchitoches – NSU Folk Festival.”

**Dr. Tara Tietjen-Smith**, Department of Health and Human Performance, College of Education and Human Development, submitted a proposal to The Rapides Foundation entitled, “Creating a CenLA Pipeline to Success in Health Careers: Collaborative Engagement and

Empowerment Initiative (EEI).” **Dr. Jackie Calhoun** is collaborator.

**Dr. Joel Hicks**, College of Nursing and School of Allied Health, submitted a proposal to The Rapides Foundation entitled, “Enhancing the Pathway to Healthcare Occupations Among K-12 Students.” **Drs. Anna Morris** and **Cindy McGuire** are collaborators.

**Dr. Leah Pearce**, College of Nursing and School of Allied Health, submitted a proposal to The Rapides Foundation entitled, “Increasing the BSN Workforce in Alexandria by Expanding Clinical Admissions.” **Drs. Anna Morris** and **Cindy McGuire** are collaborators.

**Mr. Steven Gruesbeck**, Office of Service-Learning, College of Education and Human Development, submitted a proposal to The Rapides Foundation entitled, “Healthcare Academic and Career Exploration (A.C.E).”

## LA BOARD OF REGENTS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FY 2022-2023

Requests for Proposals for the FY 2022-2023 Louisiana Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF) competitive cycle are now available at <https://web.laregents.org>. When submitting proposals to the Sponsored Programs Office, please complete the required [Routing Form](#) which is electronically formatted for obtaining approval signatures. A working draft or nearly complete copy of the proposal, a budget/budget justification and supporting documentation should accompany these forms during the approval process.

If you should have any questions or have interests in submitting a proposal, please contact either Carla Howell or Alysia Jones at [spo@nsula.edu](mailto:spo@nsula.edu) or 318.357.5222 to discuss the proposal preparation process.