



NSU News

A Publication for the Northwestern State University Faculty & Staff

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PEOPLE

Dr. Holly Stave presented a paper, "Reclaiming Medea: Jessmyn Ward's *Salvage the Bones*," at the Collegium for African American Research, which met at Florida Central University in Orlando January 30-February 2.

Dr. Rebecca Macijeski's poem "Death's Practicum" has been published in *Bluesteam Magazine*. Macijeski also has two poems out in the recent Pink Issue of the *Fairy Tale Review*. These poems are part of her yeti series and are the first ones to appear in print.

Macijeski is an assistant professor in the Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Cultural Studies and the creative writing program coordinator.

- APRIL 12th -13th, 9am - 5pm
- Open admission--Free to the public



3rd annual LitCon celebrates the humanities

Northwestern State University's third annual LitCon, a celebration of the humanities, will be held Friday, April 12-Saturday, April 13 at NSU's Orville Hanchey Gallery from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. each day. The event recognizes how various creative endeavors are interlinked and will feature a wide variety of presentations and workshops along with a book and art fair where vendors will share and sell their works.

Event Co-Organizer **Dr. Rebecca Macijeski** said presentations and workshops will include talks on literary analysis of video games, interpretations of pop culture, information about

podcasts and podcasting and workshops on print making, comedy improv, creative writing and more.

Katie Bickham, a poet and English faculty member at Bossier Parish Community College, will host a reading and signing of her new collection of poetry, *Mouths Open to Name Her*, out now with LSU Press.

The event is free and open to the public.

"The event is being held over two days this year in order to open it up to participants and guests from the broader region," Macijeski said. "This year we circulated a call for proposals inviting writers, artists and other humanities-related folks

to submit proposals for possible selection at LitCon. We received a high number of very interesting proposals from seven regional institutions other than NSU, and we will have presenters who are undergraduate students, graduate students and university faculty. Hosting the event over two days will allow us to offer many more presentations and workshops."

The event will also feature a Cosplay contest during the lunch hour on both days. Participants can come dressed as their favorite author or artist.

More details will be released soon on LitCon's facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/>

Natchitoches Writing Marathon starts downtown April 19

Northwestern State University's Department of English, Foreign Languages and Cultural Studies invites the public to participate in the Natchitoches Writing Marathon Friday, April 19.

Participants will explore their way around downtown Natchitoches, gathering at 12:30 p.m. at Cane Break Café, 105

Church St., and afterward at 4:30 p.m. at Maglieaux's, 805 Washington St.

The event is free and open to the public. Register by April 8 for a free writing journal.

For more information, contact **Rebecca Macijeski** at macijeskir@nsula.edu or call (318) 357-5801.

Northwestern State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, age, pregnancy or parenting status, and veteran or retirement status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

The following have been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies (i.e., Title IX): Employees/Potential Employees - Veronica M. Biscoe, EEO Officer (318-357-6359) or Students - Frances Conine, Dean of Students (318-357-5286).

For Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) concerns, contact the Disability Support and Tutoring Director, Catherine Fauchaux, at 318-357-4460.

*Inquiries regarding employment applications should call Business Affairs (318-357-5446).



Clockwise from top right are Robin Horton, Dawn Stevens, Gregory Lane and Jaime Hankins.

Grad students write La-CEC mini-grants for classrooms

Several Northwestern State University graduate students completing Master of Education, Master of Arts in Teaching or add-on certification in special education were awarded mini-grants by the Louisiana Council for Exceptional Children (LA-CEC). The \$425 grants will be used in the students' classrooms and includes a one-year membership in the organization.

Students were awarded the mini-grants by following guidelines to apply for funding as a class project. Grants are awarded for projects that educate children with exceptionalities, improve relationships within families of children with exceptionalities, develop independent living or employment skills for students with exceptionalities or use technology to enhance education for children/youth with exceptionalities.

"Students learned the step-by-step grant writing process including the project description, statement of need, description of the classroom population, project objectives, project activities and project timeline, evaluation procedures, project benefits, project budget and a letter of endorsement," said **Dr. Barb Duchardt**, professor of special education. "Furthermore, they can be entrepreneurs by writing and

procuring larger grants for their classrooms and school."

NSU award winners were Kriston Brewer, Jaimie Hankins, Robin Horton, Mary Huff, Cindy Hughes, Gregory Lane, Kelli McCarter and Dawn Evans.

Four of the eight graduate students who attended the LA-CEC conference – Lane, Horton, Hankins and Stevens -- displayed their mini-grant at a poster session.

Huff, who teaches at Mary Goff Elementary School in Rapides Parish, detailed a project focused on providing students with engaging manipulatives – physical objects that can be used as teaching tools - and sensory-stimulating activities to develop phonemic awareness and phonics, in which students listen to and break down the sound of words to improve reading comprehension and spelling.

Huff teaches students with learning and intellectual disabilities, hearing and vision impairment and developmental delays. Her grant was entitled "Reading Made Possible with Manipulative Interventions."

"I have never written a grant before, so this was very valuable in understanding and

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News from the Cammie G. Henry Research Center

In the evening of February 1, **Sharon Wolff**, **Sonny Carter** and **Mary Linn Wernet** attended the opening of the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame & Northwest Louisiana History Museum's exhibit, "*The Pelican State Goes to War.*"

Around noon on February 9, Wernet attended the Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches Annual Luncheon Meeting and was delighted to hear Pat Austin Becker's presentation on her work, "*Cane River Bohemia: Cammie Henry and Her Circle at Melrose Plantation.*" In the late afternoon of February 13, the Research Center held an opening reception of "The Sound of History," created by Assistant Archivist Sharon Wolff. During the Reception, violinists Sharon Wolff and her brother, U.S. Airforce 1st Lt. and Weather Officer Scott Wolff played a selection of exhibited music. During the day of February 15, Wernet attended the Bicentennial Celebration of *No Man's Land* at Fort Jesup State Historic Site.

On March 7, Sharon Wolff, Head of Technical Processing and Cataloger Debbie Huntington, History Professor Dr. Charles Pellegrin and Athletics Administrative Assistant Ronnette Pellegrin traveled to Rapides Parish Westside Library in Alexandria, Louisiana where Wernet presented "Women and their Collections in the NSU Cammie G. Henry Research Center: Interwoven Themes and Shared Herstories." This invited lecture was the 5th Annual Women's History Month

Cavanaugh Lecture Series and was sponsored by LSU History and Political Science Department, the Cavanaugh Lecture Committee and the Rapides Parish Library.

In the morning of March 8, the Cammie G. Henry Research Center exhibited a Carl Friedrich Gauss Exhibit during the 2019 NSU Demon Math Classic. The exhibited Gauss material were pulled from the CGHRC's Waldo Dunnington Collection. During the afternoon of March 9, Sonny Carter and Wernet attended the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame & Northwest Louisiana History Museum's sponsored program, "WWII Memories of a Local Hero," by Dr. Randall Keator, II.

At the end March, March 28-29, Wolff and Wernet attend the Louisiana Historical Association Annual Meeting in Lafayette. As Chair of the Publication's Committee and President's Award Committee, Wernet met with other members of the committee to select the best article published in the 2018 *Louisiana History Journal*. Also, as Chair of the Archives and Records Committee, Wernet delivered the committee report during the Board of Directors Meeting. Wernet was among four presenters during a session "Together We Can Rock the World: The Women's Club Movement in Louisiana, 1860-1930," where she presented "The Lesche Club of Natchitoches: A Women's Literary Club."

Mini-grants ... Continued from Page 1

learning how to complete a grant properly," Huff said. "I have shared what I learned with co-workers so they can write a grant to provide materials for their students."

Hankins, a teacher at Union Central Elementary in Caldwell Parish, plans to use her grant

materials to help her students learn concepts of time and money, which will encourage them to be more aware of their community and people in it.

Lane, who teaches at Natchitoches Central High School, plans to purchase materials, supplies and software

to improve student math competencies.

For information on NSU's master's program in special education, contact Duchardt at (318) 357-5154 or duchardt@nsula.edu or visit education.nsula.edu/program-offerings/med-special-education.

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



Mike Scott looked over merchandise offered by Judy Allen of Natchitoches Beads.

Creole Culture is...

Fun
Creole culture celebrates life! "Work hard, play hard" is a motto. Whether it's a dance, a boucherie, or a trail ride, enjoyment is key!

Gumbo, Mirlitons, & Cracklin'ni!
Tamales, Meat Pies, & Sauces!
Crawfish, Cakes, & Candy!
The heart of Creole culture is its food!

Food

Music
From Amédé Ardoin, La-La, Blues, Jazz, Classical to Zydeco and everything in between, music flows through Creole culture.

Faith
Central to Creole culture is faith, a closeness to God and all of his creations. Celebrating baptisms & weddings and honoring ancestors.

Creole Heritage Center
Northwestern State University
Natchitoches, LA 71497
318-397-6686 | creolecenter@nsula.edu
Find us on Facebook!

Creole Heritage Center Open House draws students, faculty

About 125 individuals attended the Creole Heritage Center's second annual Open House at Northwestern State University on Wednesday, March 20. The theme for this event was, "There's no time like Spring time for an Open House."

Informative exhibits and information on how to research your family genealogy was available for the attendees. The vendors had lots of crafts, jewelry, books, sweets, treats and more.

This year the Creole Center open house featured a special exhibit from the Williamson Museum Collection of never before seen donated items. This was a step back in time that brought back memories to the general public. An authentic pea scale from the 1900s large enough to weigh bales of cotton, a smaller one used to weigh baskets and cotton sacks of cotton and a seeder that was used to plant crops for harvest were on display. There were other items from the Williamson Museum collection that are too numerous to list. The Trivia Pursuit game, "Do you Remember" was played which challenged some of the attendees who won a special prize for their correct answers. This event was free and open to the general public. Refreshments were served and door prizes given away.

The Creole Heritage Center, (CHC) has been in operation since October 1998 as a state Board of Regents approved academic center and is the only one of its kind in the nation. Although its initial focus was for the community of Cane River, it has broadened its range not only to include the state of Louisiana, but also Creole

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Gail Jones, Jennifer Maggio, Pete Gregory and Loletta Wynder, above left, as well as Archaeology Club students, above right, attended the event.

Open House ... Continued from Page 1



Markita Hamilton-Small and Peggy Aycock examined a cotton scale recently donated to the Creole Heritage Center.

colonies located nationwide and across the globe. We see "Creole" as a culture, not a race, based on shared experiences, traits, traditions, family ties and histories. CHC makes no distinction when providing service and is available to the general public.

If you would like more information about the Creole Heritage Center, call us at (318) 357-6685; also, we invite you to visit our web-site at creole.nsula.edu or like us on Face Book.



Vera Severin and Susan Dollar

Office of Sponsored Programs

OFFICE RELOCATION

OSP has relocated to South Hall – Suite 211 on 444 Caspari Street.

Feel free to contact us at orsp@nsula.edu or 357-5222 with any questions or concerns you may have as we would like to make this transition as accommodating as possible.

CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Dustin Hebert, Department of Teaching, Leadership and Counseling, College of Education and Human Development, received notification of a \$5,000 award from the LA Board of Regents for “Consultant for Board of Regents 2018-2019” and an \$8,000 award from The Orchard Foundation for “New Skills for Youth/Jump Start.”

Dr. Jafar Al-Sharab, Department of Engineering Technology, College of Business and Technology, received notification of a \$113,133 award from the LA Board of Regents for “Summer Robotic Camps for Regional Students in Junior High and High School.” **Mr. Steven Gruesbeck** is collaborator.

Mr. Steven Gruesbeck, Director of Service Learning, College of Education and Human Development, received notification of a \$99,920 award from the Louisiana Board of Regents for “LA GEAR UP at NSU: Spring Tour and Summer Camps.”

Mr. Kevin Ammons, National Center for Preservation, Technology and Training, received notification of a \$67,232 award from The National Park Service for “Treatments for Oiled Historic Properties.” **Dr. Mary Striegel** is collaborator.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Ms. Anna Dugas, School of Biological and Physical Sciences, College

of Arts and Sciences, submitted a proposal to the Louisiana Space Grant Consortium (LaSPACE) entitled “LSPACE Rockon 2019 Team – Northwestern State University” and a proposal to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) entitled “Curriculum: Louisiana Advanced Manufacturing Progress.”

Ms. Nancy Alexander, Department of Child and Family Network, College of Education and Human Development, submitted a proposal to the Louisiana Department of Education entitled “Comprehensive Child Care Resource and Referral for Regions 7 and 8.”

Kim Duncan, Lien McGehee, Paula Youngblood and **Annette Osborne** are collaborators.

Dr. Christopher Gilson, Department of Criminal Justice, History and Social Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, submitted a proposal to the U.S. Department of Education entitled “Course Development Stipend for Russia, Eastern Europe and Eurasia.”

Ms. Maggie Welch, Counseling and Career Services, submitted a proposal to the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission entitled “Alcohol and Distracted Driving Prevention.” **Ms. Frances Conine** is collaborator.

For more information regarding funding opportunities, visit OSP’s website at orsp@nsula.edu.



Dragon Boat Races April 13 on downtown riverbank

Northwestern State University's Office of First Year Experience will host the 4th annual Natchitoches Dragon Boat Races Saturday, April 13 at the newly renovated downtown Natchitoches riverbank.

This year, the races will be planned and executed by the Demon VIP (Volunteers in Progress) organization on

campus, to provide students with a real-world event planning experience. All proceeds will go to fund future leadership initiatives at NSU.

Races will begin at 8 a.m. and will continue throughout the day with vendors, music and activities for families and spectators. Spectator admission is free.

Dragon Boat teams consist

of 20 paddlers (a minimum of eight must be female) and one drummer. The helmsman will be provided. There will be a practice session for each team during the week preceding the event.

Anyone who would like to enter team or become a vendor should email **Van Erikson** at eriksonv@nsula.edu or call (337) 519-7771.

NSU will host Red River Special Olympics April 16

The Red River Games of the Louisiana Special Olympics will be held Tuesday, April 16 at Northwestern State University's Walter Ledet Track Field. Opening ceremonies will begin at 9:30 a.m. The event provides an opportunity for those with intellectual disabilities to compete in various track and field competitions. NSU students, staff and community volunteers are coordinating the event, which brings athletes from Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine and Winn parishes to compete for a gold medal and advance to state competition in Hammond May 24-26.

Last year Northwestern State was invited to be a Unified Champion School, determined by levels at which schools use three pillars -- inclusive youth leaders, whole school engagement and inclusive sports -- to create an inclusive school climate.

"This is the 4th year the President's Leadership Program has hosted the Red River Games Louisiana Special Olympics," said Reatha

Cox, director of Student Affairs. Cox oversees the President's Leadership Program that adopted Special Olympics as a student-led community impact project.

The motto of Special Olympics, which inspires thousands of communities to support the organization, is "Let me win. But if I cannot win let me be brave in the attempt."

Special Olympics Louisiana is a state-wide organization that changes lives by promoting understanding, acceptance and inclusion between people with and without intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics Louisiana offers year-round programs for 15,106 children and adults with intellectual disabilities in all 64 parishes with the help of 15,000 volunteers. There is no cost to participate in Special Olympics. For more information about Special Olympics Louisiana, registering an athlete, coaching or volunteering, visit www.laso.org.

In case of rain, the Red River Special Olympics will be April 18.



presents

Dr. Nita Landry

co-host from the Emmy Award winning show “The Doctors”



Q & A Session with Dr. Nita Landry

Wednesday, April 17

Meet and Greet: 10:30-11:00

Lecture: 11:00-12:00

Russell Hall, Room 102

Dr. Nita Landry of “The Doctors” will speak at NSU

Northwestern State University’s College of Business and Technology will host guest speaker Dr. Nita Landry from the hit television show “The Doctors” beginning at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 17 in Russell Hall Room 102. During the Q and A-style lecture, Landry will discuss her life as a doctor and a businesswoman as well as the importance of giving back.

There is no charge for the event, but seating will be limited. The lecture is being presented as part of the Spark Series, intended to create

interest in business and philanthropy among students and the community.

For information on Landry visit <http://drnitalandry.com/about/>. To reserve a seat, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/nsus-school-of-business-start-the-spark-series-presents-dr-nita-landry-tickets-59715450520>.

For information on the event, contact **Carmella Parker**, professor and coordinator of outreach and special projects for the College, at parker@c@nsula.edu or (318) 357-5723.

NSU will hold 32nd annual Research Day April 25

Northwestern State’s 32nd annual Research Day will take place Thursday, April 25 and will feature faculty, graduate and undergraduate students presenting scholarly or creative projects during concurrent sessions throughout the day.

Once again, we will be able to stream virtual presenters, so distance learning students and faculty are encouraged to

participate.

Both oral and poster presentations are welcome. For information about previous presentations, please refer to last year’s program at <http://researchday.nsula.edu/>.

Virtual poster presentations will be defended via a WebEx session to a laptop adjacent to the poster, so the presenter can answer questions from

the audience. Virtual oral presentations will be also be made with the presenters streaming their presentation via WebEx to a session where local participants can view them in real time and ask questions.

To answer questions or for more information, please contact **Dr. Betsy Cochran** (cochran@nsula.edu), chair of the Research Council.