On October 21, Sarah E. McFarland gave a virtual keynote presentation at the Swedish climate fiction conference, “A Future Beyond Dystopia,” which was also part of the Language Studies and Comparative Literature (SOLD) research seminar series sponsored by Malardalen University Sweden. McFarland is a professor of literature and theory in the Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Cultural Studies. Attendees included participants of the climate fiction conference, members of the European Ecocritical Forum, SOLD researchers and educators, and Swedish university students. McFarland’s presentation was followed by an hour of inspiring discussions about the roles of climate fiction and literature in transforming perspectives and engaging meaningful action in the anthropocene.

**Presidential candidates are scheduled to meet with NSU community, alumni and stakeholders Nov. 1-2**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1**

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<th>Candidate #1</th>
<th>Dr. Virginia Burkett</th>
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<td>7:30 AM</td>
<td>Meeting - Faculty</td>
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<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>Student Leaders</td>
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<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>Coffee with Dr. Henderson</td>
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<td>10:30 AM</td>
<td>Meeting - Community Leaders &amp; Alumni</td>
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<td>Meeting - Staff</td>
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<td>LUNCH &amp; BREAK</td>
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<td>Search Committee Interview</td>
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<td>Community Tour</td>
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<td>Meeting - Executive Leadership Team</td>
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<th>Candidate #2</th>
<th>Dr. Jeremy Thomas</th>
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<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Coffee with Dr. Henderson</td>
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<td>Community Tour</td>
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**Upcoming Meetings**

**Monday, Nov. 1 - Tuesday, Nov. 2**
Committee to interview semifinalists with opportunities for student and campus community involvement. The full interview schedule is above and on Page 2.

**Tuesday, Nov. 2**
Committee to meet to select finalists.

To see semifinalists for the Northwestern State presidency and the on-campus interview schedule. Click each semifinalist to review letters of interest and curricula vitae at this link: https://www.ulsyst...
Wellness Week: November 1st - 4th

Wellness Week is a week full of free activities for all NSU Students, Faculty, and Staff to focus on all aspects of their well-being. Wellness Fest will be packed full of vendors giving away items, offering free services, and so much more! Come take care of your wellbeing during this awesome week of wellness.

Monday 11/1 at 8 PM: Glow in the Dark Yoga at the Columns on Normal Hill
Tuesday 11/2 from 10 AM - 2 PM: Wellness Fest in the WRAC Gym Courts. This is a free event open to all NSU faculty, staff, and students. The Wellness Fest will offer many educational opportunities, free testing, games and more.
Tuesday 11/2 at 6 PM: Keynote Speaker - Archie Messersmith-Bunting - “It’s Okay to Not be Okay” in the Lucile M. Hendrick Room in the Student Union
Wednesday 11/3 at 3 PM: Take A Hike at the Grady Erwin Nature Area
Wednesday 11/3 from 5 PM - 7 PM: Positive Creating - this is a come and go event, no painting experience required
Thursday 11/4 at 11 AM: Financial Wellness presented by BOM Bank in the Lucile M. Hendrick Room in the Student Union
Redesign creates School of Social Sciences and Applied Programs

The Department of Criminal Justice, History, and Social Sciences has been redesignated as the School of Social Sciences and Applied Programs.

The change has been approved by the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System and the State Board of Regents.

The School of Social Sciences and Applied Programs is within the College of Arts and Sciences and offers a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice, a concentration in pre-law and paralegal studies and a Bachelor of Arts in History. The School also offers a Bachelor of Science in Unified Public Safety Administration with concentrations in emergency management administration, fire and emergency medical services administration, geo computation, law enforcement administration, nuclear surety management and public facilities management, a Master of Science in Homeland Security, a Post Masters Certificate in Global Security and Intelligence, certificates in pre-law and paralegal studies and in public policy and administration and a Undergraduate Certificate in Remote Systems Science and Technology.

“The proposed structural and name change pays tribute to the legacy of social sciences at our University while simultaneously acknowledging the applied nature of our criminal justice, history, unified public safety administration, and homeland security programs,” said Dr. Mark Osborn Melder, director of the School of Social Sciences and Applied Programs. “Furthermore, it promotes the development of our new programs (such as RSST) and our recently approved minors in Black Studies and, American Indian and Indigenous Studies as well as provide for other opportunities of growth in the future.

Melder said the School is working to create a new, multidisciplinary undergraduate degree in Anthropology and Sociology. Within this degree, students will select a discipline from archaeology, cultural anthropology, or sociology and pair this with a concentration in sociological studies, Black studies, Creole studies, American Indian and Indigenous studies, or Remote Systems Science and Technology. Additionally, there will be several post baccalaureate certificates in these areas.

The School of Social Sciences and Applied Programs also provides service to the larger community. The School of Social Sciences and Applied Programs houses the Williamson Museum, the Louisiana Creole Heritage Center and the Southern Studies Institute. Each of these units provide unique resources to NSU students and researchers as well as the community and state.

The Williamson Museum, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary, has agreements under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act for Federally acknowledged Tribes and Nations.

It serves as an official repository for archaeological collections recovered from Federal and State lands in northwestern Louisiana and presently curates ethnological materials from 41 southern and eastern American Indian tribes and communities and over 700 archaeological site collections from within Louisiana. It also holds joint curation with the Louisiana Division of Archaeology, the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma, the Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana and the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana.

The Louisiana Creole Heritage Center serves as a central clearinghouse and information bank for Creole communities and for those seeking knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of Creoles and their culture. It also functions as an office of support to national Creole communities and organizations, offering advice and assistance in matters that affect Creoles.
October Non-Credit Classes

Cookie Decorating with Royal Icing for Beginners
Cookie Decorating with royal icing is a beginning class to learn some basic decorating techniques. This course will teach students how to make an amazing sugar cookie dough suited for shaped cookies and then explore different royal icing techniques such as dip tie-dye, outlining and flooding with single and multiple colors, and painting on royal icing. Students will be encouraged to express themselves creatively.
NOTE: There is a $25 fee due at the first-class meeting (cash or check only made payable to the instructor). This fee will cover all ingredients needed in the course- cookies prebaked for some class dates; food coloring, paintbrushes, cookie cutters to be shared in the class; and a set of 3 piping tips, a coupler, and a reusable piping bag for each student to keep.
Date: November 9 – December 7, Tuesdays
Time: 5:30 – 8:00 pm
Fee: $75
Location: Culinary Arts Building (100 Caspari Street)
Instructor: McKenna Marsh

Pick Up your Brush-Painting Classes
In these classes, you will learn the art of painting using step-by-step instructions to create a masterpiece of your own. No special or prior skill required. Just relax and enjoy each class. Students will take home a completed painting at the end of every class. Children ages 7 - 12 years old are allowed to enroll, but a parent MUST accompany the child the entire class. Parent does not have to enroll unless they participate. All supplies included.

Date: November 11, Thursday Floral Cornucopia
November 18, Thursday Christmas Candles
Time: 5:30 - 8:30 pm
Fee: $45 per session
Location: 2nd Floor Classroom, South Hall
Instructor: Shanna Dees Gaspard

Developing Social Media Skills in Facebook
Learn to navigate Facebook in this introductory social media course. You will learn how to streamline your account for your specific needs, create content, interact with posted content, and more.

Date: November 13, Saturday
Time: 1:00 pm-5:00pm
Fee: $55
Location: 2nd Floor Classroom, South Hall
Instructor: Emily Zering

Notary Public Exam Prep: Extensive Review (Online)
Do you want to re-take the Notary Exam, but need a quick refresher before the test? We will cover: exam format, potential content, exam tips and last-minute study suggestions. If you signed up for the Notary Public Exam Prep, then this class is a part of that class.

The instructor will provide you with a conferencing link to join the class once enrolled.

Requirements for the course:
- Participants must have broadband access, a camera, and sound.
- The test is based on the Louisiana Secretary of State’s newest edition of “The Fundamentals of Louisiana Notarial Law and Practice”, only available at http://www.sos.la.gov or call (225) 922-0507 for further information. You must have this book on the first day of class.

NOTE: Please visit the Louisiana Secretary of State’s Website’s Notary and Certifications for qualifications at http://www.sos.la.gov or call (225) 922-0507.

Out of state residents: In order to take the Louisiana State Notary Exam, students must be Louisiana residents and registered to vote in Louisiana.

Date: November 30-December 2, Tuesday & Thursday
Time: 6:30 pm-8:30 pm
Fee: $65 (Early Bird Fee) $85 (After November 8, 2020)
Location: Online
Instructor: Robin Jones

For more information or to register for classes, visit checkout.nsula.edu or call (800)376-2422 or (318)357-6355.
CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Michelle Brunson, College of Education and Human Development, received notification of a $3,000 award from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation entitled “Supporting the Cradle to College Pipeline.”

Ms. Nancy Alexander, Department of Child and Family Network, College of Education and Human Development, received notification of a $49,998 award from the Louisiana Department of Education for “Family Child Care Support.” Ms. Kim Duncan is collaborator.

Ms. Kimberly Duncan, Department of Child and Family Network, College of Education and Human Development, received notification of a $100,000 award from the Louisiana Department of Education for “2021 Ready Start Cohort 4.”

Dr. Tommy Hailey, Department of Criminal Justice, History and Social Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, received notification of a $84,247 award from the American Electric Power Foundation for “Northwestern State University Remote Systems Science and Technology (Drone) Facility Modifications and Resources.” Drs. Billy Culver, Mark Melder, Chris Lyles and Mr. JD Cox are collaborators.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Dr. April Giddens, College of Education and Human Development, submitted a proposal to the Natchitoches Regional Medical Center Foundation entitled, “Childhood Obesity and Diabetes Prevention: A Preschool Intervention to Support Young Children’s Physical Health.”

Dr. Adonay Sissay, Louisiana Scholars’ College, College of Arts and Sciences, for “Equipping Honors Physics Laboratory with Essential Tools,”

Dr. James Mischler, Department of English, Foreign Languages and Cultural Studies, College of Arts and Sciences, for “Classroom and Professional Technology Project,”

Dr. Shahrair Hussain, Department of Engineering Technology, College of Arts and Sciences, for “Enhancement of Experiential Learning Environment in IET Education through Contemporary Laboratory Experiments.” Drs. Nabin Sapkota, Jafar Al-Sharab and Mr. Adam Jannik are collaborators.

Dr. Susan Barnett, Department of Psychology, College of Education and Human Development, for “Enhancing Psychology Department through Course Development in Applied Behavior Analysis.” Ms. Beverly Broadway is collaborator, and

Dr. Tammy Curtis, School of Allied Health, College of Nursing and School of Allied Health, for “Digital Radiography Imaging System to Enhance Simulation Training for Radiologic Science at Northwestern State University.” Dr. Ben Wood, Mrs. Angela McKnight, and Mrs. Jessica Despino are collaborators.

If you should have any questions or have interest in submitting a proposal, please contact either Carla Howell or Alysia Jones at orsp@nsula.edu or 318.357.5222 to discuss the proposal preparation process.
Dr. Mary Edith Stacy has been named interim 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.

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 many years of experience to her role, and will be able to utilize them as we work to engage with the business and industry community,” said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Greg Handel. “She has a wealth of experiences that will assist in positioning the College of Business and Technology for program growth, responsiveness to the profession and continued growth of relationships with advisory councils in business and industry.

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 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.
Dr. Rafiqul Islam, a professor in Northwestern State University’s Department of Engineering Technology, has been recognized as a life member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. IEEE is the world’s largest technical professional organization for the advancement of technology to benefit humanity. IEEE and its members inspire a global community to innovate for a better tomorrow through many different activities nationally and internationally. IEEE has over 400,000 members in over 160 countries.

“It is an honor to have Dr. Islam as a member of our ET Department and NSU family,” said Dr. Jafar Al-Sharab, head of NSU’s Engineering Technology Department.

Islam has been with IEEE for 35 years with different levels of membership.

“I became the Student Member of IEEE when I was pursuing my Master of Science in Electrical Engineering at Manhattan College in New York City,” he said. “I continued it during my Ph.D. study in the University of Wyoming in Laramie and took part in various activities of the IEEE student chapter there. After starting my professional life, I become a Member of IEEE. In 2003 the Board of Directors of the IEEE elected me to the grade of Senior Member. At that time there were very limited numbers of senior members. I have been the faculty representative of the Student Chapters in different universities including NSU since 1990.”

After joining the faculty at NSU, Islam became more involved with IEEE activities. Recognition as a life member acknowledges his engagement in the organization and service to the industry.

“I started publishing more papers in the peer review journals,” he said. “I served in IEEE/ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology)/ Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission for five years with upper grade rating. I made tutorial presentation in WCNC 99 conference in New Orleans on ‘Satellite Based Personal Communication Services. I also served as a panel member for National Science Foundation grant selection committee for five years.”

Information on NSU’s Engineering Technology program is available at https://engrtech.nsula.edu/.

Mask mandate will remain in place on all NSU campuses

Northwestern State University’s indoor mask mandate will remain in place until Natchitoches transmission is below high or substantial, according to NSU Interim President Dr. Marcus Jones.

Governor John Bel Edwards announced the lifting of the statewide mask mandate with some caveats. K-12 schools must maintain a mask mandate or follow CDC guidance on quarantine. Institutions in the University of Louisiana System have been under a mask requirement that precedes the Governor’s statewide mandate. The UL System guidelines require students, faculty and staff to wear masks in classrooms and other public indoor spaces in regions of high or substantial transmission.

“It is with an abundance of caution that we will continue to wear masks indoors,” Jones said. “NSU’s indoor mask mandates have played a role in the low numbers of COVID cases on campus and we will continue to mask up until COVID no longer poses a threat to public health.”

Information on protocols can be found at https://www.nsula.edu/return-to-campus/.
Hossain

Hossain earns FANUC robotics certifications

**Dr. Shahriar Hossain**, assistant professor in the Department of Engineering Technology at Northwestern State University, earned two robotics certifications offered by FANUC America, a leading supplier of robots, CNC systems and factory automation.

Over the last two years, Hossain attended several in-person and online week-long trainings to complete the certifications.

“These two certifications establish Northwestern State University as an educational certified training institution for FANUC America’s Material Handling Program Software and 2D iRVision,” Hossain said.

Hossain has been on faculty at NSU since 2019 teaching manufacturing processes, metals machining, industrial machinery, motion and time study, and technical drafting classes.

He also serves as the camp director of NSU Robotics Camps sponsored by LOSFA/ LA-GEARUP program, volunteers as a facilitator for NASA ASTRO CAMP and mentored the NSU Demons Robotics Team at FIRST Robotics Competition 2019.

Hossain has made significant contributions in developing syllabus, contents and catalog descriptions of “Fundamentals of Industrial Robotics” course, a new part of the IET curriculum. He has authored several journal and conference articles in operations research, supply chain, ergonomics, industrial environment, manufacturing systems, and artificial intelligence. He is a member of ASEE, DSI, IEOM, IISE, and Phi Beta Delta honor society.

“Dr. Hossain is a rising star,” said **Dr. Jafar Al Sharab**, department head. “We are very proud of him as an ET faculty member at NSU. The new certifications fit very well with his active engagements related to robotics and establishes NSU as a center for robotics certification.

Hossain plans to create activities related to workforce development in collaboration with other organizations and industrial partners.

Information on NSU’s Engineering Technology programs can be accessed at [https://engrtech.nsula.edu/](https://engrtech.nsula.edu/).
Brunson authors CLCF grant for Cradle to College

Dr. Michelle Brunson, Northwestern State University’s Early Childhood Education program coordinator, was recently awarded a Central Louisiana Community Foundation (CLCF) grant to purchase books and school supplies to make family literacy bags for preschool children in Natchitoches Parish. These family literacy bags are a primary component of the NSU Early Childhood Education service learning project focused on building a Cradle to College Pipeline in Natchitoches Parish, which Brunson directs. To donate books or supplies, please contact her at faziom@nsula.edu. Pictured from left are Natchitoches Magnet School Principal Stephonie French and preschool teachers Janna Maggio and Lita LeMelle.

Howell continues ULS Research and Grants webinar series

Carla Howell, Universities of Louisiana Content Expert for Research and Grants, is hosting the second webinar in her Pathways to Grant Success series.

What: Pathways to Grant Success: Harnessing the Power of SPINPlus
When: Tuesday, Nov. 16 at 2 p.m.
Featuring: William DeCocco, SPINPlus Account Manager

Harness the power of SPINPlus, the funding search database available to all UL System faculty, staff and students. The system provides a modern full-text search which is run against the company’s proprietary database. This webinar will cover the basics of logging in, searching, and receiving notifications from the system.

Highlights include:
- Public (government – federal and state) and private (foundations) funding opportunities
- Results are returned to the user in relevancy ranked format and can be further sorted, grouped, or filtered
- Searches and funding profiles can be saved for future use
- Search results can be set up to send daily or weekly notification alerts
- Basic training video tutorials are available on the site

Register here:
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_042doU7CTX-UDCvaPBhVUg
Twisted wire sculptor Elvin Shields was named a Louisiana Tradition Bearer by the Louisiana Folklife Commission and honored at a ceremony October 16 at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum. Serving as a Folklife Ambassador for the Louisiana Folklife Commission, Dr. Shane Rasmussen, professor of English and director of the Louisiana Folklife Center, talked with Shields about his lifetime of preserving Louisiana’s traditional folklife.

The well-attended ceremony and discussion was part of a series of events throughout the state for Folklife Month in Louisiana. Shields was honored with a certificate from Louisiana Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, officially recognizing him as a Louisiana tradition bearer. The event was sponsored by the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum, the Louisiana Folklife Center, the Louisiana Folklore Society, and the Louisiana Division of the Arts and the Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism. Funding was also provided by the National Endowment for the Arts, Art Works, and the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, in collaboration with the Louisiana Folklife Commission.

Before the event Shields and Rasmussen took part in a Red River Radio spotlight, in which they discussed Shield’s traditions with host Bill Beckett.