



PEOPLE

Dates have been set for Northwestern State University's Spring 2021 Grad Fest for graduating seniors.

Grad Fest will take place on NSU's Shreveport campus from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday, March 15 on the second floor of the main building. Due to COVID, capacity will be 15 individuals.

Grad Fest will take place on the main campus in Natchitoches from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday, March 16 in the Student Union Ballroom. Due to COVID, capacity will be 50 individuals.

Grad Fest will take place on the Alexandria campus from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday, March 19 in the Cenla campus library. COVID capacity will be 15 individuals.

NSU will adhere to current state health guidelines in limiting capacity at each facility with social distancing and other safety precautions in place.

Students will be required to purchase their own cap and gown prior to

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Internal auditor Emily Posey working to strengthen Northwestern State as a whole

Emily Posey has served as Northwestern State University's internal auditor since October 2020, where she provides risk-based and objective assurance services, advice and insight towards achieving university goals.

"It is my sincere hope to assist NSU personnel by adding value to their individual operations so that together we can strengthen NSU as a whole," Posey said. "I hope to break the 'auditor stigma' and provide friendly and helpful service to everyone I have the opportunity to work with."

Posey has been on staff at NSU since joining the Bursar's office in 2014. After graduating from high school, she worked at the former Peoples State Bank for eight years. When Peoples merged with MidSouth Bank, she declined a position that would have required a move to Lafayette and instead joined the accounting department at Southern Scripts, a pharmacy benefit manager, for one year and was then hired at Northwestern. She transitioned into the Internal Audit Office this past October.



Posey

"I am really enjoying my new role. I am able to work with many different people on campus and am learning lots of new things," she said.

Posey graduated from Natchitoches Central High School in 2005. She earned an associate degree in accounting from University of Phoenix in 2009 and a bachelor's degree in finance in 2011. She and her husband Jonathan have been married 16 years and lived in Many 13 of those years with son John Ross, 6, and Renley, 4.

"I have worked at NSU since my oldest was an infant and they both have the same love for the Demons as my husband and I do. They are huge fans and love attending Northwestern events and youth camps," she said. "Outside of work I enjoy deer hunting, camping, and spending time with my family and friends. I am also very active in the church my Family and I attend and love assisting with youth activities."

Posey's office is located in Room 125 in Caspari Hall. She can be reached at (318) 357-4421 or poseye@nsula.edu.

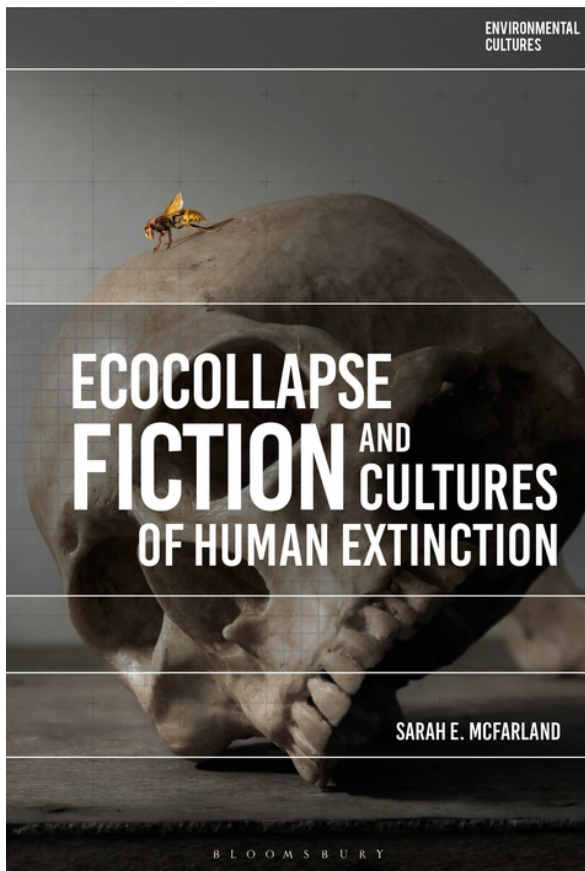
Northwestern State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, age, pregnancy or parenting status, and veteran or retirement status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

The following have been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies (i.e., Title IX): Employees/Potential Employees - Veronica M. Biscoe, EEO Officer (318-357-6359) or Students - Frances Conine, Dean of Students (318-357-5286).

For Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) concerns, contact the Disability Support and Tutoring Director Randi Washington, at (318) 357-4460.

*Inquiries regarding employment applications should call Business Affairs (318-357-5446).

McFarland publishes ‘Ecocollapse Fiction and Cultures of Human Extinction’



Dr. Sarah E. McFarland, professor of literature and theory in the Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Cultural Studies, has published *Ecocollapse Fiction and Cultures of Human Extinction* with Bloomsbury Academic’s Environmental Cultures series.

Her book analyzes 21st-century realistic speculations of human extinction: fictions that imagine future worlds without interventions of as-yet uninvented technology, interplanetary travel, or other science fiction elements that provide hope for rescue or long-term survival. Climate change fiction usually resists facing the potentiality of human species extinction, following instead traditional generic conventions that imagine primitivist communities of human survivors with the means of escaping the consequences of global climate change.

In what she is calling “ecocollapse fiction,” McFarland argues, diminished ecosystems, the specters of cannibalism, and disintegrations of difference and othering render human self-identity as radically malleable within its confrontations with the stark materiality of all life, making present the possibility of humans going extinct amidst the ongoing Sixth Great Extinction.

McAlister tapped to serve as TECSCU secretary/treasurer

Dr. Kimberly McAlister, dean of the Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development at NSU, has been elected to serve as the secre-

tary/treasurer of the Teacher Education Council of State Colleges and Universities (TECSCU).

TECSCU is a national group affiliated with the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education serving as a national voice on matters of importance to educator preparation programs at comprehensive public colleges and universities. She will take office during the group’s Winter virtual meeting in February.

McAlister has been dean since 2018. She began her educational career as a high school mathematics teacher before taking on teacher leadership roles. To continue nur-

turing her love of teaching and mathematics, she moved to teacher preparation in 1998.

As dean, she has engaged with others regarding leadership development.

Recently completing a 3-year term as president elect/president of the Louisiana Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, McAlister worked with colleagues to build partnerships and elevate the profession among teacher preparation programs, state departments of education and private providers.

A colleague introduced her to TECSCU in 2018. McAlister said she has found a group of colleagues to share and develop the profession she loves.



McAlister



Alliance Compressors supports Creole Heritage Center

Alliance Compressors made a donation to the Creole Heritage Center at Northwestern State University to support events that CHC staff hope to present in 2021, including the annual Creole Heritage Celebration that was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19.

From left are Brian Brock, plant manager; **Markita H. Small**, Creole Heritage Center clerk; **Loletta J. Wynder**, Creole Heritage Center director, and Michelle Brundige, Alliance HR manager.

“We are deeply appreciative of Alliance for investing in the important work the Creole Heritage Center does in preserving and educating people about Creole history and culture,” Wynder said.

The mission of the Creole Heritage

Center is to promote, foster and engage in activities and endeavors that relate to Louisiana Creoles and their culture. It serves as an office of support to Louisiana and national Creole communities and organizations, offering advice and assistance in matters that affect Creoles.

The Center also serves as a central clearinghouse/information bank for these communities and for those seeking knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Louisiana Creoles and their culture. Administrative offices are located in Kyser Hall Room 116.

More information is available at www.nsula.edu/creole-heritage-center.

Grad Fest... Continued from Page 1

attending Grad Fest in order to take cap and gown photos. Due to Covid-19, sample caps and gowns will not be provided. Jostens, NSU’s official partner for graduation regalia, is working with the NSU Marketplace so that inventory is available and in the hands of students before Grad Fest takes place. Candid Campus Photography will send an email to each student scheduled to

graduate with instruction on how to set up an appointment for cap and gown pictures.

Only one representative from each academic department will be allowed to set up a table at Grad Fest, due to capacity restrictions.

If departments typically hand out flyers with instructions for graduates, those can be distributed without a representative present but

materials must be provided no later than Thursday, March 11. Arrangements can be made to have them picked up by contacting **Danielle Cobb**, associate director of Alumni Affairs, at cobbd@nsula.edu.

Students who are registered to graduate should receive an email with more information.

For more information about Grad Fest, contact Cobb at cobbd@nsula.edu



Hicks named interim CONSAH dean as Clawson returns to faculty

Dr. Dana Clawson, former dean of the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health at Northwestern State University, returned to a full-time doctorate faculty position as a professor in the College of Nursing effective Jan. 3, 2021, according to Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs **Dr. Greg Handel**.

Dr. Joel Hicks, director of the School of Allied Health, will serve as interim dean while a national search takes place for a permanent dean. The Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System approved the appointment last December.

Clawson, who has served as dean since 2013, said she is voluntarily stepping down as dean in anticipation of a planned move to another part of the state. She will teach in the Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

During her tenure as dean, Clawson developed a faculty/staff team that increased enrollment in the College by more than 50 percent.

New undergraduate and graduate nursing and allied health programs were developed including a Doctor of Nursing Practice program, an accelerated BS to BSN program, a military medic/paramedic to ASN program and a new

BSN to DNP-Nurse Anesthesia program.

“Dr. Clawson has been an outstanding leader of the College of Nursing and Allied Health,” said Northwestern State President Dr. Chris Maggio. “She has done an excellent job of working with our faculty, staff and regional stakeholders to enhance the quality of healthcare in Louisiana in many ways including playing a major role in the development of our Doctorate of Nurse Practitioner program. I know she will continue to have an impact by helping to teach future health care professionals.”

Clawson said a team effort within the College and throughout the university helped nursing and allied health programs develop and prosper.

“Not one accomplishment credited to me as Dean of the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health happened in isolation,” said Clawson. “Rather, it took many people believing in me and my vision for the College, giving me direction and wise council, and often re-directing me, to make my ideas become realities. I am grateful for all of those who have been my voices of wisdom and who have been on my team.”

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Hicks, Clawson ... Continued from Page 4

During Clawson's tenure as dean, the College received more than \$4.1 million in grants to enhance its academic programs. Campus improvements were made to facilities in Shreveport, Leesville/Fort Polk and Alexandria to enhance the learning environment, provide amenities and improve safety for students, faculty and staff.

"During Dr. Clawson's tenure as Dean of the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health, the College has experienced tremendous growth in its program offerings, enrollment, public and private partnerships and engagement with health professionals throughout the region," Handel said. "She has been a strong voice of advocacy for nursing and the allied health professions in Louisiana, has served on boards and been a liaison to accreditation agencies on best practices in Nursing. Her energy and enthusiasm have vaulted the College to new heights, and her influence has shaped the forward motion of the College."

Clawson held the Coughlin-Saunders and Robert Rife Saunders Endowed Professorships. She has served as director at large and chair of the Louisiana Council of Administrators of Nursing Education. Clawson is a Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education on site evaluator and a member of the Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners. Last year, Clawson was inducted into the LSU Health Sciences Center New Orleans Nursing Hall of Fame.

She has remained active as a women's health nurse practitioner at Willis-

Knighton Pierremont OB GYN Specialists leading care for more than 15,000 patient visits since 2000. Clawson has served as president, vice president and a board member of the Martin Luther King Community Health Clinic.

Clawson has remained active as a researcher, scholar and advocate for nurses across the state and region. As she moves into a new position, Clawson is enthusiastic about the future of the nursing profession.

"I am convinced that given the chance, nurses and allied health professionals hold the answers to all of our nation's numerous healthcare problems. I am also convinced that given the opportunity, voice and legitimate authority, nurses can positively change the world," she said. "Empowerment and education of students who will go on to empower and educate patients has been the driving force behind everything I have accomplished as dean."

Clawson looks forward to continuing her work with fellow faculty, staff and students.

"Our students have a vision to become a nurse. They need support, direction and sometimes re-direction," said Clawson. "That is what nurse educators do. I believe NSU has the world's best nursing and allied health faculty and staff. These faculty and staff help individuals from all ages, genders and ethnicities to become members of a profession that will change their lives forever. In turn, these same individuals will change the lives of those in need of healthcare forever. How great is that?!"

Hicks has been director

of the School of Allied Health since 2017 and assistant dean of the College since early 2020.

Hicks joined Northwestern State's faculty in 2010 after 16 years in the health care field. He is an associate professor of radiologic science, honors coordinator and clinical coordinator for the radiologic sciences program.

Hicks 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.

Lemoine confirmed as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Francene Lemoine has been named dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Northwestern State University. Her appointment has been approved by the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System.

The College of Arts and Sciences includes the Louisiana Scholars' College, the School of Biological and Physical Sciences, the Mrs. H.D. Dear Sr. and Alice E. Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts and the Departments of Criminal Justice, History, and Social Sciences; Engineering Technology; English, Foreign Languages and Cultural Studies and Mathematics.

"The College of Arts and Sciences is a wonderful blend of diverse academic units that seem disconnected or distant from the outside looking in when in actuality, we are a highly collaborative, innovative and creative group," said Lemoine. "We are the heart of what makes Northwestern State a liberal arts institution. I can't wait to hone this image and bring the talents and accomplishments of the entire College to a larger stage."

Lemoine has been a member of the faculty in the School of Biological and Physical Sciences since 2006. She served as Director of the School of Biological and Physical Sciences from 2015–2019 during which time she worked to establish a new degree program in applied microbiology and increased student enrollment by nearly 20 percent creating one of the largest academic units at



Lemoine

the University. With the skills honed during her participation the ULS Management and Leadership Institute, Lemoine served as interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences since July 2019.

"Dr. Lemoine is an exemplary leader, and well-respected by her colleagues in Louisiana and beyond," said Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Greg Handel. "She is a compassionate and caring professional who will positively impact student recruitment, retention, and learning, and will continue to provide stellar leadership for the diverse academic units in the College."

Lemoine earned a B.S. in biology at the University of Southwestern Louisiana in 1997 and a Ph.D. in cell and molecular biology at Baylor College of Medicine in 2002. She was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine from 2000–2005 and at Duke University Medical

Center from 2005–2006.

Lemoine has been an active published researcher in the field of microbiology and a leading fund raiser for the School of Biological and Physical Sciences having authored grants and secured private donations for laboratory and classroom enhancements. She has earned teaching and research honors from NSU, UNC-Chapel Hill, Baylor College of Medicine and University of Southwestern Louisiana, now known as the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. She was honored with NSU's Excellence in Teaching Award for the College of Science and Technology in 2010.

"I have been blessed with some truly amazing mentors throughout my life and career," said Lemoine. "These individuals have shown me through their teachings and examples how to become the person and professional that I want to be. I'm honored to now be able to stand on their shoulders and work to help develop the next group of talented faculty, staff and students in the College of Arts and Sciences."

Lemoine has been awarded a National Institutes of Health research and service grant and was the recipient of a Career Development Award grant from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Foundation. She has authored/co-authored 13 peer-reviewed publications in the areas of virology, cancer biology and genetics including one publication which was highlighted on the cover of the prominent biomedical sciences journal, *Cell*.



Brown, Howell named UL System content experts

Northwestern State University Chief Technology Officer **Tracy Brown** and Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs **Carla Howell** have been selected to serve as a University of Louisiana System Content Expert for the next year.

The UL System is seeking to draw on the intellectual capital of its faculty and staff by creating a network of content experts to provide support in the areas that align with its strategic framework. The goal is that the network will grow and provide the best support possible to those who are focused on student success and diminishing the achievement gap.

The content expert areas will be mental health, online teaching and learning, financial aid, grant writing/research resources and information technology. Brown will be a content expert in information technology. Howell will be a content expert in grant writing/

research resources.

Howell will design and implement system-wide workshops and programming to improve grant writing skills; develop crowd-sourced resource and grant opportunities lists and identify state/federal/community resources that can be used by faculty, staff and students to apply for grants and other initiatives focused on best practices.

Brown will be expected to create webinars to address technology frequently asked questions and innovations; pull together IT professionals from within the UL System together to discuss topics of interest; develop programming to disseminate technology information and identify and develop resources that will benefit faculty, staff and students.

Brown has nearly three decades of experience in educational technology. He previously held the positions of deputy chief information officer and associate director of technical

services at NSU. Brown also served as a network administrator for the Sabine Parish School Board and worked for the Natchitoches Parish Library as the automation and user support specialist.

In his role as CTO, he supervises technology resources, evaluates technology and develops partnerships with key stakeholders, both within and outside the university. Other areas include project development, organizational workflow and student satisfaction and success. Brown says his objective is to apply his knowledge and directly impact any project and maximize the limited resources that are available.

Brown is an active participant in the LONI community and is a co-chair of the Network Technical Advisory Group, which serves in an advisement capacity to the LONI Management Council. He is a member of the Council of Information

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Electronic and Continuing Education

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 March 15, 17, and 19 (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. 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

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Brown, Howell ... Continued from Page 7

Services Directors (CISD) and was the 2019 chair of the LONI Summit Planning Committee. He is also a member of the Natchitoches Parish Library Board of Control. Brown regular consults with sister institutions to provide guidance, insights and recommendations.

Howell joined the NSU staff in 1991 and has held positions in research and sponsored programs within the University of Louisiana System for 28 years. She received a B.S. in accounting with a minor in business administration from NSU in 1996. As director of the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP), Howell is responsible for the overall management of pre-award grant and contract administration. She is tasked with increasing and sustaining successful grant and contracts activity by working with faculty and staff in researching and identifying prospective resource opportunities at the federal, state, local and private funding levels.

Since joining the Office

of Sponsored Programs in November 2002, she has been involved with the submission of over 1,250 proposals exceeding a request of \$209 million and the acceptance of over 927 awards bringing in \$128 million.

In 2006, Howell was designated as a certified research administrator by the Research Administrators Certification Council and continues to maintain recertification by demonstrating ongoing participation, continuing education activities and providing annual CRA exam questions. She has been a member of the National Council of University Research Administrators, Society of Research Administrators, Council for Resource Development, Council on Undergraduate Research and National Association of College and University Business Officers as well as various NSU councils and committees.

During these recent and unprecedented times, the U.S. Department of Education's

CARES Act funding was announced to help universities operate under COVID-19 uncertainties. NSU was one of the first ULS institutions to submit and receive all available funding. As the NSU grants.gov delegate, Howell was called upon by three system schools to mentor and assist with the CARES Act's perplexing and daunting guidelines. She continues to maintain relationships and communicates with her cohorts to share informational announcements, troubleshoot concerns, and discuss collaborative opportunities. Howell performs all electronic research administration system activities such as user account creation, modification, updating institutional information, and other electronic research administration duties representing the university. This includes managing all the various grant submission processes to federal, state, local and private agencies as the centralized office on campus.

ECE February Courses ... Continued from Page 8

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: February 1-March 12, Online
March 15, 17, & 19 Monday,
Wednesday, & Friday- Skills/hands-
on
March 22-April 2 Monday-
Friday- Clinical Lab
April 7
Wednesday- National Board Exam

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,
March 15.

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 March 29, 31, and April 2 (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. 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: February 15-March 26 Online
March 29, 31, & April 2 Monday,
Wednesday, & Friday- Skills/hands-
on
April 5-16 Monday-
Friday- Clinical Lab
April 19 Monday-
National Board Exam

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, March 29.

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

Instructor: Sherry Hinton, CPI
Stick It Phlebotomy, LLC

Pick Up your Brush-Painting Classes

In these classes, you will learn the art of painting using step-by-step instructions to create a

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ECE February Courses ... Continued from Page 8

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: February 4, Thursday

Mardi Gras Fleur De Lis

February 25, Thursday

Cardinal Birdhouse

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

Fee: \$45 per session

Location: 2nd Floor South Hall

Instructor: Shanna Dees Gaspard

Notary Public Exam Prep

In partnership with Louisiana State University-Shreveport, this 52-hour course is an introduction to notary public fundamentals, and the instructor has a pass rate higher than the state average.

The instructor additionally 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 02/10/21 to get the early bird price of \$430. After that date, the cost will increase to \$450.

Date: February 16 – May 20, Tuesday and Thursday

(No class 03/16/21 and 03/18/21)

Time: 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Fee: \$430 (Early Bird Fee)

\$450 (After February 10, 2021)

Location: Online

Instructor: Jennifer Brown

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

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



Dr. Chris Maggio, Northwestern State University president and 2nd Bomb Wing honorary commander, posed for an official photo at Barksdale Air Force Base Dec. 10. The Honorary Commanders program was developed to improve community relations by pairing local civic leaders with specific units to exchange ideas and experiences while building lasting relationships. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jacob B. Wrightsman)

Maggio inducted as Barksdale honorary commander

Dr. Chris Maggio was one of several community leaders inducted as honorary commanders at Barksdale Air Force Dec. 10. The goal of the honorary commander program is to build and maintain a strong and lasting bond between Barksdale Air Force Base and surrounding communities, while exposing community

leaders to important role of today's military. This is the second year Maggio received the honor.

The U.S. Air Force developed the honorary commanders program to improve community relations with the service. Civilian leaders from around the region are paired with specific units

and encouraged to exchange ideas and experiences while building relationships. Maggio was paired with 2nd Bomb Wing leadership.

The military commanders immerse their honorary commanders in the unit's mission and invite them to take part in quarterly activities and other events on base allowing the honorary commander to observe their duties and the mission.

Honorary Commanders use their insight into base operations, missions requirements and capabilities to facilitate partnerships with the local community to bridge the military-civilian gap and serve as military advocates within their spheres of influence in the local community.

Applications for NSU Elementary Lab kindergarten draw-down available

Northwestern State University Elementary Lab School is accepting applications for the kindergarten drawdown for the 2021-22 school year.

Children must be five years old before Sept. 30, 2021. Applications and proof of address (utility bill) must be turned in by March 19.

Applications are available by calling the school office at (318) 238-6385.

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, or visit the OSP website at <http://www.nsula.edu/orsp>.

OSP Staff

Carla Howell
Director

Alysia Jones
Associate
Director

12th annual Multicultural Christmas Concert presented virtually to raise funds for children's home

By Dr. Shayne Rasmussen

The 12th Annual Natchitoches-NSU Multicultural Christmas Concert was held virtually on Dec. 3. Sponsored by the Louisiana Folklife Center and the NSU Center for Inclusion and Diversity, the served as a benefit concert for the local nonprofit organization Cane River Children's Services.

The concert featured an array of both sacred and secular Christmas performances. The Anointed to Praise Dancers danced to "Holy Night," choreographed by Shereka Jefferson; Juston Broussard sang "Ingras'ashuhki Lapu (We

Wish You A Merry Christmas)" in Tunica; Bryce Coon performed "Once in Royal David's City" vocally and on the piano; Justin Cruse sang "Away In a Manger" and "Go Tell It on the Mountain"; Donna M. Pierite and Elisabeth Pierite-Mora read "A Cajun Night Before Christmas" in Tunica and English; Teyanna Pierite Simon sang "Ka'ashtohkutahki (Auld Lang Syne)" in Tunica; NSU student Leah Thompson sang "What Child is This?"; NSU graduate student Dylan Blade Trahan sang "O Come All Ye Faithful," and **Mary Linn Wernet** and **Sharon Wolff** of the Cammie G. Henry

Research Center performed a selection of readings from Nelle Irwin Horkan's "The Awakening and Other Poems."

Many people contributed to making the event a success, according to **Dr. Shayne Rasmussen**, director of the Louisiana Folklife Center. The Louisiana Folklife Center staff, comprised of NSU students Armani Heckard, Aaron Malone, Matthew Phillips, Nathaniel Rachal, Olivia Sipes and Dylan Blade Trahan, as well as administrative coordinator Ashley Smith, planned and promoted the event.

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Office of Sponsored Programs

CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Shane Rasmussen, LA Folklife Center, College of Arts and Sciences, received notification of a \$3,500 award from the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival Foundation for "The 42nd Annual Natchitoches – NSU Folk Festival."

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Dr. Xinjia Chen, Department of Engineering Technology, College of Arts and Sciences, submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation entitled "Collaborative Research: III: Medium: Exploring Dynamic Subsampling for Intelligent Data Analytics."

Dr. Pamela Simmons, College of Nursing and Allied Health, submitted a proposal to Health Resources and Services Administration entitled, "PHMHNP: Bridging the Behavioral Healthcare Gap." **Mrs. Cindy McGuire** is collaborator.

Office of the Vice President for Research, Innovation and Economic Development will be hosting a virtual National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant Writing Workshop on Thursday, February 25, 2021 from 1:00 – 2:30 PM. NSF offers an extensive array of funding opportunities. Understanding NSF's purpose, mandate, structure, and budget highlights, as well as the various mechanisms NSF uses to fund proposals, is essential to effectively navigate available funding opportunities.

This session will include highlights of proposal preparation, funding opportunities (with special emphasis on opportunities in undergraduate education and a snapshot of NSF-wide funding opportunities), and other related topics. A Q & A session with participants will follow the presentation. You may register in advance using the following link: https://ullafayette.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAruiorT0uHty2McPQ7yKKuHAX_Jttmk1L. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Zoom meeting. All questions should be directed to research@louisiana.edu.

NSF GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP
The University of Louisiana at Lafayette's

Zamora abstracts will be featured in Dallas exhibition

An exhibition of solo work by artist James Zamora, a member of Northwestern State University's Department of Fine and Graphic Art faculty, will open at noon Saturday, Feb. 6 at RO2 Art Gallery in Dallas. Titled "Surprise," the exhibition will feature abstract works, a departure from Zamora's previous style of realism. The abstract art was inspired by the freedom of creativity he observed in his children. The show will open with an artist's reception and run through March 6.



drawing from The University of North Texas in 2010, then an MFA in painting from Texas Woman's University in 2015. His work is exhibited nationally on a regular basis and is in numerous personal and public collections. Zamora's work has appeared in several publications including New American Paintings West #114 and New American Paintings West #126. Zamora grew up in the small city of Graham, Texas. His parents

immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico in the 1970s. He joined the NSU faculty last August.

"Can my soul and technique play together? This question has been on my mind as I watch my kids think through the creative process," Zamora wrote in an artist's statement. "Every time a child draws, they tap into their own sublime so readily. Their soul has not experienced a statement such as 'you are not good enough' or more passively 'Maybe try this direction.' Although it is important in life to experience these 'negative' situations to experience growth. I spent the past ten years devoted to practice. I knew I was not good enough by my own standards, and I wanted to feel worthy by devoting time to discipline and the idea of practicing. Every person wants to feel like they have a place and find something to which they devote their lives. Then there comes a point where the technique is no longer discovery, and the idea of play intervenes in order to let technique discover something new."

Ro2 Art, a contemporary fine art gallery located in The Cedars Neighborhood near downtown Dallas, represents a diverse group of emerging, mid-career and established contemporary artists – many with ties to the North Texas region. The gallery, founded in 2010 by mother-and-son partners Susan Roth Romans and Jordan Roth, regularly collaborates with organizations such as The MAC and Cedars Union and maintains an exhibition program within the Magnolia Theatre at West Village and other satellite venues. Ro2 Art has twice been named Dallas Observer's "Best Art Gallery" and was presented with the 25th Annual Obelisk Award for small business by the North Texas Business Council for the Arts.

Zamora earned his BFA in painting and

The museum is located at 1501 S. Ervay St., Dallas. Hours are noon-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. Information is available at www.ro2art.com.

Christmas Concert ... Continued from Page 12

"This year's concert had a special spirit," Rasmussen said. "The joy of the performers perfectly captured the spirit of the season in all of its cheer and wonder. That these artists volunteer to perform, freely donating their time and talents for the benefit of others, is what the season is

all about. While we were not able to congregate in person, the voices of everyone that attended beautifully joined in shared wonder as the concert culminated with the group singing of 'Silent Night.' And, as ever, we are so honored to be able to support such a worthy cause as Cane River Children's

Services. We're already looking forward to next year's event,"

Those who wish to donate to Cane River Children's Services may do so by contacting CEO Jennifer Karle at (318) 352-9349, or by mailing a check to P.O. Box 2453, Natchitoches, LA 71457.