



NSU News

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Library staff visit A&M Living Library

A group of Northwestern State University faculty and staff attended their second Human Library program at Texas A&M's Sterling C. Evans Library and Annex in College Station. The visit was part of an ongoing collaboration between Texas A&M Libraries and the faculty at NSU's Eugene P. Watson Library.

While at Texas A&M the group took part in the Human Library program including dialogues with the program participants and working with the organizers Patrick Zinn, director of marketing; Chance Medlin, learning and student engagement librarian, and Marisol Moreno, program coordinator.

NSU Librarians **Debbie Huntington** and **Anna T. MacDonald** toured Cushing Memorial Library and Archives with Zinn and Francesca Marini, programming and outreach librarian. The

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NSU faculty and staff go above and beyond in adapting to modified operations, instruction

While students were on spring break, most faculty and staff at Northwestern State University were busy preparing for a new normal when classes resumed March 30. Many have been working remotely in accordance with government mandates to stay home to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

"This is an unprecedented situation," said NSU President **Dr. Chris Maggio**. "Northwestern is meeting these new challenges through the resourcefulness and resiliency of our faculty, staff and students."

All of NSU's academic programs will continue with online and other alternate delivery of classes. Administrators continue to iron out details about academic guidelines in a shifting

environment. Students have access to the library, counseling, technical support and other services required for quality learning. Information technology personnel worked around the clock to provide assistance to faculty and staff and maintain current information on university websites. Offices that provide essential assistance to the university community and the public remain open with modified operations.

NSU's residential students were strongly encouraged to return home, but for the few who could not, staff was available to assist them. Dining staff prepared take-out lunches and dinners, housing managers were on call to answer

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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, Catherine Fauchaux, at 318-357-4460.

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

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questions about credit balances for students moving home and University Police, counselors, nurses in Health Services and staff in student services and financial aid were available to assist students with questions and concerns.

Staff from NSU Child and Family Network partnered with Willis-Knighton Health System to provide childcare and activities for their employees who were fighting the coronavirus on the front lines.

The NSU Food Pantry remains open, manned by volunteers. Hours are 10 a.m.-noon Monday-Friday through April 3.

“We’ve had many donations from individuals, local groups, churches and Greek organizations,” said **Scott Burrell**, interim director of the School of Creative and Performing Arts who volunteers at the pantry. “We’ve had about 50-60 students access the pantry. All were quite happy to have such a wide range of items to choose. Not only food, but toiletries and cleaning supplies. We also keep the outside bin filled with ‘to-go’ bags that have pantry items in them like soup, ramen, cereal bars, mac and cheese and peanut butter. I would guess 40-50 bags have been picked up.

Current pantry needs include cleaning supplies, disinfectants, toilet paper, sodas, vegetable oil, jelly, and comfort foods like snacks, desserts, cake and cookie mixes.

“Big thanks to those students, faculty and staff who

came to assist when the campus closed by volunteering keep the pantry open,” Burrell said.

Beginning March 30, nurses with Health Services will be available to see students at the clinic from 8 a.m.-noon and will be available by phone from noon-4 p.m. Students can call (318) 663-9263 with questions and concerns or to schedule a visit for the following day.

The Northwestern State University Foundation created

An important component of preparing for the remainder of the semester has been to address the psychological impact of COVID-19 and the significant disruption it caused.

an emergency fund to assist those in the NSU community who need assistance dealing with changes in operations due to COVID-19. The fund can be used to address housing and storage insecurity, travel expenses related to returning home, technology needs to ensure students can access virtual learning, loss of wages and other unforeseen financial challenges.

To apply, requests should be mailed to brossette@nsula.edu or mailed to the NSU Foundation, 535 University Parkway, Natchitoches, LA. 71497 Attn: Coronavirus Assistance Fund. Applications should include a short bio of how applicants are associated with NSU, description of hardship with specific costs and details, including receipts if available, and the amount of the request. All requests will be granted based on

committee recommendations and need as funds are available. To make a donation to support the coronavirus assistance fund, visit <http://www.northwesternstatealumni.com/donations/coronavirus-assistance-fund/>

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Rebecca Boone, director of Counseling and Career Services, spent spring break earning certification in telemental counseling and will be taking appointments for counseling services via WebEx and FaceTime, which are secure and HIPPA compliant.

“It has been a fast-paced learning curve, but we want our students to be confident that we will continue to provide quality counseling services to them,” she said.

“NSU has been a trailblazer in creative educational concepts, including online learning,” Maggio said. “Our leadership in online education is serving us well now. Cutting edge education is one of the many important traditions that have evolved in Northwestern’s 136-year history. The traditions that we value most are exceptional quality and effectiveness of faculty and staff and our compassion for students and commitment to their wellbeing and overall success.”

Updated information will be posted at www.nsula.edu and through the university’s social media channels.

Business Professor Eddie Horton wins award for research in student-faculty communication

Dr. Eddie Horton, assistant professor in Northwestern State University's Department of Computer Information Systems, won the Distinguished Paper Award

presented at the Association of Business Information Systems/Federation of Business



Dr. Eddie Horton

Disciplines. Horton collected the award at the FBD conference in San Antonio prior to social distancing.

“My paper focused on the issues students and faculty have in communication and what are some things that can be

done,” he explained. “Essentially, findings are that faculty still prefer face to face and phone conversations where students overwhelmingly prefer email or some other form of asynchronous communication.”

Horton holds the deVargas, LaCaze and Pierson Endowed Professorship of Business at NSU and is vice president of the Association of Business Information Systems.

Current events brought the topic into sharp relevance as NSU will operate with online and alternate coursework delivery for the remainder of the semester amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Horton said students and faculty will be forced to be more flexible and the university could consider a policy in which students and faculty respond to emails within a specified time period.

“Faculty have to be more diligent in emails and students have to increase other methods of communication,” he said. “In light of all the recent events, I’d like to conduct the study again in about a year, and see if this forced online time changed any perceptions,” Horton said.

NSU’s Computer Information Systems program offers curricula leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in CIS. The program is offered on-campus in Natchitoches, online and in a competency-based format through Electronic and Continuing Education. CIS classes are also streamed to the Leesville/Fort Polk, Alexandria and Barksdale campus each semester.

For information on CIS at Northwestern State, visit <https://www.nsula.edu/computer-information-systems/>.

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NSU faculty and staff toured library facilities and archives at Texas A&M University. From left are Terri Marshall, Chance Medlin, David Antilley II, Patrick Zinn, Debbie Huntington, Marisol Moreno and Anna T. MacDonald.

library offers a wide selection of special collections and artifacts including the Book & Printing History Collection and the Science Fiction & Fantasy Research Collection which houses the papers and manuscripts of significant genre authors and is the depository for the books and papers of George R.R. Martin.

The A&M program included tours of the Preservation Lab at Sterling C. Evans Library where Conservator Jeanne Goodman gave a short workshop about current library conservation practices.



Dr. Michael Scanlan, professor of physics at Northwestern State University, demonstrates how to make soap in a science video intended to educate and entertain during coronavirus quarantine. Videos are free and accessible on NSULA Sciences social media and YouTube channels.

Science videos provides education and entertainment

Dr. Michael Scanlan, professor of physics at Northwestern State University, created a series of science videos that explore various branches of science with demonstrations and activities like growing crystals, making soap and navigating the night sky. Scanlan, father of two, said the videos are intended to educate and entertain during social isolation.

“The School of Biological and Physical Sciences is trying to help out during this time by offering activities, experiments, demonstrations and general nonsense for free on our Facebook page and YouTube channel,” Scanlan said. “It’s part of our initiative to make life a little less boring during the quarantine, during

the isolation that you may have. We are trying to break the monotony and give you ideas for things that you can actually do.”

Users can follow Northwestern State School of Biological and Physical Sciences on Facebook where there is a Facebook Videos playlist. They can also be accessed at NSULA Sciences on YouTube and are linked to @NSULA Sciences on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. All content is free.

Scanlan launched the video series last year and invited viewers to submit questions on science-related topics that interested them. The videos are intended to engage individuals of any age who are interested in any branch of science --

physical science, life science or Earth science with topics related to biology, chemistry, physics, psychology, ecology, geology or astronomy. Some experiments require adult supervision.

Scanlan converted his research lab in Fournet Hall into a small studio and enlisted a student crew to help produce the videos. He does all the editing, having taught himself how to use the Adobe Creative Suite.

“We just want to be sure that everyone has the opportunity to have some science education and entertainment during these social distancing times,” he said.

Scanlan can be reached at scanlanm@nsula.edu.