



Tenure and promotions announced

Nineteen Northwestern State University faculty have received tenure and 15 have received promotion effective with the start of the 2020-21 academic year. according to **Dr. Greg Handel**, provost and vice president for academic affairs. The Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System approved the tenure and promotion recommendations.

Faculty who received tenure were **Phyllis Lear**, **Daniel McDonald** and **Louis Collier Hyams** of the School of Creative and Performing Arts; **Nabin Sapkota** of the Department of Engineering Technology, **Dr. Donald Johnston**, **Lisa Wilhite** and **Sheri Wilson** of the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health; **Dr. Christopher Lyles** and **Dr. Jerry Brunson** of the School of Biological and Physical Sciences; **Dr. Christopher Gilson**, **Frank Hall** and **Michele Holcomb** of the Department of Criminal Justice, History and Social Sciences; **Dr.**

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Burrell



Gabriel



Sanders

CAPA names director, department heads

Scott Burrell has been named director of The Mrs. H.D. Dear Sr. and Alice E. Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts at Northwestern State University. **Brian Gabriel** will remain as interim head of the Department of New Media, Journalism and Communication Arts and **Terrie Sanders** has been named as interim head of the Department of Music. The appointments have been approved by the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System.

Burrell recently coordinated a \$500,000 renovation to NSU's A.A. Fredricks Auditorium that will enhance the facility which hosts a variety of university and community events.

Before becoming Director, Burrell was the head of the NSU Theatre and Dance program for 12 years. Burrell has been a member of the theatre faculty since 1998. Under his guidance the theatre/dance program grew its enrollment by 30%, established a BFA in Dance, four faculty lines were created and over \$300,000 in grant funds were awarded.

Burrell has graduated a number of successful students who have moved into all areas of professional theatre and dance. Before the pandemic, there were five NSU Theatre/Dance alum on Broadway. His educational background includes a B.A in Theatre from Catawba College and an M.F.A. in Directing from Virginia Commonwealth University.

He has served in a number of leadership roles at Northwestern including the University Registrar Search Committee Chair, Grievance Committee Chair, Vice President of the Faculty Senate, and many other committee memberships. He was also awarded the NSU Faculty Advisor of the Year in 2017. Burrell is a member of the University of Louisiana System's Management and Leadership Institute. Institute participants include faculty and staff members from each of the System's nine member institutions who have exhibited upper management potential and a desire for leadership development.

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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).

Faculty honored with Excellence in Teaching Awards

Members of the NSU faculty were recognized with Excellence in Teaching Awards, annually presented at the Fall Faculty Institute, which was held virtually this year. Honorees are Sepora Prelow Fisher, Dr. Donald Johnston, Dr. Sarah Wright, Dr. Lisa Wolffe and Mariann Wilson.

Sepora Prelow Fisher



Academic college/department: Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development/Department of Social Work

Number of years at Northwestern State: 15

Why is teaching important to you?

Teaching is important to me because I believe that learning is the cornerstone of civilization and socialization. Therefore, I consider teaching as the most noble of professions.

Why do you believe you are an effective teacher?

That's simple. It's passion. I truly believe that the content I teach is essential to a well-ordered society. I also believe that students must be engaged in the process. In the hope of nurturing life-long learners, I'm willing to use whatever means and methods to create excitement and curiosity.

As a teacher, what brings you a feeling of accomplishment when working with students?

I love seeing students' minds working. I especially feel rewarded when I witness them fully understand a meaningful or foundational concept.

How has the current pandemic affected your teaching methods?

It has been a challenge but one I have welcomed. Education has been trending in the virtual direction for many years. An old-school teacher like me needed a bit of a shake up. I have found that with the right equipment, teaching and learning can still occur.

Have you learned anything during the pandemic that will make you a better teacher?

I'm not sure I can say that I "learned" this during the pandemic, but I certainly I have been reminded. The students that I teach come from all walks of life. Each of them must be met where they are in their learning process. Some are more advanced while others have significant gaps in their learning. My job is to close that gap.

Dr. Donald Johnston



Academic college/department: College of Nursing / DNP Program

Number of years at Northwestern State: 5.5

Why is teaching important to you? Teaching nursing students is of critical importance to me, because we are preparing the health care professionals who will care for our own families. I am not just transferring knowledge, I am attempting to transfer an attitude of servanthood, along with a thirst for more knowledge. I strive to create perpetual learners and critical thinkers.

Why do you believe you are an effective teacher? I believe an effective teacher is able to take an incredibly complex concept and break it down into layman’s terms. In this way, the student can attach the new information to previously learned concepts, creating a richer knowledge base with a broader

scope of applicability. Since it is impossible to know everything in the medical field, I strive to teach the process of deductive reasoning to my students so that they think critically and are able to make wise decisions.

As a teacher, what brings you a feeling of accomplishment when working with students?

Seeing my former students become successful healthcare professionals brings me joy, but what’s ultimately fulfilling is watching the students I have served transform that experience and become servants themselves. It’s about seeing the heart, and the attitude that assures me, this student is going to take excellent care of his or her patients.

How has the current pandemic affected your teaching methods?

I’ve adapted my teaching methods during the pandemic by expanding my availability and interaction with my students to meet them where they are, whenever and however necessary.

Have you learned anything during the pandemic that will make you a better teacher?

I think any opportunity to practice flexibility makes us better people, and therefore better teachers.

Sarah Wright



Academic college/department: College of Business and Technology/School of Business/Computer Information Systems

Number of years at Northwestern State: 18

Why is teaching important to you? Teaching is a way to nurture and encourage students to reach their full potential and become a productive part of society. It's not just about the subjects we are teaching, it's about being there, listening, and helping them learn to deal with challenges that arise along the way. I like nothing more than seeing them get to the finish line and leaving with degree in hand a future ahead of them.

Why do you believe you are an effective teacher? I see each student as an individual and try to make sure all learning styles are covered in my classes both online and face to face. I am available to them

and understand not everyone learns at the same rate. I am always looking for new and effective ways of delivering content and engaging the students.

As a teacher, what brings you a feeling of accomplishment when working with students? I feel accomplished when I see a student that has been struggling with content have that light-bulb moment. I also love to see them find a passion for computer programming they didn't know they had.

How has the current pandemic affected your teaching methods? I have always taught my courses both online and face to face, so I felt prepared to switch over to online. However, most of the time the students that sign up for face to face courses really prefer that environment to online. I have had to come up with new ways to engage the typical face to face student in the online environment and make sure they get the attention and encouragement they need.

Have you learned anything during the pandemic that will make you a better teacher? I have learned to let go of the things I cannot control and steer my focus to the things I can. Overall, I think this has made me a better teacher.

Academic college/department: Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Cultural Studies

Mariann Wilson

Number of years at Northwestern State: 16

Why is teaching important to you? The best parts of being a student, for me, were reading interesting texts, discussing new ideas, and imagining how to make the world a better place. Becoming an instructor meant I'd never have to stop going to school. Now, I get to do it for a living. Every semester, I learn from my students, and I hope I encourage them never to stop learning.

Why do you believe you are an effective teacher? I get excited about the original ideas my students have and the critical thinking they do because I want them to see how these skills aren't just a grade, but what the world needs. A student once reported on an evaluation that I was "annoyingly enthusiastic" about my job, and I agree.



As a teacher, what brings you a feeling of accomplishment when working with students?

In my freshman writing classes, I try to model what real writing looks like – talking it out, writing a terrible first draft, making careless mistakes, starting over, changing your mind, asking for help, and, if you work hard enough, ending up with something better than you intended. When students are proud to show me the work they've done, especially if they've struggled with the content in the past, that's the good stuff.

How has the current pandemic affected your teaching methods? Transitioning to remote learning in the Spring was tough. I missed the classroom atmosphere and the routines I've had for so many years, but I was amazed at how well our students and faculty persevered.

Have you learned anything during the pandemic that will make you a better teacher?

Like most of us, I have learned to focus on what really matters – in my life and in my teaching. In previous years, I wasn't always flexible or patient when students had personal problems or disruptions during the semester. The pandemic has taught me to be human first and to remember that my students and I are all in this together.

Lisa Wolffe



Academic college/department: Louisiana Scholars' College

Number of years at Northwestern State: 33

Why is teaching important to you? I hope to inspire my students with a love of French or Spanish and with an interest in and a desire to visit foreign countries. I think that learning a foreign language and about foreign cultures helps foster understanding and improves the students' knowledge of their own language and culture.

Why do you believe you are an effective teacher? I listen to my students and am available to them. I am interested in my subject and try to impart my enthusiasm to them.

As a teacher, what brings you a feeling of accomplishment when working with students? When students wish to pursue their language studies and

when they go abroad through ISEP, MICEFAA, or another way, I feel I have encouraged them to explore their world a bit more and that they have opened up to new experiences and new ideas.

How has the current pandemic affected your teaching methods? I missed my students when we were forced apart by the pandemic. I am using online sources more in case we are forced off campus again by the virus.

Have you learned anything during the pandemic that will make you a better teacher? I have figured out how to use Webex which will help if we are online again.

Cane River Reading Series will resume Oct. 1 on Zoom

Northwestern State University's Cane River Reading Series will present Leigh Camacho Rourks for a virtual read via Zoom beginning at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1, followed by a question and answer session.

Rourks is a Cuban American author who lives and works in

central Florida where she is an assistant professor of English and humanities at Beacon College.

She is the recipient of the St. Lawrence Book Award for a collection of short stories titled "Moon Trees and Other Orphans." She is winner of the Glenna Luschei Prairie

Schooner Award and the Robert Watson Literary Review Prize and her work has been short-listed for several other awards. Rourks' fiction, poems and essays have appeared in a number of journals.

For more information or to RSVP, contact **Dr. Andy Briseno** at brisenoj@nsula.edu.

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Judith Covington and **Dr. Nicholas Richardson** of the Department of Mathematics and **Dr. Marcia Hardy, Dr. Eddie Horton, Carmella Parker, Dr. Curtis Penrod** and **Dr. Sarah Wright** of the School of Business.

Those promoted to professor were **Dr. Mark Melder** and **Dr. Tommy I. Hailey** of the Department of Criminal Justice, History and Social Sciences and Hyams.

Promoted to associate professor were Lyles, **Dr. Ann Deshotels** of the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health, Lear, Gilson, **Dr. Xinjia Chen** of the Department of Engineering Technology, **Dr. Melissa Aldredge, Dr. Eddie Horton, Dr. Curtis Penrod, Dr. Jason Powell** and **Dr. Danny Upshaw** of the School of Business and Denise Bailey of the Department of Social Work.

D’Nissa Hester of the School of Creative and Performing Arts was promoted to assistant professor.

Brunson earned a bachelor’s and master’s degree at the University of Louisiana at Monroe and a doctorate at LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport. He previously taught at ULM and LSUHSC – Shreveport. Brunson held the Malcolm Feist Predoctoral Fellowship from the Institute for Cardiovascular Disease and Imaging at LSUHSC. Brunson has made more than a dozen presentations at state, regional and national conferences and has published articles in national professional journals. He is active in several professional organizations.

Covington joined NSU’s faculty in 2018 and has three decades of collegiate teaching experience. She holds the Dr. William Timon Endowed

Professorship. An NSU alumna Covington was a 2015 recipient of the Deborah and Franklin Tepper Haimo Award for Distinguished College or University Teaching of Mathematics. The award is presented by the Mathematics Association of America to up to three people annually. She is the only Louisiana recipient. Covington is an active speaker and presenter on the national level. She has served on the leadership team for Project NExT, a program of the Mathematical Association of America for 14 years – the longest term anyone has served. This is a national program for new and recent Ph.D. graduates in the mathematical sciences. Her father, Thomas Covington, was a long-time faculty member at NSU.

Gilson is a 2006 graduate of Northwestern State. He earned the M.A. and Ph.D. in history at Texas A&M University, completing a dissertation entitled “Strange and Terrible Wonders: Climate Change in the Early Modern World” in 2015. His research focuses on the relationship between climate and history, particularly during the Little Ice Age of 1550-1850. Other research interests include the environmental history of the Red River Valley and sustainability and urban planning in the American South. Gilson has presented his research at the Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies and at meetings of the Northeast Modern Language Association and the Association of American Geographers. He teaches introductory and advanced courses in geography, world history and American history.

Hall is the Director of Institution-

al Effectiveness and an associate professor in the Department of Criminal Justice, History, and Social Sciences. Hall is a retired military intelligence colonel with 28 years of service in the U.S. Army. Hall has been at Northwestern for six years. While he does teach a few undergraduate courses in criminal justice, his primary teaching responsibilities are in the homeland security graduate program. He currently resides in Natchitoches with his wife, Sid.

Hardy received her Ph.D. from the University of California-Los Angeles. She is the recipient of the Barry Smiley Professorship Award and is a 2019 University of Alicante Spain Erasmus + Mobility Award recipient. Hardy received the 2018 Northwestern College of Business & Technology “Excellence in Teaching” Award and was honored in Trademark “Women of Distinction.” She served as a two-term Faculty Senate President at Northwestern State University. Hardy has numerous publications in the field of leadership and management, and is co-author of the McGraw-Irwin book entitled, “EDI: A Guide to Electronic Data Interchange and Electronic Commerce Applications in the Healthcare Industry.”

Holcomb is the coordinator of criminal justice and teaches courses in criminal justice and unified public safety administration and is involved in developing new courses for the Department of Criminal Justice, History and Social Sciences. She has been a member of Northwestern State’s faculty for six years after more than a decade of work in area coroners’

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offices and experience in the field of corrections. Holcomb earned a bachelor's degree at Louisiana State, a master's at the University of Phoenix and a post master's certificate in global security and intelligence from NSU. She holds membership in state and national emergency medical organizations.

Horton has been a member of NSU's faculty for six years. He holds the Bryant and Heloise Lewis Endowed Professorship in Business. Horton's focus area includes networking, network security and forensics. He oversees the new Cisco certification at NSU as well as the CompTIA certifications. He has teaching experience with both online and traditional classes. Horton works directly with industry and education to grow current program at NSU and provide graduates who meet employer's needs. He created the NSU Cisco Academy, CompTIA Academy and most recently the AWS Academy. Horton is the recipient of the FBD/ABIS (Federation of Business Disciplines/Association of Business Information Systems) paper of the year, to be published in the *JBIS* (Journal of Research in Business Information Systems) journal.

Hyams is the coordinator for the MA in Art. Prior to arriving at NSU Hyams was an associate professor of digital art and multimedia at Georgetown University. He received a MFA in Integrated Electronic Arts emphasizing performance art from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, NY. He received a MA in weld metal sculpture and traditional fine arts from Northwestern State University and earned his undergraduate in photography and journalism from Louisiana Tech University. Hyams grew up as a service

dependent in Thailand and Germany. His academic research in art and music has taken him to Brazil, Sweden, Belgium, France, Austria, Scotland, Ireland, Canada and Ghana. He leads the 50 Man Machine performance ensemble and the Prof Hyams Art Car Series founded with support from BMW and Mazda.

Johnston is an associate professor and the interprofessional research and instructional technology coordinator for the College of Nursing School of Allied Health. He has led numerous doctoral and graduate students, both as a major professor and committee member. Johnston has worked with other universities and health system partners across Louisiana to increase and enhance nursing research capacity. He was awarded three NIH/AACN grants for the All of US Research program and was responsible for leading and coordinated events in Shreveport, Lafayette and Baton Rouge between state institutions. His recent leadership experience working with nursing undergraduate faculty and Information Technology on iPad implementation, ATI proctored testing application development and ExamSoft Secure Assessment Software has enhanced the university.

Lear is a visual arts educator and art historian. At present her visual arts work utilizes textile and fiber. Lear's field of research is the prehistoric American culture of Poverty Point. She studies one artifact specifically, Poverty Point Objects. She earned a bachelor's at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, a master's at NSU and LSU and an MFA from Louisiana Tech. Her research has been published in archaeological journals and her art has regularly been displayed

around the country earning numerous awards. Lear was a recipient of the Derby Endowed Professorship.

Lyles is an associate professor and interim director of the School of Biological and Physical Sciences. He obtained a B.S. in Biology from Northwestern State, a M.S. in marine and environmental biology from Nicholls State University and his Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Oklahoma. Lyles has 15 years of experience using chromatography and mass spectral analysis equipment to address both abiotic and biotic chemical changes in the environment. More specifically, his research focuses on projects that elucidated the biochemical pathways for the degradation of recalcitrant compounds under anaerobic conditions. Lyles also teaches general chemistry, biochemistry and microbiology along with respective laboratories.

McDonald is assistant director of bands and assistant professor of music at Northwestern State. At NSU, he directs the "Spirit of Northwestern" Marching Band, the "Purple Haze" Basketball Band, Wind Ensemble, Magale Concert Band and teaches courses in student leadership, music education and conducting. He earned a B.A. in music and a M.M. in instrumental conducting from the University of Connecticut. He has conducted and directed ensembles that have performed at the 2019 WASBE Conference (Buñol, Spain) and in venues throughout the United States and around the world. He serves on the national Athletic Bands Committee and is chair of the Louisiana chapter

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of College Band Directors National Association. He is active in several professional organizations.

Parker is an associate professor and coordinator of outreach and special projects for the School of Business at NSU. She has been licensed to practice law in the State of Louisiana for over seventeen years. Parker teaches cyber business law, business law, international comparative management and other classes. She is a former assistant attorney general for the State of Louisiana and a former field counsel for an insurance company. Parker has a B.S. in business administration from the Louisiana Scholars' College at Northwestern State. She earned her Juris Doctor as well as a Certificate of International Studies from the Loyola University New Orleans College of Law. Parker obtained her Master of Business Administration from the University of New Orleans.

Penrod started working at Northwestern State in the Office of Institutional Research in 2004. He worked there until 2014 when he joined the School of Business as an assistant professor and coordinator of computer information systems. Earlier this year, he became the senior coordinator of business programs. He has taught classes including introduction to computer information systems, spreadsheet applications, software development, database systems, multimedia communication and presentation, advanced database systems, web applications: client-side development and web applications: Server-Side Development. He holds an MBA from Louisiana State University – Shreveport, a GC in computer information systems

from Georgia Southwestern State University, and a Ph.D. in business administration with a specialization in applied computer science from Northcentral University.

Richardson attended Louisiana Tech University earning a degree in computer science and decided for graduate school to go into applied computational analysis and modeling, which combines computer science and mathematics. He concentrated on developing computer simulations for mathematics and other sciences on the LONI supercomputers. Some of these simulations were purely computational while others had graphical components to aid in research and experiments. He taught mathematics at NSU's Shreveport campus for three years before coming to the Natchitoches campus to teach mathematics and computer science. In computer science, he recently began using robots to teach students how to program.

Sapkota has been a member of Northwestern State's faculty for six years teaching courses in industrial engineering technology and electronics engineering technology and serving on numerous university committees. He has published research in national and international professional journals and has made numerous professional presentations at a variety of conferences. His professional activity includes membership in several national and international organizations. Sapkota has provided consultations to local and national industries on process improvement using OR, industrial simulations and CI methodologies. He recently worked with a local industry on an ergonomics study report to improve operations and safety.

Sapkota earned a bachelor's at Regional Engineering College in Tamilnadu, India, and a master's and doctorate at the University of Central Florida.

Wilhite is an assistant professor of nursing at Northwestern State. Her nursing career began at NSU where she earned a BSN in 1993. She earned her MSN in Nursing Education from Northwestern in 2008 and her post master's certificate from Northwestern in family nurse practitioner in 2013. Her nursing background is primarily woman's health and clinical education. She currently serves as a board member for the Shreveport District Nurses Association. Wilhite spends her free time with her husband and two sons as well as watching football and baseball. She is an active member in her church community and enjoys spending time outdoors with friends and family.

Wilson is the Deborah Olds Endowed Professor at NSU and previously held the Opal Wimberly Endowed Professorship. Wilson earned bachelor's degrees at Wiley College and Grambling State University and a master's at the University of Phoenix. Wilson has been a member of NSU's faculty for six years after working for eight years as a registered nurse. She participated in the Parkinson Foundation's Edmond J. Safra Visiting Nurse Scholar Faculty Program. Wilson has made presentations for national groups and is active in professional organizations. She has contributed to the American Nurses Association Gerontology Review Course by writing and reviewing questions.

Wright holds a Ph.D. in business administration with

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an applied computer science specialization and a master's in computer information systems. Wright has taught CIS courses at NSU since 2002. Wright has five refereed journal publications, has published seven refereed proceedings and has presented at regional conferences. She has been co-principal investigator for two Board of Regents grants, and principal investigator for two State Farm Enhancement Grants. The grants were fully funded and allowed the School of Business to create a mobile applications development lab, a networking lab and an AR/VR lab that provide students with hands on experiences to better prepare them for the workforce. Wright is working with the education department with the second cohort of middle school teachers participating in CLIPR/TEP Grant.

Aldredge holds a Doctor of Business Administration in Advanced Accounting and has over 25 years of teaching experience at the collegiate level. She currently serves as the coordinator of accounting for the College of Business and Technology at Northwestern State. In 2019, she received the NSU Alumni Association Excellence in Teaching Award and was awarded the Poindexter Foundation Endowed Professorship in Accounting. Aldredge is a certified public accountant with prior "Big 8" public accounting experience and is an active member of the Louisiana Society of CPAs where she serves on the Accounting Education Issues Committee. She is also a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and consults part-time as a CPA.

Bailey earned a bachelor's degree from NSU and an MSW from Stephen F. Austin State

University. She served in NSU's Student Support Services office before joining the social work faculty in 2013. Her paper, "Sacred Duties: The Roles of the Children's Aid Society and the New York Foundling Hospital in the Orphan Train Movement," was accepted for presentation at The Orphan Train Interdisciplinary Colloquium at the University of Nebraska in 2018. She has presented four times at the Louisiana Studies Conference, which includes scholars in a variety of disciplines. Bailey serves as coordinator of the NSU Student Food Pantry and faculty advisor for the NSU Social Work Club. She was named NSU Faculty Advisor of the Year in 2019-2020.

Chen joined NSU in 2016. Before joining NSU, he has been teaching in Louisiana State University and Southern University for more than ten years. He also has two years of industrial experiences in information technology. Chen's teaching and research interests are in the general area of electrical engineering and computer sciences. He has reshaped several courses to enhance the hands-on ability of ET students and prepare them for industrial jobs. Chen researches circuit systems, controls, communications, signal processing, machine learning, probability, and statistics with engineering applications. He has published two book chapters and 18 peer reviewed papers in internationally prestigious journals and 29 peer reviewed papers in proceedings of international conferences.

Deshotels has been a member of NSU's faculty since 1992. She earned a bachelor's at the University of Southwestern Louisiana, a master's at NSU

and a doctorate at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. She has published in national professional journals and has made presentations on the local, state and national levels. Many of those local presentations have been invaluable in promoting NSU's nursing program. In 2018, Deshotels was named one of Louisiana's Great 100 Nurses. At NSU, she has held the Coughlin-Saunders, Robert Rife Saunders and Rapides Regional Medical Center Endowed Professorships. She is active in several professional organizations.

Hailey began his career at NSU in 1994. Hailey teaches classes in introductory anthropology, archaeology and physical anthropology. Experiential learning is a key part of education, and Hailey has engaged students in projects and experiences throughout the U.S. and internationally. Hailey is developing the NSU Drone Initiative, recognizing the importance of remote technologies in many academic fields, and will incorporate classes from across campus to make the program applicable to career goals of a wide range of NSU students. He is working on the NSU Belize Initiative, which seeks to combine the efforts of several NSU departments and universities in Louisiana, Texas, and Belize to afford students the opportunity to establish far-reaching personal and professional connections and the type of personal development that can only come from international travel experiences.

Hester has taught at NSU as an adjunct and instructor since 2010. She teaches vocal majors and minors and students in musical theatre. Hester held the Danny and Lenn Dohmann

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Prince Endowed Professorship in Voice in 2017. She earned a bachelor's and master's degree from Northwestern State. Hester has continued her education at the Taos Opera Institute and was selected to attend the International performing Arts Institute in Kiefersfelden, Germany. She is active in several national professional organizations. She regularly performs with the Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony, the NSU Jazz Orchestra, Wind Symphony and Percussion Ensemble and in faculty recitals and concerts. Hester also performs with the Red River Chorale, the Kisatchie Sound and with her husband in the DAT Acoustic Act, a folk/acoustic duo.

Melder grew up in Natchitoches, the son of teachers Dr. Ellis Melder and Coach Trent Melder. He served in the Marine Corps and after leaving the service, earned his bachelor's degree in sociology at NSU and

his master's and Ph.D. at LSU in sociology. He has published and presented research on militia movements and racial differences in female perpetrated intimate partner homicide. He currently serves as head of the Department of Criminal Justice, History and Social Sciences at NSU and teaches courses on race and ethnicity, gender, crime, social movements and terrorism.

Powell is an associate professor of computer information systems. He has a Bachelor and Master of Computer Science from Stephen F. Austin State University and a Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering from the University of North Texas.

His teaching focus is computer programming, databases, and data analytics, and his research interests include multidisciplinary applications of computer science. In 2020, he was elected as secretary of the Association of Business Information Systems and

currently serves NSU as a faculty senator and the QEP coordinator for computer information systems.

Upshaw holds the David D. Morgan Endowed Professorship and is an associate professor of marketing in the College of Business & Technology. A graduate of Louisiana Tech's D.B.A program, he also holds degrees in English (B.A., M.A.) and business (M.B.A) from The University of Louisiana at Monroe. Prior to employment at NSU, he owned a real-estate business, taught marketing at Spring Hill College, taught English at ULM, and worked in the insurance industry. Upshaw frequently publishes and presents at conferences, with recent articles featured in the "Marketing Education Review" and the "Journal of Marketing Development and Competitiveness." In class, he offers his students a compelling learning experience and fun, interactive environment.

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Burrell holds a Teacher Certification in the Michael Chekhov Acting Technique.

Gabrial served as interim department head in 2019-20. Over the past year, Students and faculty in the department were awarded a Bronze Telly Award in the Non-Broadcast Educational Institution category for a March 19 NSU-TV Newscast.

Gabrial served as executive advisor for the newscast. He joined NSU's faculty two years ago as the Erbon and Marie Wise Endowed Chair in Journalism. Gabrial serves as chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.

He was a member of the journalism faculty at Concordia University from 2004 to 2018. Gabrial was the Mitchell V. Charnley Visiting Professor of Journalism at the University of Minnesota in 2011-12.

Gabrial was a news producer at RFD-TV, KETV-TV in Omaha, Nebraska, and at KSTP-TV and KARE-TV in Minneapolis. He was also a research project manager for the Minneapolis-based National Jury Project.

He earned a bachelor's degree at Creighton University and a master's and doctorate at the University of Minnesota.

Gabrial was the recipient of the Hazel Dicken-Garcia Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Journalism History, presented at the Symposium on the 19th-

century press, the Civil War, and Free Expression, University of Tennessee, Chattanooga.

He is the author of the book "The Press and Slavery in America, 1791-1859: The Melancholy Effect of Popular Excitement" published by the University of South Carolina Press. He has published four peer reviewed journal articles, two co-authored articles and seven book chapters along with book reviews and more than two dozen professional presentations along with participating in panels at professional conferences.

Sanders has been a member of NSU's faculty since 1992, teaching voice and vocal pedagogy. She holds degrees from Emmanuel College, Lee University and Northwestern State University. She also holds a certification with the McClosky Institute of Voice and is a Master Teacher for that organization. Sanders is a doctoral student at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Sanders is an active performer and lecturer. As a soloist, some of her Oratorio appearances include Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana," Handel's "Messiah," Poulenc's "Gloria," Brahms' "German Requiem," Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Requiem," Haydn's "Nelson Mass," Bach's "Magnificat," Mozart's "Requiem," Vaughn Williams' "Hodie," Mendelsohn's "Elijah" and Honegger's "King David."

Her opera performances include Puccini's "Gianni Schicchi" and "La Bohème," Menotti's "The Telephone" and Warren Martin's "The True Story of Cinderella."

Sanders has been a member of the Summer Seminar Faculty for the McClosky Institute of Voice based in Boston since 2005. She has presented at state, regional and international conferences including the International Congress of Voice Teachers (2012 and 2017) and the Southern Region Conference for the National Association of Teachers of Singing (2014).

She regularly presents master classes and lectures throughout the state and region on alignment, relaxation and breathing techniques for the singer.

Sanders has served as coordinator of academic advising activities for the School of Creative and Performing Arts and the program coordinator for the BM degrees.

She was chair of the Music Curriculum Committee. Sanders is the Danny and Lenn Dohmann Endowed Professor for 2020-21. She is a two-time recipient of the Donald F. Derby Endowed Professorship and was the 2017 recipient of the Joanna Magale Endowed Professorship, which funded an invitation to present at the 2017 International Congress of Voice Teachers in Stockholm, Sweden.

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 may enroll, but a parent MUST accompany the child the entire class. Parent does not have to enroll unless they participate. **Each date is a separate session.** All supplies included.

Dates: October 1, Thursday Pump-
kin Abstract

October 15, Thursday Moon
and Tree

October 24, Saturday
Pumpkins

Times: 5:30 pm-8:30 pm, Thursday
9:00 am-12:00 pm, Saturday

Fee: \$45 per session

Location: 2nd Floor South Hall

Instructor: Shanna Dees Gaspard

Beginner Line Dance

Exercise your body and mind by dancing to lively, upbeat music. Line Dancing is a fun way to dance socially without a dance partner. Dancing styles covered in this class will include Country Western, Zydeco, and Hip-Hop. (No dance experience required).

Date: October 13-November 17, Tuesdays

Time: 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Fee: \$65

Location: 127 Health & Human Performance
(Old PE Majors)

Instructor: Wanda & Avila Kahey

Attire: Casual clothes/Soft soled shoes re-
quired

Playing in the Mud: Beginning Ceramics- Limited Seating

This course is an introduction to working with clay. The student will learn hand-building and sculptural techniques, as well as work on the potter's wheel. There will also be room for intermediate and advanced students to take the class who want to use the facilities during the class time.

Date: October 15-November 5, Thursdays

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Fee: \$99 plus \$20 material fee (mat. fee
paid directly to instructor first night of class)

Location: 113 Creative & Performing Arts
Building (CAPA)/New Wing

Instructor: Matt DeFord

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.

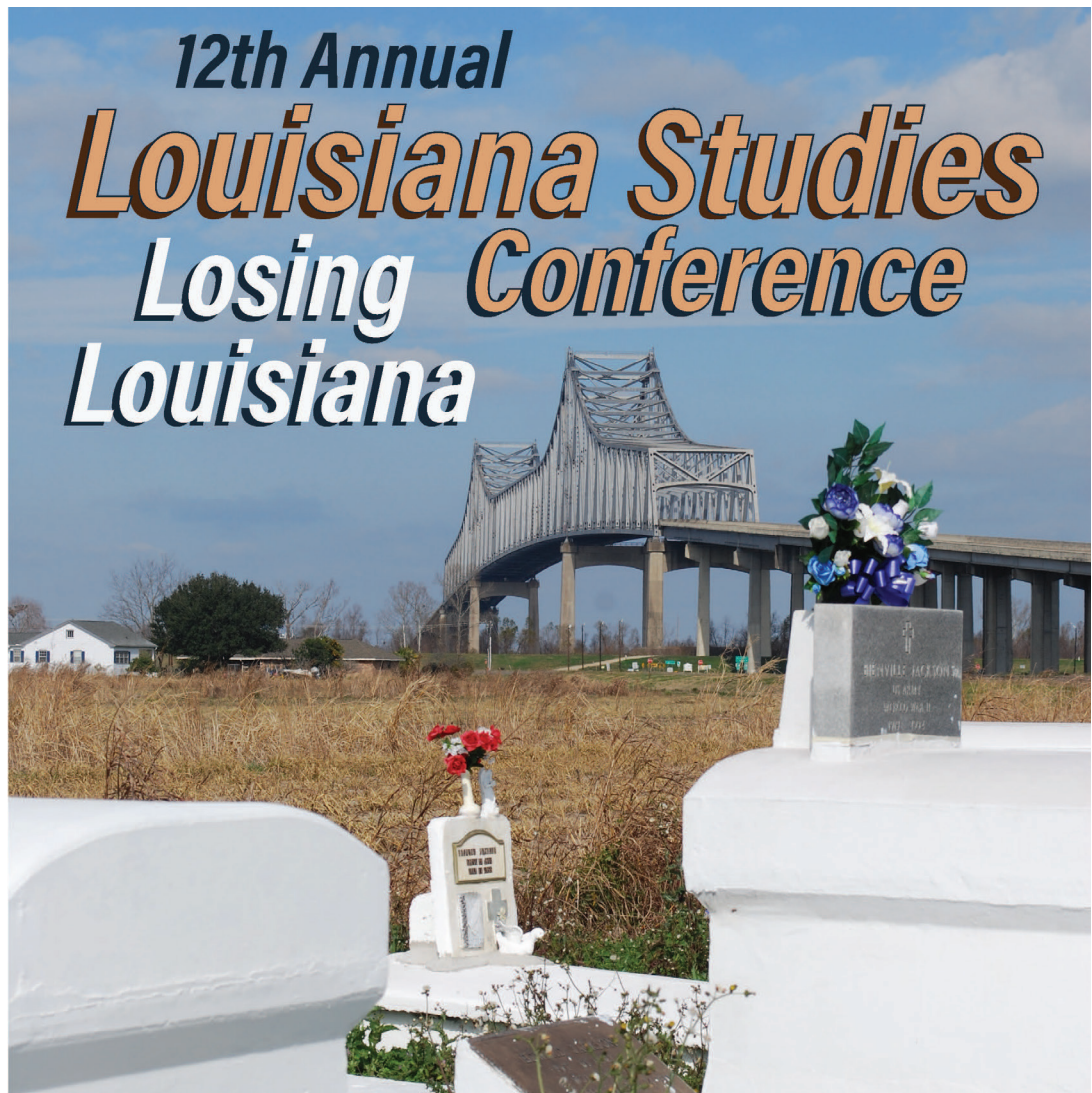
Date: Online/Open Enrollment

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.**



12th Annual Louisiana Studies Conference held virtually

The 12th Annual Louisiana Studies Conference was held on September 19 at NSU. Due to the ongoing pandemic the conference was held virtually on Microsoft Teams. **Dr. Lisa Abney**, Faculty Facilitator for Academic Research and Community College Outreach and Professor of English, **Jason Church**, Chief of Technical Services at the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, **Dr. Charles Pellegrin**, Director of the Southern Studies Institute and Professor of History, **Dr. Shane Rasmussen**, Director of the Louisiana Folklife Center and Professor of English, and **Sharon Wolff**, Assistant Archivist in the Cammie G. Henry Research Center served as conference co-chairs.

Church and **Rasmussen** also served as the Conference Planning Selection Committee and as Conference programmers, with **Church** serving as chair of Conference programming. **Matt**

DeFord, Coordinator of Art and Professor of Sculpture and Ceramics, designed the Conference program cover and poster.

The staff of the Louisiana Folklife Center, administrative coordinator **Ashley Smith** and student workers **Armani Heckard**, **Aaron Malone**, **Matt Phillips**, **Nathaniel Rachal**, **Olivia Sipes** as well as graduate assistant **Dylan Trahan**, prepped the event and kept the Conference running smoothly. **Daniel Gordy**, instructor in the departments of Criminal Justice, History, and Social Sciences and in English, Foreign Languages, and Cultural Studies served as Conference technical liaison.

This year's conference theme was "Losing Louisiana." The Saturday morning keynote address, "Fragile Grounds: Documenting

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Louisiana's Endangered Cemeteries," was given by historian and author Jessica Schexnayder. **Church** introduced the keynote speaker.

The daylong conference was a great success. After a warm welcome by **Dr. Chris Maggio**, 21 scholars, creative writers, and cultural authorities participated in 6 separate panels. Conference participants came from Mississippi, New York, and Texas, and as well as from throughout Louisiana. Several of the presenters were NSU faculty and alumni.

Each of the presentation panels was chaired by a moderator. Panels chairs included **Church, Dr. Jim Mischler** (English, Foreign Languages, and Cultural Studies), **Dr. Sarah E. McFarland** (English, Foreign Languages, and Cultural Studies), **Rasmussen**, and **Dr. Sarah Wright** (Computer Information Systems).

The following individuals made scholarly presentations at the Conference:

Jason Church (National Center for Preservation Technology and Training) presented his paper "Where is Uncle Tom's Cabin?"

Steven Gruesbeck (Psychology) and **Dr. Sarah Wright** (Computer Information Systems) presented their paper "Delivering High Quality, No-Cost STEAM Educational Programming to Louisiana Youth, Remotely: A Case Study Involving a Week-Long, Virtual

Summer Camp for Youth in Sabine Parish."

Watson Memorial Library faculty members **Debbie Huntington, Anna MacDonald, and Michael E. Matthews** presented their paper "Libraries in the Time of Disease: COVID-19 and Before."

Dr. Sarah E. McFarland (English, Foreign Languages, and Cultural Studies) presented her paper "Systems of Precarity."

Dr. Jim Mischler (English, Foreign Languages, and Cultural Studies) presented his paper "Losing Language: Louisiana Dialects, Bidialectalism, and the Teaching of Language and Grammar."

Debbie Smith (National Center for Preservation Technology and Training) presented her paper "Old Normal: A Disappearing Landscape."

Aron Stephens, Louisiana Scholars' College alumnus, presented his paper "Timber! The Importance of the Longleaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*) to the Preservation of Louisiana's Endangered Species."

Sharon Wolff (Cammie G. Henry Research Center) presented her paper "The Slippery Slope of Scrapbooks and How to Save Them."

The awards ceremony for the 12th Annual NSU Louisiana High School Essay Contest

was also held on Saturday morning at the Conference. **Van Erikson**, Director of Recruiting, led the ceremony, assisted by **Rasmussen**. Conference attendees heard essays by 1st place winner LaKin Ogilvie of Simpson High School, 2nd place winner Julia Kapusta of Mount Carmel Academy in New Orleans, and Honorable Mention winners Bailee Creasey of C.E. Byrd High School in Shreveport, Valerie Perilloux of St. Charles Catholic High School in LaPlace, and Dominic Ross of the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts. Unable to join was 3rd place winner Abbie Butler of Pineville High School. **Abney, Church, Davis, Rasmussen, and Wolff** served as the Contest selection committee.

The Conference is co-sponsored by the Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Cultural Studies, the Louisiana Folklife Center, the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, the NSU Center for Inclusion and Diversity, the NSU College of Arts and Sciences, the NSU Department of Fine + Graphic Arts, the NSU Office of Recruiting, the NSU Writing Project, and the NSU Office of the President.

The 13th annual Louisiana Studies Conference will be held in September 2021. The 2021 Conference theme will be "Heroes, Saints, and Outlaws." For more information contact Dr. Shane Rasmussen at rasmussens@nsula.edu or (318) 357-4332.



Virtual Porter Forum will address Money in the Time of Floods

Northwestern State University's School of Business will present the 54th annual J. Walter Porter Forum beginning at 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 15. This year's forum will be presented virtually due to COVID-19 safety protocols. Participants can log onto <http://bit.ly/2020JWPF> to join the forum, which is free and open to the public.

This year the J. Walter Porter Forum Committee selected the theme "Money in the Time of Floods" with guest speaker Boyce Upholt, MFA. Upholt is an award-winning freelance writer whose particular interest is the Mississippi River and human impact on that magnificent body of water. Upholt's talk will focus on the river and its many distributaries, including the Red River, and the flooding that has long been associated with them. Using the history of these rivers a starting point, the talk will examine the mismatch between the natural environment and economic thinking and will explore the emerging field of "ecological economics" as a potential answer.

Upholt studies and writes about the way humans

shape a place and the way it shapes humans. He won the 2019 award for investigative journalism from the James Beard Foundation and was named a 2016 Writer of the Year by the International Regional Magazine Association. He is currently working on a book about the Mississippi River, a history of what humans have done to it and a travelogue showing the consequences.

The annual J. Walter Porter Forum is made possible by an endowment established by the family and friends of the late J. Walter Porter in recognition of his interest in improving the image of business as a career field for college students and of his concern for moral and ethical standards as expressed in his philosophy of business. The forum is an effort to translate the textbook into practice by bringing capable, successful business executives to the campus to speak on selected topics in their area of expertise.

Porter was a native of Kaufman County, Texas, and graduated from Texas A&M University in 1922. He earned a master's degree in civil

engineering at Harvard in 1924 and in 1931 helped organize the Gifford-Hill Pipe Company in Grand Prairie, Texas. Porter saw the need to bridge the gap between the college campus and industry, feeling that many in the academic, professional, governmental and business world fail to understand the workings of a competitive system and the motivating forces behind it.

Porter was determined to contribute to a better understanding of that system among his own employees, associates and on college campuses. His death in 1965 came on the eve of a scheduled three-day lecture program at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas. The J. Walter Porter Forum is a continuation of his efforts to increase that understanding.

"We hope this year's forum is insightful and impactful for everyone," said **Dr. Carmella Parker**, associate professor and coordinator of outreach and special projects for NSU's School of Business.

For more information, contact Parker at (318) 357-5723 or email parkercc@nsula.edu.