Like so many events throughout Louisiana, the Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival was not able to be held this summer as a face-to-face event due to the ongoing pandemic. Pivoting to a virtual format, the festival will be held exclusively online, providing patrons with opportunities to purchase homemade crafts in a virtual marketplace, participate in a virtual silent auction, and to watch pre-recorded performances by several of Louisiana’s folk music groups.

The virtual crafts marketplace continues the cultural outreach long made possible by the annual festival, now in its 41st year. Sponsored by Northwestern State University's Louisiana Folklife Center, the festival provides opportunities for patrons to encounter the work of genuine folk artists. “The festival highlights the vitality of traditional folk culture in Louisiana,” said Dr. Shane Rasmussen, festival director. “The crafts of these folk artisans are evidence not only that folklife is alive and well, but that the skills and talents of these artisans honed over a lifetime of following tradition leads to the creation of beautiful art. And these crafts make wonderful gifts for a variety of occasions!”

A diverse group of crafters from throughout the state will be participating in the festival. Visitors to the virtual marketplace and auction will find handmade pottery, cutlery and crockery, musical instruments, baskets, dolls, and more. Pictures of available crafts will be placed on Facebook, with each crafter’s contact information readily available to put buyers in direct contact with the sellers themselves. The marketplace is available for offices, departments

As NSU enacts phased reopening and personnel return to campus, most buildings, meeting areas, offices and departments will need signage that provides information on hours of operation, health and safety policies and/or social distancing guidelines.

NSU’s new graphic designer Hollis Ervin (ervinh@nsula.edu) is available to work with you and University Printing to create laminated signage that is visually appealing, professionally designed and consistent with Northwestern State’s branding guidelines. The printshop can also produce a sign issued by the Louisiana Department of Health regarding actions to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Contact Hollis at to discuss your specific needs, including the message you want to convey, where the sign will be placed, measurements and other details.

He can also be reached at 6509.

Folk Fest Virtual Marketplace to go live August 17

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High School Essay Contest winners announced

LaKin Ogilvie of Simpson High School has been named the first place winner of the 2020 Northwestern State University Louisiana High School Essay Contest. Ogilvie won the honor for her essay “The Giver of Gifts.” Julia Kapusta of Mount Carmel Academy in New Orleans won second place for her essay “Louisiana—Through the Eyes of Gloria Doran,” and Abbie Butler of Pineville High School won third place for her essay “Looking Back and Moving Forward.” Three students received Honorable Mention. They are Bailee Creasey of C.E. Byrd High School in Shreveport for his essay “Expansion,” Valerie Perilloux of St. Charles Catholic High School in LaPlace for her essay “Memories of a Lifetime” and Dominic Ross of the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts in Natchitoches for his essay “War and Homecoming.”

Writing on the 2020 contest theme “Remembering Louisiana,” entrants were invited to visit with an elderly member of their family or surrounding community about how Louisiana has changed over their lifetime. What do they feel are the most significant changes they have experienced over their lifetime?

“As with every year, the contest entries were an immense pleasure to read,” said Dr. Shane Rasmussen, director of the Louisiana Folklife Center at NSU and co-chair of the contest. “The essays eloquently convey a sense of remembered history, and these memories recreated on the page help readers to understand some of the complexities that have shaped Louisiana’s people and cultures. The essays also express some of the heroism, grit, creativity, and wisdom of the forebears of these young writers, and how the wisdom of the older generations is positively impacting the lives of our young people.”

Winners will have their essays featured in the Louisiana Folklife Journal which is published by the Louisiana Folklife Center. Contest winners have also been invited to share their essays with the participants of the 12th Annual Louisiana Studies Conference, which will take place virtually via WebEx on Saturday, September 19. The online conference is free and open to the public. A link for the conference will be placed on the Louisiana Folklife Center website https://www.nsula.edu/folklife/louisianastudies/ on September 7.

The first, second, and third prize winners will each receive a $200 per semester NSU scholarship with a value up to $1,600 for 4 years. All of the contest winners will receive a cash prize in honor of their accomplishment. The essay contest is open to all Louisiana students in grades 9 – 12 regardless of type of school institution, including students in all types of private educational environments, as well as home schooled students.

This year’s essay contest judges were Dr. Lisa Abney, faculty facilitator for academic research and community college outreach and professor of English at NSU; Jason Church, materials conservator with the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training; Lisa Davis, director of the NSU Writing Project; Sharon Wolff, assistant archivist at the Cammie G. Henry Research Center, and Rasmussen.

The contest was sponsored by the Louisiana Folklife Center, the NSU Office of Recruiting, the NSU Writing Project, and the College of Arts, Letters, Graduate Studies and Research. The contest is annual, with a new theme to be announced in early Spring 2021.

For more information contact Dr. Shane Rasmussen, NSU Box 3663, Natchitoches, LA 71497, rasmussens@nsula.edu, or call the Louisiana Folklife Center at (318) 357-4332.

Counseling services available

To support faculty during the COVID-19 crisis, Counseling and Career Services free brief counseling services for faculty from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8 a.m.-noon Fridays through Aug. 15.

Sessions can be via WebEx, Zoom, FaceTime, or face-to-face 305 Student Union. Contact Rebecca Boone at booner@nsula.edu or call 318) 357-5621.
simply provide their name and bid.

Winning bidders will be messaged with next steps on how to pay for their item.

In addition to folk crafts, a music component of the festival is in the works. Several folk music groups, including among others Cane Mutiny, Hardrick Rivers and the Rivers Revue Band, the LaCour Trio, Soul Creole, and the Yvette Landry Trio, are being filmed playing live music. The music sets, accompanied by interviews by Rasmussen of each of the groups, will be placed on YouTube. The project is anticipated to be completed by October 2020 if not earlier.

Details regarding the virtual festival can be found on the Louisiana Folklife Center’s Facebook page, Louisiana Folklife Center (NSULA), as well as the Folklife Center’s website, nsula.edu/folklife/. For more information, email the Louisiana Folklife Center staff at folklife@louisiana.edu or call (318) 357-4332.

Support for the Festival is provided by grants from the Cane River National Heritage Area, Inc., the Louisiana Division of the Arts Decentralized Arts Fund Program, the Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation, and the Shreveport Regional Arts Council.

Much needed support also came from generous sponsorships and donations from C&H Precision Machining; City Bank & Trust Company; the City of Natchitoches; Cleco; John Clifton Conine, Atty; S.B. Evans, Jr.; Maye Foster; Father Frank Fuller; Hines, Squyres and Associates; Dr. L.C. & Linda Guilbeau; John & Sarah Luster; Jack McCain; David Morris; the Natchitoches Area Convention & Visitors Bureau; and Weaver Brothers Land & Timber.
Office of Sponsored Programs

CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Shane Rasmussen, LA Folklife Center, received notification of a $3,500 award from the Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission and a $3,000 award from the Cane River National Heritage Area for “41st Annual Natchitoches – NSU Folk Festival.” Ms. Ashley Smith is collaborator.

Ms. Julie Longlois, Office of Electronic and Continuing Education/Carl D. Perkins Program, received notification of a $53,458 award from the Louisiana Community and Technical College System for “Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V).”

Mr. Kevin Ammons, National Center for Preservation, Technology and Training, received notification of a $206,622 award from the National Park Service for “Tenant Cabin Documentation Project.” Mr. Jason Church is collaborator.

Mr. Kirk Cordell, National Center for Preservation, Technology and Training, received notification of a $496,735 award from the National Park Service for “Partnering for Preservation 2020.” Mr. Kevin Ammons is collaborator.

Ms. Nancy Alexander, Child and Family Network, College of Education and Human Development, received notification of a $65,100 award from the Louisiana Department of Education for “Bossier Parish Lead Agency.” Ms. Kim Duncan is collaborator.

Ms. Nancy Alexander, Child and Family Network, College of Education and Human Development, received notification of a $730,786 award from the Louisiana Department of Education for “Comprehensive Child Care Resource and Referral.” Ms. Kim Duncan is collaborator.

Ms. Nancy Alexander, Child and Family Network, College of Education and Human Development, received notification of the following awards from the Louisiana Department of Education:
“Statewide Early Learning and Child Care Scholarship Program” - $1,781,849;
“Statewide Child Care Career Development System” - $357,873; and
Ms. Jenny Cowan is collaborator.

Dr. Darlene Williams, VP of Technology, Innovation and Economic Development, received notification of a $150,000 award from the Louisiana Board of Regents for “Louisiana Board of Regents eLearning Task Force.”

Dr. Christopher Lyles, School of Biological and Physical Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, received notification of a $68,578 award from the Louisiana Board of Regents for “Enhancement of Analytical Instrumentation for Capstone Laboratories and Research-related Activities.” Drs. Li Ma, Chad Thibodeaux, Jennifer Hill and Mr. Trenton O’Neal are collaborators.

Dr. Daniel Rivera-Vazquez, School of Biological and Physical Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, received notification of a $16,700 award from the Louisiana Board of Regents for “Creation of an eLearning Platform for Basic and Applied Math to Enhance Preparedness in STEM.” Drs. Francene Lemoine, Christopher Lyles, Li Ma, Yohaselly Santiago Rodriguez, Mr. Michael Scanlan, Mrs. Jessica Church, Mrs. Emily Perritt and Mrs. Melissa Kelly are collaborators.

Continued on Page 5
OSP ... Continued from Page 4

Ms. Ruth Weinzettle, Social Work, College of Education and Human Development, received notification of a three-year award totaling $7,505,742 from Southeastern Louisiana University - Louisiana Child Welfare Training Academy for “Title IV-E Child Welfare Scholars Program.” Ms. Tonie Harwell, Ms. Jennifer Luna, Mr. Andrew Fultz and Mr. Randolph Hoffpauir are collaborators.

Dr. Yohaselly Santiago-Rodriguez, School of Biological and Physical Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, received notification of a $10,000 award from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation for “Removal of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances from Water Sources: Converting Toxic Compounds into Building Blocks for Fuel Conversion.”

Dr. Hiram F. Gregory, Creole Heritage Center, received notification of an additional $10,000 award from the USDA National Forest Service for “NSU Student Archaeology Training – Modification 2.”

CURRENT ACTIVITIES


Mr. Kevin Ammons, National Center for Preservation, Technology and Training, submitted two proposals to the National Park Service entitled “Mitigating the Effects of Fire Suppressants on Cultural Resources Phase 2” and “Treatments for Oiled Historic Properties – Phase 4.” Dr. Mary Striegel is collaborator.

Dr. Michelle Brunson, College of Education and Human Development, submitted a proposal to International Paper entitled “Remapping the Cradle to Prison Pipeline to a Cradle to College Pipeline in Natchitoches Parish through Early Literacy Intervention.”

Dr. Rebecca Riall and Dr. Hiram F. Gregory, Department of Criminal Justice, History and Social Sciences/Creole Heritage Center, College of Arts and Sciences, submitted a proposal to the National Endowment for Humanities for “The Old Ways are Alive: Creating Digital Access to the Williamson Museum’s American Indian Exhibits.”

Ms. Anna Dugas, School of Biological and Physical Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, submitted a proposal to the Louisiana Space Grant Consortium (LaSPACE) for “DemonSats-2: Continuation of Student Payload Design Program at NSULA.”

Dr. Curtis Penrod, School of Business, College of Business and Technology, submitted a proposal to the Louisiana Board of Regents for “Proposal for Regional STEM Network Center.” Dr. Darlene Williams is collaborator.


Dr. Shane Rasmussen, LA Folklife Center, submitted a proposal to the National Endowment for the Arts entitled “42nd Annual Natchitoches – NSU Folk Festival.” Ms. Ashley Smith is collaborator.
Packing permit registration is now available

NSU Police Parking Permit registration is now open. All NSU Faculty/Staff and Students may log into their myNSU account and click the Parking Permit Registration link and begin registering the vehicle(s) they plan to utilize on campus.

At this time, NSU Police will NOT be distributing the permits from the Police Station. Arrangements are being made for all Faculty/Staff to receive their permits via their department heads.

All incoming Freshmen will receive their parking permits through First Year Experience. Someone from that department will be reaching out to you soon.

All students that are living on campus for the 2020-21 school year, will be receiving their permits on their designated move in day (Please register at least three days prior to move in day).

Weinzettle appointed to Council on Social Work Accreditation

Dr Ruth Weinzettle, professor and head of Northwestern State University’s Department of Social Work, has been appointed to the Commission on Accreditation (COA) of the Council on Social Work Education. Weinzettle has served as a site visitor for the COA for the past 10 years, visiting and reporting on university social work programs seeking reaccreditation. Part of Weinzettle’s duties on the national committee will be to read social work programs’ self-studies, vote on accreditation and reaccreditation, conduct site visits to schools in the candidacy stage who are seeking to develop new programs, and collaboratively write accreditation policy.

Weinzettle’s term will be effective through Jun 30, 2023.

The work of the Commission on Accreditation fulfills the critically important function of maintaining and advocating for quality in social work education through its accreditation/candidacy of more than 860 social work programs in the United States. In addition, the Commission acts as the policy body for developing and interpreting accreditation standards and assuring that policies and procedures are fairly and consistently applied to all social work programs.

Membership on the Commission on Accreditation is a demanding commitment of time with the commission meeting three times each year to review and take action on an agenda of programs seeking candidacy, initial accreditation or reaffirmation of accredited status. Each meeting takes place in Alexandria, Virginia. Preparation for these meetings involves review of self-studies and associated documents and requires a minimum of 2–3 full days of effort. Commissioners are obliged to conduct two commissioner site visits each year and develop a detailed report.

The next COA meeting will take place on October 8-10, 2020, but will be held virtually due to COVID-19.

Weinzettle
Casey Hendricks named NSU Middle Lab principal

Casey Hendricks has been named principal of the Northwestern State University Middle Lab School.

“NSU Middle Lab has a rich tradition. As the new principal, I will strive to continue those traditions as well as build new ones. This school has a special place in my heart, and I am proud to be a servant to it,” Hendricks said.

Hendricks earned a bachelor’s degree in anthropology with a minor in history at NSU in 1998 and obtained certification to teach grades 6-12 in 2005. He earned a master’s in education leadership at NSU in 2008 and +20 in 2019. This fall he will complete a doctorate degree in adult learning and development with a concentration in community college leadership through NSU.

Hendricks began his career as teacher and coach in 1999, teaching social studies and PE and coaching football and boys and girls basketball at Many Junior High. From 2003-2005, he taught social studies, civics and Spanish at St. Mary’s while coaching football, track and boys basketball at the junior high and high school level and was responsible for upgrading the school’s website. He taught history at Many High School from 2005-2006, coaching football, track and golf and working as a school improvement team member and a presenter for the Louisiana Social Studies Comprehensive Curriculum. He returned to St. Mary’s from 2006-2007 to teach social studies and civics and coached high school football and track, junior high boys basketball and track and served on the social studies curriculum design team.

Hendricks joined the staff at NSU Middle Lab in 2007 where he taught social studies and PE and coached football. He also served as RTI facilitator, school improvement team member and PBIS team member. He was named Teacher of the Year in 2014. From 2014-2016, Hendricks taught history at Natchitoches Central High School and was head golf coach, assistant varsity football coach/head freshman coach. He returned to NSU Middle Lab from 2016-2018 where he taught social studies and PE and was supervising teacher for teacher candidates and methods students. He was a leadership team member, PBIS team member, interim principal, head basketball coach and football coach.

Since 2018, he has been secondary social studies curriculum specialist for the St. Tammany Parish School Board, providing professional development to educators for social studies instruction, providing educators with updates to the state assessment and providing and creating resources for social studies educators that complement the state’s curriculum and standards. He was also able to collaborate with district personnel across all grade levels and subject areas to create opportunities for student success and participated in multiple quality assurance reviews to keep the district in AdvancED accreditation. Hendricks served on the LEAP 2025 8th grade social studies content and bias item review team (LDOE) and developed a rapport with teachers and administrators across the district. Most recently, he created five weeks of COVID-19 lesson plans for social studies grades 6-12 during quarantine and build Google classrooms for social studies grades 6-12 in preparation of schools starts for COVID-19.

“It is an honor and a privilege to have been selected as the fourth principal of Northwestern State Middle Lab School,” Hendricks said.

NSU’s Middle Lab School is located at the university’s Teacher Education Center and provides engaging learning opportunities for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Information on the school can be accessed at https://npsb.la/nsu-middle-lab-school.
A collection of essays on American novelist, editor and professor Toni Morrison (1931-2019) has been published by the University Press of Mississippi. The book was coedited by Dr. Holly Stave, a professor of English in the Louisiana Scholars’ College at Northwestern State University and preeminent Morrison scholar.


Co-editors include Alice Knox Eaton, professor of English at Springfield College in Springfield, Massachusetts, and Maxine Lavone Montgomery, professor of English at Florida State University.

In “God Help the Child,” Morrison returned to several of the signature themes explored in her previous work: pernicious beauty standards for women, particularly African American women; mother-child relationships racism and colorism and child sexual abuse.

“God Help the Child” is set in the contemporary period, unlike all of her previous novels. The contemporary setting is ultimately incidental to the project of the novel, however; as with Morrison’s other work, the story takes on mythic qualities and the larger-than-life themes lend themselves to allegorical and symbolic readings that resonate in light of both contemporary and historical issues.

“New Critical Essays on Toni Morrison’s God Help the Child: Race, Culture, and History” takes on the novel in a nuanced and insightful analysis, interpreting the novel in relation to Morrison’s earlier work as well as locating it within ongoing debates in literary and other academic disciplines engaged with African American literature.

The volume is divided into three sections. The first focuses on trauma—both the pain and suffering caused by neglect and abuse, as well as healing and understanding. The second section considers narrative choices, concentrating on experimentation and reader engagement. The third section turns a comparative eye to Morrison’s fictional canon, from her debut work of fiction, “The Bluest Eye,” until the present. These essays build on previous studies of Morrison’s novels and deepen readers’ understanding of both her last novel and her larger literary output.

Stave has studied Morrison’s work since 1988 and been active in publishing and presenting articles on Morrison’s work. In writing about Morrison, Stave has explored the feminist, religious and spiritual implications of Morrison’s work.

“People were drawn to her work for its honesty, but also its lyricism,” Stave said. “Her language is just beyond compare—the only writer I think of who might be a peer in that area is Faulkner and some critics have explored the connection between those authors in their writing. She doesn’t pull any punches. Her works are brutal, but they reflect the world we know. Her characters live—they are never cardboard cut-outs representing ideological positions. She veers on the margins of social realism and magic realism, and she makes us see with incredible clarity what is in front of our faces.”

The book is available through the University Press of Mississippi by visiting http://www.upress.state.ms.us.
The Office of Accessibility and Disability Support is now located in Watson Memorial Library on the 1st floor in room 108.

OFFICE OF ACCESSIBILITY AND DISABILITY SUPPORT

NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Watson Memorial Library
911 University Parkway • Room 108 • Natchitoches, LA 71497
318-357-4460

NSU will host August Mentor Teacher Training Program

An online Mentor Teacher Training Program will be offered through Northwestern State University’s Office of Electronic and Continuing Education and the NSU School of Education starting Aug. 17.

The program consists of two courses, one offered in the fall and one offered in the spring, and when combined are the equivalent of the requirement for the mentor teacher professional development program.

These courses will focus on providing for the Elementary, Secondary ELA, and Secondary Math Mentor Teacher distinction. The courses will be offered on a traditional semester basis enrolling new cohorts each term. Courses will be taught by a current practitioner who has earned the state mentor credential.

The course is designed to prepare participants for the Bloomboard Assessments.

For more information or to register, please visit checkout.nsula.edu or email ece@nsula.edu. Should there be a group of teachers from one district enrolling, please contact ECE for additional details.
**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, attorney/notary Robin Jones, 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.louisiana.gov](http://www.sos.louisiana.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.louisiana.gov](http://www.sos.louisiana.gov) or call (225) 922-0507.

**Out of state residents:** In order to take the Louisiana State Notary Exam, students must be Louisiana residents and registered to vote in Louisiana.

Register by 08/12/20 to get the early bird price of $430. After that date, the cost will increase to $450.

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**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:** August 20 -September 10, 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

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