



## PEOPLE

### Dr. Debra Jo

**Hailey** of the School of Education (Northwestern State University) led a virtual presentation with colleagues **Dr. Michelle Fazio-Brunson** (Northwestern State University), **Dr. Lacy Davis-Hitt** (Southeastern Louisiana University), and **Dr. Susan Zimlich** (Southeastern Louisiana University) at the World Council for Gifted and Talented Children held in August. Their presentation titled “An Exploration of Early Childhood Leadership Development: Recognizing and Supporting Young Leaders in Different Contexts” was designed to help classroom teachers and parents recognize the attributes and behaviors of young leaders while also supporting all children in developing good decision-making skills, prosocial skills, and responsible citizenship behaviors.



Dr. Brian Gabriel, left, and Jacqueline Horton, right, were recognized as NSU’s 2021 Faculty Advisors of the Year. The award was presented by Steve Hicks, center, executive director of NSU’s Academic Advising Services.

## Gabrial, Horton named Faculty Advisors of the Year

**Dr. Brian Gabriel** and **Jacqueline Horton** were recognized as Northwestern State University’s 2021 Faculty Advisors of the Year. The award is annually presented to faculty advisors based on nominations by students and selected based on knowledge, helpfulness and accessibility.

“The past academic year has been exceptionally challenging when faculty were required to use alternative platforms to advise students with virtual meetings and other avenues,” said **Dr. Greg Handel**, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

“As we were not able to honor these recipients in person, I urge you, at your leisure, to watch a brief video on both recipients, and congratulate them when

you have the opportunity to do so.”

Gabrial is the Wise Endowed Professor of Journalism in the Department of New Media, Journalism and Communication Arts and immediate past head of the department. He teaches Media Law and Ethics and Capstone 1: Communication Competencies (and Portfolio) and until this semester supervised Capstone II (internship class). He currently advises 51 students, a number that will be reduced as the new department head takes over. As the former department head, he supervised all seniors, student athletes, transfer students and new freshmen.

Gabrial’s video can be accessed here: <https://vimeo.com/590031306>.

*Advisor of the Year ... Continued from Page 1*

Students who nominated Gabriel for the honor cited his care and support as meaningful to his advisees.

“Through everything that I have communicated to Dr. Gabriel, he has supported me every step of the way and pushed me to do my best,” one student wrote. “He has always gone out of his way to not only make sure I was on the right path but to make sure that I stayed afloat through it all. Through COVID, Dr. Gabriel never let up and made sure that he was always in touch. Through WebEx meetings and phone calls and even when we were able to meet face-to-face, he assured me that I was on the right path. Outside of this, Dr. Gabriel always made

sure to check on my physical and mental being during this time. In addition, Dr. Gabriel always found a way to take my strengths and amplify them to make sure I never lost sight of my goals. His levelheadedness and adjustment to change has made him an exceptional mentor through the pandemic and all of our country’s issues.”

“I don’t have an advising philosophy per se, other than to first be receptive to advisees’ questions and keep them on track with their program and second be honest and direct with advisees about their progress or lack of progress and third to be accessible. Waiting days to respond to an advisee’s query is not acceptable. And finally, to be a good listener,”

Gabrial said.

Horton is the program instructor for the Child and Family Studies program and instructor for the culminating courses that are required for students nearing the end of the bachelor’s degree curriculum. Each student must perform an official internship that requires integrated experiences at an agency that works with children and their families. She also

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*-- Dr. Greg Handel*

teaches classroom management to teacher candidates performing their residency. She is assigned about 100 of the nearly 200 CVS majors and minors enrolled in the program.

Her video can be viewed here : <https://vimeo.com/590036776>.

A student nominating Horton for the award said that as a non-traditional student looking to complete a degree nearly 30 years after dropping out of school, Horton treated her with patience and understanding throughout a challenging academic journey.

“Mrs. Horton remained in constant contact with me and witnessed some very traumatic personal events unfold in my life. She continued to

encourage me and push me in those moments when I felt like it was too much to bear. She constantly told me that she saw something in me and wanted to make sure I knew ‘it’ was in me as well,” the student wrote. “Mrs. Jacqueline Horton is far more than an advisor, faculty member or instructor. She is an amazing, lifelong friend, that was sent at perfect time.

I will forever be grateful for everything she has ever done. Although I have personally only known her for a little over a year, she has made such a profound impact on my life.”

“My philosophy of advising is very simple...students first,” Horton said. “Instruction during the pandemic has been modified to meet the needs of the students. It was necessary during the

lock-down to answer emails and communications promptly, and to provide as much specific instruction and direction as possible, while setting clear and concise expectations. All students need to know that their instructor cares about their success. This means staying in touch frequently, providing timely and detailed feedback, and providing encouragement and support consistently. This award means a great deal to me specifically because the nomination originated with students. My greatest joy as an educator is watching and helping students achieve their goals, getting to know them, and building meaningful relationships.”

# Excellence in Teaching honorees announced

One of our most honored and cherished traditions at the Faculty/Staff Institute and Luncheon is recognizing and honoring the Faculty selected and honored with the Excellence in Teaching Award.

As we were not able to honor them in person, you can watch a brief video on each recipient, and congratulate them when you have the opportunity to do so.

We are fortunate and honored to have these individuals who represent our Academic Colleges with the highest integrity in teaching and scholarship, dedication to their chosen disciplines, and a passion for the Profession.

Congratulations to **Drs. Tammy Curtis, Melissa Rennie, and Betsy Cochran**, and Professors **Connie Jones, Anna Dugas, Jessica Parr, and Jessica Church**.

*College of Nursing and School of Allied Health*

**Dr. Tammy Curtis**, Director and Professor of Radiologic Sciences: <https://vimeo.com/585465525>

**Dr. Melissa Rennie**, Assistant Professor of Nursing: <https://vimeo.com/584677540>

*College of Business and Technology*

Professor **Connie Jones**, Coordinator and Assistant Professor of Hospitality, Management, and Tourism: <https://vimeo.com/584676478>

*College of Arts and Sciences*

Professor **Anna Dugas**, Assistant Professor of Physics: <https://vimeo.com/584679414>

Professor **Jessica Parr**, Professor of Theatre and Costume Design: <https://vimeo.com/584681418>

*Louisiana Scholars' College*

**Dr. Betsy Cochran**, Professor of Ecology and Mathematics: <https://vimeo.com/584682151>

*Gallaspy Family College of Education and Human Development*

Professor **Jessica Church**, Clinical Instructor in Curriculum and Instruction: <https://vimeo.com/584678638>

## Faculty/staff recognized for years of service to the university

University employees who have served 25 years or more were recognized by Provost Dr. Greg Handel prior to the semester's beginning. Thank you to the individuals listed below and on the attached slide show for your years of service and dedication to Northwestern!

### 25 Years

Dr. Patrice Moulton, Professor, Dept. of Psychology  
Sandra Beasley, Technical Support Specialist  
Rita Burkhalter, Student Accounting

### 30 Years

Clyde Downs, Professor, Dept. of Fine and Graphic Arts

Mary Beth Tarver, Instructor, School of Business  
William Ackel, Director, Recreation Complex  
Barbara Prescott, University Registrar

### 40 Years

Abbie Landry, Director of Libraries  
John Carter, Property Manager

### 50 Years

Mary Margaret Shivers, Coordinator of Academic Affairs

### 60 Years

Dr. Pete Gregory, Professor of History

Congratulations to these individuals!





*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 [orosp@nsula.edu](mailto:orosp@nsula.edu), or visit the OSP website at <http://www.nsula.edu/orosp>.

OSP Staff

Carla Howell  
Director

Alysia Jones  
Associate  
Director

# Leslie Gruesbeck named head of Fine + Graphic Art

**Leslie Gruesbeck** has been named head of the Department of Fine and Graphic Arts at Northwestern State University. The appointment has been approved by the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System.

Gruesbeck has been a faculty member at Northwestern State since 2009 and was coordinator of gallery activities at NSU from 2006-2009. She teaches courses in art history, history of graphic design, fiber arts, design and professional practices.

Gruesbeck also teaches introduction to art, survey of fine arts and the senior exhibition class.

As coordinator of galleries, she recruited, scheduled, marketed and installed professional and student exhibitions in two galleries and public spaces throughout campus; curated and registered exhibitions; assisted with grant writing for arts related projects; acted as liaison to other campus organizations and departments as well as the larger community to further promote visual art activities and exhibitions.

“The School of Creative and Performing Arts is looking forward to having Professor Gruesbeck serve as chair of Fine and Graphic Arts,” said **Scott Burrell**, director of School of Creative and Performing Arts. “She has already begun to implement initiatives that promise to take the



**Gruesbeck**

arts program’s excellence to the next level. She is a well-known and respected advocate for the arts in both the NSU and Natchitoches communities.”

Gruesbeck has been awarded the Donald F. Derby Endowed Professorship three times. With the support of the professorship, she explored Sturt School of Craft in Mittagong, New South Wales, Australia, attended Penland School of Crafts in Penland, North Carolina, and pursued coursework at the Royal School of Needlework in Surrey, England.

“I believe that the faculty of the Department of Fine and Graphic Arts, and our colleagues across the School of Creative and Performing Arts provide a rich, collaborative experience for our students that truly encourages growth and professional development,” said Gruesbeck. “I look forward to assisting in the growth of our department and the preparation of our students for life as

professionals beyond college. “

As a faculty member, Gruesbeck developed the crafts concentration in the Department of Fine and Graphic Arts. She has been responsible for obtaining several grants to enhance the university and the community. Gruesbeck is an active presenter on the state, national and international level of her own work and of art-related research. Many of her presentations have allowed her to collaborate with other Northwestern faculty on interdisciplinary work.

Gruesbeck was registrar of the Alexandria Museum of Art in 2004-05. From 1997 to 2001, she was an administrative and design assistant at Albert & Associates Architects, PA, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and Gallery Manager of A Gallery in Hattiesburg. From 1991 until 1997, she worked with the ADVANCE Program for Young Scholars at NSU as publications assistant to the director, interim director and assistant director.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and a Master of Arts in Art at Northwestern State. She is working towards a Doctor of Education in Adult Education and Development at NSU.

The Department of Fine and Graphic Arts offers a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art, a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Communications, and a Master of Arts in Art.

For more information on the Department of Fine and Graphic Arts, go to [www.capa.nsula.edu/art](http://www.capa.nsula.edu/art).

## Office of Sponsored Programs

### CONGRATULATIONS

**Dr. Anna Dugas**, School of Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, received notification of a \$9,931 award from the LSU/LA Space Grant Consortium (LaSPACE) for “DemonSats-3: Student Payload Design Program at NSULA.”

**Dr. Yohaselly Santiago-Rodriguez**, School of Biological and Physical Sciences, College of Arts and Science, received notification of a \$4,000 award from LSU/Louisiana Space and Sea Grant Opportunity (LaSSO) for “Removal of Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances from Water Sources: Converting Toxic Compounds into Building Blocks for Fuel Conversion.”

**Drs. Curtis Penrod and Begona Perez-Mira**, School of Business, received notification of a \$15,000 award from Maher and Maher Investment Advisors for “Expansion of Registered Apprenticeship Programs through Industry Intermediaries.”

### CURRENT ACTIVITIES

**Dr. Shane Rasmussen**, LA Folklife Center, submitted a proposal to the Central Louisiana Community Foundation entitled “2022 Natchitoches – NSU Folk Festival.”

**Dr. Anna Morris**, Department of Nursing, College of Nursing and School of Allied Health, submitted a proposal to The Rapides Foundation entitled “Increasing Nursing Workforce in CenLA through the Intentional Intervention of At-Risk

Students.” **Drs. Joel Hicks and Cindy McGuire** are collaborators.

**Dr. Kelli Haynes**, School of Allied Health, College of Nursing and School of Allied Health, submitted a proposal to The Rapides Foundation entitled, “Establishing a Sonography Education Program to Increase Medical Sonographers within The Rapides Foundation Service Area.” **Drs. Joel Hicks and Cindy McGuire** are collaborators.

**Dr. April Giddens**, College of Education and Human Development, submitted a proposal to Louisiana State University entitled “Leadership Development Institute.”

### LA BOARD OF REGENTS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FY 2021-2022

Requests for Proposals for the FY 2021-22 Louisiana Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF) competitive cycle are now available at <https://web.laregents.org>. When submitting proposals to the Office of Sponsored Programs, please complete the required [OSP Routing Forms](#) which are now 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 interest in submitting a proposal, please contact either Carla Howell or Alysia Jones at [orsp@nsula.edu](mailto:orsp@nsula.edu) or 318.357.5222 to discuss the proposal preparation process.

# Faculty receiving tenure, promotions listed

Fifteen Northwestern State University faculty have received tenure and 12 have received promotion effective with the start of the 2021-22 academic year. according to **Dr. Greg Handel**, provost and vice president for academic affairs. The Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System approved the tenure and promotion recommendations. Faculty who received tenure were **Dr. Melissa Aldredge**, **Dr. Jason Powell** and **Dr. Danny Upshaw** of the School of Business, **Tamara Baxter**, **Dr. Stacey Joslin**, **Melinda Parnell** and **Dr. Mary Zapczynski** of the School of Nursing, **Dr. Joseph Briseño** of the Department of English, Foreign Languages & Cultural Studies, **Dr. Xinjia Chen** of the Department of Engineering Technology, **Kari Cook** of the School of Allied Health, **Corbin Covher** and **Dr. Oliver Molina** of the Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts, **Dr. Jennifer Hill** and **Dr. Chad Thibodeaux** of the School of Biological and Physical Sci-

ences and **Dr. Dean Kostantaras** of the Louisiana Scholars' College.

Receiving promotion to professor were **Dr. Rondo Keele** of the Louisiana Scholars' College, **Dr. Kimberly McAlister** of the Galaspy Family College of Education and Human Development and **Kirstin Riehl** of the School of Creative and Performing Arts.

Those promoted to associate professor were Briseño, Covher, Hill, Molina, Thibodeaux, **Dr. Weiwen Liao** and **Dr. Lily Pharis** of the School of Business and **Dr. Linda Nichols** of the School of Nursing.

**Daniel Gordy** of the Department of English, Foreign Language, and Cultural Studies and Department of Criminal Justice, History and Social Sciences and **Emily Zering** of the Department of New Media, Journalism and Communication Arts were promoted to assistant professor.

## Save the Date!

**BE WELL. LIVE WELL.**

Natchitoches Regional  
Medical Center  
FOUNDATION

**NSU**  
**WELLNESS**  
**FEST**

**Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2021**  
**10am-2pm • NSU WRAC**

Vendor Registration  
nsu.la/WellnessFest



# NSU ART DEPARTMENT

# AFTER SCHOOL

# ART CAMP FALL 2021

## 10 weeks of After School Art Camp starts Sept. 7

Northwestern State University's Department of Fine and Graphic Art will host After School Art Camp for youngsters age 6-12. Ten sessions will take place from 4-5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Sept. 7, 14, 21 and 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19 and 26 and Nov. 2 and 9.

Limited openings are available and early registration is recommended. The cost is \$350 for 10 sessions. Individual sessions will not be offered.

For more information, contact **Phyllis Lear** at [learp@nsula.edu](mailto:learp@nsula.edu).

13th Annual  
NORTHWESTERN STATE  
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA  
LOUISIANA STUDIES CONFERENCE

# Heroes, Saints, and Outlaws

September 25, 2021  
A Virtual Conference held on Microsoft Teams  
Free and Open to the General Public

## La. Studies Conference will be virtual this year

Northwestern State University will host the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Louisiana Studies Conference in a virtual format Saturday, Sept. 25. The virtual conference will be hosted via Microsoft Teams and is free and open to the public.

This year's conference theme is "Heroes, Saints and Outlaws."

For more information, visit <https://www.nsula.edu/folklife/louisianastudies> or call the Louisiana Folklife Center at (318) 357-4332.