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.

Gabrial, Horton named Faculty Advisors of the Year

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

“Through everything that I have communicated to Dr. Gabrial, 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. Gabrial 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. Gabrial always made sure to check on my physical and mental being during this time. In addition, Dr. Gabrial 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 encourages 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.”

“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,” -- Dr. Greg Handel
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

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

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

50 Years
Mary Margaret Shivers, Coordinator of Academic Affairs

60 Years
Dr. Pete Gregory, Professor of History

Congratulations to these individuals!
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 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.capas.nsula.edu/art.
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 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 Sciences 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 Gallaspy 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!

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

La. Studies Conference will be virtual this year

Northwestern State University will host the 13th 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.