



PEOPLE

Dr. Sarah E. McFarland presented her paper “Inhabiting Extinction in American Climate Fiction” at the International Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Conference (virtual) in July.

Her presentation was selected to represent ASLE scholarship at the 2021 American Literature Association Conference. She was also featured on the Full Contact Nerd podcast and youtube channel discussing her book *Ecocollapse Fiction and Cultures of Human Extinction* (Bloomsbury 2021).

Dr McFarland is a professor of literature in the Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Cultural Studies.



Mask mandate returns for all NSU campuses

Northwestern State University will require masks and facial coverings indoors for faculty, staff, students and visitors for the Fall 2021 semester to help mitigate the surge of COVID-19 cases in this region and across Louisiana.

The mask mandate for all individuals age 5 and up, which reflects a statewide directive issued Monday by Gov. John Bel Edwards, will go into effect statewide Wednesday, Aug. 4.

Individuals on all of NSU’s campuses regardless of their vaccination status are required to begin masking immediately. The statewide mandate will remain in effect until Sept. 1 when the governor will reevaluate the order.

NSU administrators also strongly encourage students, faculty and staff to be vaccinated if they have not done so already.

Louisiana’s vaccination rate is one

the lowest in the nation, and the rate for college students is reportedly less than 30 percent.

“It is critical for students and others to be vaccinated if we hope to return to normalcy at our colleges and universities,” said NSU Interim President **Dr. Marcus Jones**. “State and national health agencies continue to emphasize that increased vaccination rates are the most important and effective factor in controlling COVID, and we must work diligently toward that goal.”

NSU’s fall semester will begin Aug. 16.

Updates on Northwestern State’s policies related to COVID-19 will be posted at <https://www.nsula.edu/return-to-campus/>.

The Louisiana Department of Health provides updated COVID-19 information at <https://ldh.la.gov/>.

Curtis will take lead with Radiologic Sciences program

Dr. Tammy Curtis has been recommended for director of the Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences program for the School of Allied Health.

The School of Allied Health (SAH) has been undergoing leadership changes in recent months. When **Dr. Joel Hicks** was named Dean of the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health, he vacated his position as director of the School of Allied Health, which was filled by **Dr. Kelli Haynes**, who had been working as director of the BSRS program.

As an existing faculty member with years of experience, the search committee recommended Curtis for the job, beginning last month.

Curtis brings experience from several roles within the SAH. She has served as a clinical coordinator and most recently the program coordinator for the MSRS program. She is very active in the profession and will continue to represent NSU at the local, state and national levels. She is a co-author of the most prominent positioning textbook



Curtis

for radiologic sciences, Merrill's Atlas of Radiographic Positioning and Procedures. Curtis is an advocate for students, an experienced educator, and will be an asset to the College in her new role.

Addiction Studies degree program earns high rankings

Northwestern State University's Bachelor of Science in Addiction Studies was named the third most affordable in the country by Bachelor's Degree Center, a guide to traditional and online bachelor's degree programs in all disciplines.

NSU's bachelor's degree in addiction studies offers an understanding of the human mind addictive behavior, and advances in addiction counseling.

Students have the opportunity to join one of the fastest growing job fields. Addiction Studies graduates typically work as Addiction Counselors.

"The [affordable addiction counseling degree at](#)

[Northwestern State University](#) of Louisiana confers a bachelor's degree in addiction studies or psychology that provides students with an understanding of how the human mind works. This is a fast-growing field and employers need candidates with the ability to collect and interpret data and understand human behavior," according to the website.

"I agree with and understand the editor's comment regarding why one would choose a degree in Addiction Studies, as the vast majority of people will encounter the direct or indirect impacts of addictions. Because of this, anyone and everyone could benefit from this degree,"

said **Jody Biscoe**, coordinator of NSU's Addiction Studies degree.

Editors focused on accredited, trustworthy institutions in selecting rankings, including tuition cost.

The organization ranked the program 12th best online degree program. Editors said the program is ideal for individuals already working in the field or are considering an online substance abuse counseling degree. BDC editors focused on reputable, accredited colleges and universities offering fully online and hybrid programs.

Information on NSU's degree programs in psychology and addiction studies is available at <https://psychology.nsula.edu/>.

Downtown Folklife Concert Series continues in August

The Louisiana Folklife Center at Northwestern State University is sponsoring the 2021 NSU Folklife Concert Series, that conclude in August. The concerts highlight different folk musical traditions with a 45-minute music set followed by interviews with the musicians and an audience Q&A. Each performance will take place at 2 p.m. at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum at 800



Diaz

Front Street in downtown Natchitoches. The concert series is free and open to the general public.

San Antonio, Texas rock artist Nina Diaz will perform on August 7. Rounding out the series, Blato Zlato (“Swamp Gold” in Bulgarian) will perform Balkan music from New Orleans and Bulgaria on August 14. In addition to the music performances, folk artists will demonstrate and sell traditional crafts on each day of the series.

Considered “one of the two or three most exciting, scary good vocalists in rock today” (David Brown, KUT/NPR), Diaz began her musical career at 13 when she co-founded the all-female rock group *Girl in a Coma* in 2002. Three years later the group was signed to Joan Jett’s Blackheart Record and began extensive traveling, creating and performing for audiences around the world as a headlining act and as support for several highly acclaimed artists. Diaz began her journey as a solo artist and released her debut album “*The Beat is Dead*” on Cosmica Records in 2016.

Blato Zato, who means swamp gold in Bulgarian, is a New Orleans based Balkan band featuring dreamy three-part vocal harmonies and hard hitting instrumentals. They have produced two albums,

“*Swamp Gold*” and “*In The Wake*.”

Support for the NSU Folklife Concert Series is provided by grants from the Cane River National Heritage Area, Inc. and the Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission.

For more information, call the Louisiana Folklife Center at (318) 357-4332, email folklife@nsula.edu, or go to louisianafolklife.nsula.edu



Blato Zato

Electronic and Continuing Education

Water Aerobics

Using the unique properties of the water, this class provides you with a fun and challenging workout designed to increase your heart rate, strengthen muscles, increase flexibility, and enhance endurance. Water Aerobics meets the demands of the most skilled movers and is gentle enough on the joints for those seeking a low impact alternative.

Date: August 3 – 12, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday
 Time: 9:30 – 10:30 am
 Fee: \$29
 Location: Robert W. Wilson Recreation Complex
 6604 Highway 1 Bypass
 Instructor: Kaitlyn Hamm

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: August 5,
 Thursday **Got Your Goat**
 Time: 5:30 - 8:30 pm, Thursday
 Fee: \$45 per session
 Location: 2nd Floor South Hall
 Instructor: Shanna Dees Gaspard

Mentor Teacher Training Program

This Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved mentor teacher training offered by the NSU School of Education prepares participants to earn the Louisiana Mentor Teacher micro-credential*. The two-course training is offered online on a traditional semester basis, enrolling new participants each term. Participants can work toward earning the Elementary ELA, Secondary Math, or Universal mentor teacher distinction, receiving guidance and support from a current

practitioner who is Louisiana mentor teacher certified. *In addition to the training, participants must pass the BloomBoard assessment in order to earn the microcredential. The cost of the assessment is not included in the course fees.

Date: August 16 – December 3
 Time: Online
 Fee: \$250/course
 Location: Online
 Instructor: School of Education

Notary Public Exam Prep

In partnership with Louisiana State University-Shreveport, this 52-hour course is an introduction to notary public fundamentals. The instructor, attorney and notary, Jennifer Brown, distributes significant course study guides and materials to assist in your preparation for the exam. This course will be delivered via online video conferencing.

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 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 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.

Register by 08/18/21 to get the early bird price of \$430. After that date, the cost will increase to \$450.

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Non-Credit Classes ... Continued from Page 4

Date: August 24 – December 2, Tuesday and Thursday
(No class 10/26/21, 10/28/21, 11/23/21, and 11/25/21)
Time: 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Fee: \$430 (Early Bird Fee)
\$450 (After February 10, 2021)
Location: Online
Instructor: Jennifer Brown

Phlebotomy Technician Training via Online at NSU Natchitoches Campus

This nine (9) week course is broken down into two parts. The first part will be six (6) weeks of online classroom instruction. The second part will be a face-to-face hands-on portion that will meet October 11, 13, and 15 (Monday, Wednesday, & Friday) at the NSU Natchitoches Campus from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Once the skills/hands-on portion has been completed, students will be given up to two (2) weeks to obtain their required clinical time. Clinicals will be held October 18 through 29. This course is designed to teach entry-level phlebotomy skills to students interested in pursuing a career in Phlebotomy. Students are required to complete classroom instruction and 100 venipunctures before they will be allowed to take the board exam. Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will be eligible to take the National Board Certification Exam on-site through the American Certification Agency for Healthcare Professionals. This course also includes Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification through the American Heart Association. **NOTE:** Possibility of random drug screening at the student's expense at clinical sites.

Requirements for the course:

- Must provide proof of high school diploma, GED, or official transcript.
- Must pay **\$150** National Board Certification & material fee to the instructor the first face-to-face class meeting (**this fee is in addition to any registration fees**).
- Set of solid scrubs for clinical days (any color/do not purchase until after class begins).
- Electronic Book is available at no cost to you and will be posted in your online class.

Date: August 30 – October 8 Online
October 11, 13, & 15 Monday,
Wednesday, & Friday- Skills/hands-
on (**Face-to-Face**)

October 18 – 29 Monday-
Friday- Clinical Lab (**Face-to-Face**)
November 1 Monday -
National Board Exam (**Face-to-Face**)
Time: Online via Moodle
(classroom)
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm (skills/
hands-on)
Clinical lab/hours vary (Clinical
Lab/Students have up to two weeks to
complete)
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm (National
Board Exam)
Fee: \$950 + \$150 (The \$150
fee is paid directly to the instructor
the first face-face class meeting
- National Board Certification
& material fee). **A minimum
payment of \$475 must be included
with registration and does not
include material fee or board fee.
Remaining balance must be paid
through checkout.nsula.edu
prior to Monday, Monday, October 11.**
Location: 444 Caspari Street (South Hall)
2nd Floor Classroom
Instructor: Sherry Hinton, CPI
Stick It Phlebotomy, LLC

Phlebotomy Technician Training via Online at NSU Cenla Campus

This nine (9) week course is broken down into two parts. The first part will be six (6) weeks of online classroom instruction. The second part will be a face-to-face hands-on portion that will meet October 25, 27, and 29 (Monday, Wednesday, & Friday) at the NSU Cenla Campus from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Once the skills/hands-on portion has been completed, students will be given up to two (2) weeks to obtain their required clinical time. Clinicals will be held November 1 through 12. This course is designed to teach entry-level phlebotomy skills to students interested in pursuing a career in Phlebotomy. Students are required to complete classroom instruction and 100 venipunctures before they will be allowed to take the board exam. Upon satisfactory completion of this course, students will be eligible to take the National Board Certification Exam on-site through the American Certification Agency for Healthcare Professionals. This course also includes Basic Life Support (BLS) Certification through the American Heart Association. **NOTE:** Possibility of random drug screening at the student's expense at clinical sites.

Requirements for the course:

- Must provide proof of high school diploma, GED, or official transcript

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Save the Date!



Non-Credit Classes ... Continued from Page 4

- ☐ Must pay **\$150** National Board Certification & material fee to the instructor the first face-to-face class meeting (**this fee is in addition to any registration fees**).
- ☐ Set of solid scrubs for clinical days (any color/do not purchase until after class begins)
- ☐ Electronic Book is available at no cost to you and will be posted in your online class

Date: September 13 – October 22 Online
October 25, 27, & 29 Monday,
Wednesday, & Friday- Skills/hands-
on (**Face-to-Face**)
November 1 - 12 Monday-
Friday- Clinical Lab (**Face-to-Face**)
November 15 Monday -
National Board Exam (**Face-to-Face**)

Time: Online via Moodle
(classroom)
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm (skills/
hands-on)

Clinical lab/hours vary (Clinical
Lab/Students have up to two weeks to
complete)
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm (National
Board Exam)
Fee: \$950 + \$150 (The \$150
fee is paid directly to the instructor
the first face-face class meeting
- National Board Certification
& material fee). **A minimum
payment of \$475 must be included
with registration and does not
include material fee or board fee.
Remaining balance must be paid
through checkout.nsula.edu prior
to Monday, Monday, October 25.**

Location: NSU Cenla Campus, Rm. 164
1410 Neel Kearby Boulevard
Alexandria, Louisiana 71303

Instructor: Sherry Hinton, CPI
Stick It Phlebotomy, LLC

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