



## PEOPLE

Instructor of English **Heather Salter Dromm's** article "Breaking Sexist Barriers in Happy Valley" has been published in the online international journal MAI. The issue features a collection of feminist work including a focus dossier, Female Detective on TV.

### Folklife concert series kicks of July 3

The Louisiana Folklife Center at Northwestern State University is sponsoring the 2021 NSU Folklife Concert Series, a series of six Saturday concerts in July and August. The concerts will 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 Front Street in downtown Natchitoches. The concert series is free and open to the general public.

The series will kick off on July 3 with Cajun music by Amanda Shaw.

## Cox named VP for Student Experience

**Reatha Cox** has been named vice president for the Student Experience at Northwestern State University effective July 1. Her appointment has been approved by the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System. Cox replaces Frances Conine who is retiring.

"I have worked with Reatha for more than 30 years and she has always endeavored to see each student gets the most of their time at Northwestern," said **Dr. Chris Maggio**, NSU's immediate past president. "She is known for her energy and enthusiasm and works tirelessly to let students know about available resources that can assist them. Reatha also has a gift for recognizing potential in students and giving them opportunities to develop leadership skills which serve them for the rest of their lives."

Cox will lead the areas responsible for enrollment including the Offices of Admissions, Recruiting and Financial Aid. The vice president for the student experience also supervises offices in student affairs including the Offices of Accessibility and Disability Support, the Career Center, Counseling Services, First Year Experience and Leadership Development, Fraternal Leadership and Civic Engagement, Health Services, Student Activities and Organizations, Student Development, Student Support



Cox

Services and the Friedman Student Union.

"I'm excited to serve the university and our students in this new role," said Cox. "Our Student Experience team is dedicated to providing exciting and innovative programs and services to support the academic and personal goals of our students. I'm looking forward to working with students, faculty, staff and stakeholders as we elevate the student experience at NSU."

Cox has served as director of Student Affairs since 2018, leading and managing several areas in Student Affairs.

She has been a member of Northwestern State's staff since 1988. She earned a bachelor's in journalism and a master's in student personnel services at NSU. Cox was executive director of the First Year Experience and Leadership Development from 2013 to 2018, providing leadership and oversight to Freshman Connection, the university orientation program for first-year students and upper class mentors.

From 2007-13, she was director of Student Life and New Student Programs after serving as director of Student Success and New Student Programs from 2003-07. Cox was director of New Student Programs from 1999-2003 and assistant director of Student Activities and director

## Hicks named dean of College of Nursing & School of Allied Health

**Dr. Joel Hicks** has been named dean of the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health at Northwestern State University effective July 1, according to Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Greg Handel. Hicks has served as interim dean since January. The Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System has approved the appointment. "I am thrilled to have Joel Hicks join us as Dean of the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health," Handel said. "His experience working in radiologic sciences, with industry partners, and his passion for Healthcare, coupled with his emphasis on training future nurses and allied health professionals, will be an asset to the University. Joel is a consummate professional who is thoughtful and responsive to the students, faculty and staff in CoNSAH."

Hicks has been interim dean since January. He was director of the School of Allied Health from 2017-2020 and was named assistant dean of the College in 2020.

"The foundation of the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health was laid long ago by outstanding faculty and staff who wished to educate and graduate the best nurses and radiologic technologists in our state and beyond," said Hicks. "Building on that foundation, we will continue to fulfill the mission of our college and University by providing the highest quality nursing and allied health education to all students."

In May, Northwestern State's nurse anesthesia program received full accreditation by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia



**Hicks**

Educational Programs. The College of Nursing and School of Allied Health recently received a \$1.9 million grant from The Health Resources and Services Administration Bureau of Health Workforce to help expand the delivery of mental health services in Louisiana.

Hicks joined Northwestern State's faculty in 2010 after 16 years in the health care field. He earned a certificate in radiologic technology from LSU Health Sciences Center, a Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Science from Northwestern State, a Master of Science in Radiologic Technology from Midwestern

State University and a Doctor of Education in Developmental Education from Grambling State University.

As a member of Northwestern State's faculty, he has held the Caroline Romine Endowed Professorship for the past four years and was the recipient of the Carolyn Cole Saunders Endowed Professorship for one year. He was principal investigator for a Louisiana Board of Regents grant of \$78,894, "Enhancing Student Competencies in Radiologic Science Using Virtual Radiography." He was represented the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health on NSU's Faculty Senate from 2010-16, serving as secretary and vice president. He is participating in the UL System's Management and Leadership Institute and the NSU Leads program.

Hicks makes frequent presentations to national, statewide and regional groups and has had research and book reviews published in national professional journals.

### *Cox ... Continued from Page 1*

of Greek Life from 1992-99. From 1988-92, she was an admissions counselor and recruiter.

In 2020, Cox was recognized as the Outstanding Staff Member of the Year by the University of Louisiana System which includes nine regional

state universities. She received the Academy of Country Music Awards Volunteer Leadership Award in 2018 and received the Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society Executive Director's Advisor of the Year Award in 2016.

Cox has made numerous

presentations to state, regional and national conferences on subjects including student leadership, the value of honor societies and Greek life. She is active in a variety of professional organizations, university committees and community activities.

# Lyles to lead School of Biological and Physical Sciences

**Dr. Christopher Lyles** has been named director of the School of Biological and Physical Sciences at Northwestern State University effective July 1. His appointment has been approved by the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System. Lyles has been interim director since 2019.

“Dr. Lyles has been a valuable member of the School of Biological and Physical Sciences since joining the faculty in 2015. His impact has grown tremendously over the past six years,” said Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Professor of Biology Dr. Francene Lemoine. “I am extremely appreciative of the exemplary leadership Dr. Lyles has shown over the past two years as he directed the School. To keep such a large academic and service unit not only afloat but growing and thriving during the trying times we have faced recently is incredibly impressive.”

Lyles has been a member of NSU’s School of Biological and Physical Sciences faculty since 2015. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology at NSU in 2004, a master’s degree in marine and environmental biology at Nicholls State University in 2006 and a doctorate in microbiology from the University of Oklahoma in 2013.

“I thank (Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs) Dr. Greg Handel and Dr. Francene Lemoine for this opportunity,” said Lyles. “I look forward to continuing to work with the faculty and the School of Biological and Physical Sciences and my colleagues throughout the university to continue providing strong academic programs for our students that prepare them for life after college.”

The school offers bachelor’s programs in applied microbiology, biology and physical science with several concentrations, pre-professional programs and an associate degree program in veterinary technology.

Lyles has been an active researcher,



research mentor to undergraduate students and presenter. Since joining the faculty at NSU he has served on several academic committees and been involved with alumni outreach, grant-writing and service-learning projects.

As interim director, Lyles and faculty in the school have collaborated with the Department of Criminal Justice, History and Social Sciences and other areas to develop a certificate program in Re-

remote Systems Science and Technology. The program received a grant from AEP/SWEPCO for \$90,000 to build a new drone laboratory in Kyser.

The school received a Board of Regents enhancement grant for \$90,000 to purchase new analytical equipment for new experiential learning labs. Several new positions were developed in biology including two Grady Erwin Nature Reserve liaisons, coordinators for the departments of Biology and Applied Microbiology as well as Physical Science, and several faculty appointments to coordinate and supervise multiple laboratory classes.

Lyles encouraged faculty to find ways to teach online and “flex” classes during the pandemic. This led to successful implementation of new online chemistry classes. Several new classes that focused on professional school preparation as well as increasing the number of natural science electives were added. The school also increased its community engagement as well as media presence.

“None of the accomplishments of the past two years would have been possible without the drive and determination of the amazing faculty in the School of Biological and Physical Sciences,” said Lyles.

For more information on the School of Biological and Physical Sciences, go to [sciences.nsula.edu](https://sciences.nsula.edu).





Northwestern State’s Office of Marketing and Branding was voted Best Online Presence. From left are Assistant Director of Marketing and Branding Zack Breaux, Anna Waxley, Chamber of Commerce events coordinator and NSU graduate, and Josh McDaniel, director of Marketing and Branding.

## Best of Natchitoches

*Marketing recognized for Best Online Presence, Pierce gets Lifetime Achievement Award*

Northwestern State University was voted Best Online Presence in the Best of Natchitoches contest sponsored by the Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce, a social media contest in which individuals were invited to select their favorite business in a variety of categories.

In conjunction, **Jerry Pierce**, NSU’s vice president for External Affairs, was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Chamber invited nominations earlier this year in a variety of categories resulting in nominations for 156 member businesses and individuals. Nominees were asked to submit a narrative on their businesses, speaking to specific criteria, including company management, community service, economic stability, ethics and integrity, growth of company, new jobs created for the community and

upward mobility for employees. The narratives were reviewed by a cross section of business professionals who then scored each nominee narrative according to the criteria to determine the top three businesses in each category.

“I’m incredibly proud and honored to receive the Best of Natchitoches Award,” said **Josh McDaniel**, director of Marketing and Branding. “Our Office of Marketing, Branding and Digital Media prides ourselves on providing online content at the highest quality we possibly can, and it is incredibly rewarding to see our dedication and hard work be rewarded by the Natchitoches community and the Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce.”

The Office of Marketing and Branding’s overall message to students, faculty, staff, alumni and the community is that NSU is a place where

every individual matter and can find the place where they fit. McDaniel and his staff stay current with trends in digital and social media with content that sets NSU apart from competitors in higher education and from businesses throughout the region.

The office has a staff of three full-time employees, McDaniel, **Zack Breaux**, assistant director, and **Ashley Smith**, administrative assistant, and three student workers, Abby Nelson, Alyssa McLain and Jacob Kiser.

“We strive every day to represent the affirmations and mission of our university, our students, our alumni, and our communities,” McDaniel said. “I’m grateful to Jerry Pierce and **Dr. Chris Maggio** for trusting us with the NSU brand and giving us the creative freedoms to do what we do best.”

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# Haynes named director of School of Allied Health

**Dr. Kelli Welch Haynes** has been named director of the School of Allied Health. Haynes has been director of the Radiologic Sciences program since 2010. She joined NSU in 2000 after five years in the healthcare field. She is a tenured professor of radiologic science and graduate faculty.

Haynes graduated from Northwestern State University with a Bachelor of Science degree, Midwestern State University with a Master of Science and the University of Louisiana at Monroe with her Doctorate of Education in curriculum and instruction with a concentration in health professions education. As a member of Northwestern's faculty, Haynes has held the Pauline Uli Zysek Endowed Professorship for six years.

Haynes is very active in the profession, having served on the board of the Louisiana



**Haynes**

Society of Radiologic Technologists and Association of Educators in Imaging and Radiologic Sciences.

Earlier this month, she was elevated for Fellow of the American Society of Radiologic Technologists. She has published several articles and presented over 100 presentations at the state, regional, national and international levels. Haynes is a co-author of the textbook, "Radiation Protection in Medical Radiography," and the author of a chapter in "Bontrager

Radiographic Positioning and Related Anatomy and Introduction to Radiologic & Imaging Sciences & Patient Care." She is also a subject matter expert for Elsevier publishing. Haynes currently serves as a site visitor for the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology and an Editorial Review Board member for AEIRS.

## *Best of Natchitoches Awards ... Continued from Page 4*

The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes one outstanding leader of our community each year whose long-term active engagement in the community has had a significant, positive economic impact locally.

This is the third year the chamber has recognized an individual with a Lifetime Achievement Award. The inscription on the award reads "In recognition and appreciation for your significant contributions to the Natchitoches area."

Pierce said, "Natchitoches and Northwestern are extraordinary places to live and work. Any contribution that I might have made to the community and region over the years is a reflection of my genuine appreciation for Natchitoches Parish and

the people who make it so distinctive and exceptional. I

am truly honored to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award."



Jerry Pierce received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce for decades of service to NSU and the Natchitoches Community. Anna Waxley, Chamber events coordinator, left, and Laura Lyles, Chamber president, presented the award.



## Electronic and Continuing Education

### **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: July 8, Thursday                      Pink  
Hydrangeas

July 22, Thursday  
Birds on a Wire

July 29, Thursday  
Evening Landscape

August 5, Thursday  
Got Your Goat

Time: 5:30 - 8:30 pm, Thursday

Fee: \$45 per session

Location: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor South Hall

Instructor: Shanna Dees Gaspard

### **Security+ Intensive Boot Camp**

Security+ Intensive Boot Camp - This intensive boot camp is designed with one thing in mind: Certification. In this course you will study, at your own pace, for the CompTIA Security+ (SYO-501) exam. You will be provided resources, lecture notes, and access to a live professor that will prepare you to take the

certification exam.

This comprehensive package includes the software, recorded lectures, a test voucher (good for 1 year) and a free retake, and a weekly live session should you need it. These tools will help you succeed and become Security+ certified. This course is self-paced so that you may begin any time and will have 9 months of live access.

Date: Online/Open Enrollment

Fee: \$1,899

Location: Online

Instructor: Eddie Horton

### **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: July 31 & August 7, Saturday  
Time: 10:00 am-12:00pm      Fee: \$55

Location: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Classroom, South Hall

Instructor: Emily Zering

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

## NSU, LOSFA will present virtual STEAM camps this month

Northwestern State University has partnered with the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance (LOSFA) to present three upcoming virtual summer camps for junior high students entering grades 6-8 and high school students entering grades 9-12 this fall. Registration is open to all junior and high school students.

Participants will work intensively with NSU faculty and undergraduate students in the areas of robotics,

cybersecurity and STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art and Mathematics). New this year is the addition of ACT preparation components in the Robotics and S.T.E.A.M camps, designed to help campers further prepare for success on up-coming ACT.

There is no cost to register or attend the virtual camps, but registration slots are limited and depend upon the availability of program funding. Campers will receive confirming emails

once their registration has been approved. Campers will receive specialized no-cost Summer Camp Kits containing all the materials needed to learn-at-home in real-time throughout the summer.

NSU Robotics Camp + ACT Practice for Math and Science will take place July 12-16. Sessions for junior high students will be from 8 a.m.-noon. Sessions for high school students will be from 1-5 p.m.

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# Kurti records CD of works by Nicolo Paganini

**Andrej Kurti**, professor of violin, viola and chamber orchestra at Northwestern State University, has recorded a CD of some of the most challenging and beloved compositions for violin. “24 Caprices” features Nicolo Paganini’s “Twenty-Four Caprices for Solo Violin, op. 1,” which was recorded live in a concert Kurti performed at NSU in October 2019. Final production of the project was delayed by COVID-19.

“I’m so very excited about this new CD,” Kurti said. “Huge ‘Thank You’ goes to producer and president of Blue Griffin Recordings, Dr. Sergei Kvitko for putting his genius - and patience - to this project. Another thank you goes to my amazing wife Sofiko Tchetchelashvili for her love, support and advice. Finally, thank you to my friends and colleagues for their creativity and continuous support - Eleonora Machado, Dr. John Dunn, Leslie Gruesbeck, Scott Burrell and Dr. Masahito Kuroda.”

Kurti said performing Paganini’s “Twenty-Four Caprices for Solo Violin, op. 1” is a milestone for every violinist. The masterwork is technically challenging, musically charming and emotional for advanced violin study and performance. Kurti had planned a nationwide tour to perform the entire opus, which was cancelled during last year’s pandemic.

“A milestone for every violinist is Nicolo Paganini’s ‘Twenty-Four Caprices for Solo Violin, op. 1.’ It is technically extremely challenging and musically very charming and emotional. This masterwork is an essential repertoire and source for more advanced violin studying and growth in the performance field,” said Kurti. “So far, this Opus was recorded only by a few violinists, some of them being the leading artists of our time and role models for many aspiring performers.”

A native of Serbia, Kurti began teaching at NSU in 2004 and has blended his time with solo performances across the U.S. and Europe. He previously recorded Ysaye’s “Six



**Kurti**

Sonatas, Op. 21” for Blue Griffin with Kvitko as executive producer and sound engineer. He said the recording projects bring prestige to the university, attracting the attention to NSU’s music program and his violin studio.

“The process of preparation and the completion of such a project has had immediate positive results in the areas of research/teaching/performing aspects,” he said.

Kurti plans to host a CD release recital and reception this fall in Magale Recital Hall. Details will be announced as plans are finalized.

## *STEAM Camps ... Continued from Page 6*

NSU Cybersecurity Camp will be July 19-23. Sessions for junior high students will 8 a.m.-noon followed by high school student sessions from 1-5 p.m.

NSU STEAM + ACT Prep Camp will be July 26-30 with junior high sessions from 8 a.m.-noon and high school session from 1-5 p.m.

Register at <https://www.lgsummercamps.osfa.la.gov/>. For more information, email [lgsummercamps@la.gov](mailto:lgsummercamps@la.gov) or call (225) 627-3814.

## HRSA grant will expand mental health service delivery

Northwestern State University has received a \$1.9 million grant from The Health Resources and Services Administration Bureau of Health Workforce to help expand the delivery of mental health services in Louisiana.

The grant will help Northwestern State's Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (PMHNP) concentration to educate more students who can help provide needed care in underserved areas and effectively use technology to provide those services.

"This grant means that more students will be able to participate in the PMHNP program. More importantly, however, this grant means that residents in underserved areas will have greater access to mental health services," said **Dr. Joel Hicks**, dean of the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health at Northwestern State. "The recent pandemic emphasized the need for innovation in healthcare delivery. This grant will help support and develop telehealth delivery within our program and experiential learning sites, which not only improves access to underserved communities but also ensures future nurse practitioners are prepared to effectively use the technology in the care they provide."

Northwestern State was one of 56 recipients to receive \$22 million in awards for 2021-22 as part of the Behavioral Health Workforce and Education Training (BHWET) Program for Professionals.

According to the 2020 annual report of "America's

Health Care Rankings," Louisiana ranks 50<sup>th</sup> in overall health care indicators, 49<sup>th</sup> in "Frequent Mental Distress," and 42<sup>nd</sup> in depression compared to other states in the United States. Frequent mental distress increased 27 percent between 2011 and 2019 from 14.6 percent to 18.5 percent of adults. The Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Health Workforce reported that as of this past December, Louisiana has 150 Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas. Due to COVID-19, social distancing requirements and the growing need for behavioral healthcare, there is a unique opportunity for PMHNP students to integrate telehealth delivery within clinical experiential learning activities.

"There are limited clinical experiences which cause students to travel to obtain hours," said **Dr. Tiana Williams**, coordinator for Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner Project Activities. "Funding will open opportunities for more faculty, preceptors and evaluators to prepare the students for the increasing demand for mental health providers. The community will benefit as these PMHNP will have access to collaborate with community partners and make telemedicine available to those in underserved areas."

The grant begins in July and will run through June 2025. Funding will support stipends for trainees in final experiential training and

support educational activities in telehealth delivery for students, faculty and community partners. These provisions for trainee support and technology integration will improve the distribution and supply of the behavioral health workforce.

"The BHWET grant will help expand experiential training opportunities for our students by emphasizing interdisciplinary collaboration and a team-based approach in integrated behavioral health and primary care settings with the use of telehealth," said **Dr. Angela Hardy**, coordinator for Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Project Activities. "This will broaden our relationships with community-based partners and ultimately increase access to quality behavioral health services for underserved and diverse populations across the lifespan."

The project has three primary objectives. The first is to increase multidisciplinary training experiences for Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner students that integrate behavioral health care for high-risk, high-needs youth, adolescents and transition-aged youth within primary care environments. Other objectives are to develop strategies for technology integration in the provision of behavioral healthcare by Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioners and recruit a PMHNP workforce that expands the diversity of the targeted geographic areas.

Students in the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner concentration must

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## CONGRATULATIONS

**Ms. Cindy McGuire**, College of Nursing and Allied Health, received notification of a \$2,500 award from the ASRT Foundation for “Preparing Future Healthcare Professionals: A Pilot Study of the Relationship between Resilience, Emotional Intelligence, and Age.”

**Ms. Nancy Alexander**, Child and Family Network, College of Education and Human Development, received notification of a \$1,072,764 award from the Louisiana Department of Education for “Playground Enhancement.”

**Dr. Hiram F. Gregory**, Department of Criminal Justice, History and Social Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, received notification of a \$5,000 continuation award from the USDA National Forest Service for “NSU Student Archaeology Training.”

**Dr. Pamela Simmons**, College of Nursing and Allied Health, received notification of a \$1,916,800 four-year award from the Health Resources and Services Administration for “PHMHNP: Bridging the Behavioral Healthcare Gap.”

**Ms. Julie Longlois**, Technology, Innovation and Economic Development/Carl D. Perkins, received notification of a \$60,844 award from the Louisiana Community and

Technical College System for “Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Perkins V).”

## CURRENT ACTIVITIES

**Dr. Michelle Brunson**, College of Education and Human Development, submitted a proposal to International Paper entitled “Born to Read.”

**Ms. Nancy Alexander**, Child and Family Network, College of Education and Human Development, submitted a proposal to the Louisiana Department of Education entitled, “2021 Supply Building and Access Grant.” **Ms. Kim Duncan** is collaborator.

**Dr. Yohaselly Santiago-Rodriguez**, School of Biological and Physical Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, submitted a proposal to the LSU/Louisiana Space and Sea Grant Opportunity (LaSSO) entitled, “Removal of Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances from Water Sources: Converting Toxic Compounds into Building Blocks for Fuel Conversion.”

**Ms. Anna Dugas**, School of Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, submitted a proposal to LSU/Louisiana Aerospace Catalysts Experiences for Students (LaACES) entitled, “DemonSats-3: Student Payload Design Program at NSULA.”

## *HRSA Grant ... Continued from Page 8*

complete 608 clinical hours throughout the program, most of which are located within rural and underserved HPSAs. There is a growing need for behavioral healthcare within Louisiana.

The grant was written by College of Nursing and School

of Allied Health Director of Grants and Planning **Dr. Cindy McGuire** and former Director of Grants, Planning and Development **Maxine Johnson**.

The grant was submitted by **Carla Howell**, director of Grants and Contracts who

also provided guidance and assistance. Senior Director of Nursing **Dr. Pamela Simmons** is the project director.

For more information on Northwestern State’s College of Nursing and School of Allied Health, go to <https://nursing.nsula.edu>.

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

OSP Staff

Carla Howell  
Director

Alysia Jones  
Associate  
Director



The NSU Foundation Board surprised Dr. Chris Maggio by announcing the Dr. and Mrs. Chris Maggio Endowed Scholarship. From left are Drake Owens, executive director of the NSU Foundation; Mike Knotts, Board fundraising co-chair; Director of Development Jill Bankston, Jennifer and Chris Maggio and Jo Pease, Board fundraising co-chair.

## Maggios honored with scholarship for years of service to NSU

The Northwestern State University Foundation Board planned a special surprise for **Dr. Chris Maggio**, who retired last month after more than 33 years of service, the last four as NSU president. At a June 18 board meeting, which was also Maggio's birthday, the group announced the creation of the Dr. Chris and Jennifer Maggio Endowed Scholarship to honor the legacy of the Maggio family and their support for NSU. The scholarship is fully endowed at the \$100,000 level.

"I'm blown away. I had no idea the scholarship was being talked about," Maggio said in thanking the presidential leadership team, vice presidents and volunteers who serve on the Alumni Association and NSU Foundation Boards. NSU Director of Development **Jill Bankston** said the Board's fundraising committee chaired by Jo Pease of New Orleans and Mike Knotts of Haughton thought the most appropriate way of thanking the Maggios and acknowledging their years of

dedication to Northwestern State was through a scholarship that will assist students.

Dr. and Mrs. Maggio thanked the NSU supporters who contributed to the scholarship, family, friends and colleagues, acknowledging mutually beneficial partnerships in the community and with other institutions. They also stressed the sense of family and teamwork that is part of the NSU culture.

"We are so fortunate to have world class faculty, the most supportive staff that you can find and the most amazing student that you could ever imagine," Maggio said. "Northwestern is a special place with an extremely bright future, and we are so very lucky to have Dr. Marcus Jones who will be leading us as our interim president. I appreciate each and every one of you for the job that you do."

**Jennifer Maggio** also expressed appreciation to the NSU community.

"Thirty years ago, I came to Northwestern as a Louisiana Tech graduate and was only

prepared to be here for two years," she said. "I met Chris, ironically, at the track. He was having track practice and I was taking a running class with Coach Leon Johnson. Little did I know that here I would be 30 years later in this role that was certainly not on my radar at the time. I would say that coming from another university, Northwestern always welcomed me with open arms and you all truly have become a family."

Jennifer Maggio earned a graduate degree in Student Personnel Services at NSU in 1992 and has worked in education as a teacher, counselor and administrator at the elementary, secondary and university levels.

As first lady, she was actively engaged with campus activities, organizations and service to the university and Natchitoches community.

Friends can make contributions to the Dr. Chris and Jennifer Maggio scholarship by visiting [northwesternstatealumni.com/maggio/](http://northwesternstatealumni.com/maggio/).