NSU film maker wins duPont Award

A documentary film produced by a member of Northwestern State University’s New Media faculty won an Alfred I. duPont Award and was featured on The Today Show on Jan. 20. The film, “Love Them First,” tells the story of Mauri Melander Friestleben, principal at Lucy Laney Elementary, an underperforming public elementary school in a high-poverty neighborhood in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Melody Gilbert, NSU assistant professor and documentary filmmaker, traveled to New York to receive the duPont Award, along with a team from KARE 11 in Minneapolis. The Alfred I. duPont–Columbia University Award honors excellence in broadcast journalism in public service and is considered one of the most prestigious awards in journalism.

“Today Show host Hoda Kotb saw the film on a plane recently and fell in love with it and invited Principal Mauri Friestleben to be on the show on Martin Luther King Day,” Gilbert said. “I am proud to be a producer and story consultant on this award-winning documentary.”

Gilbert screened the film on the NSU campus last fall. The project began as a series of stories by a team from KARE 11 News over the course of one year and follows Friestleben’s struggle to lift her school from the bottom of Minnesota’s underperforming schools list. Reviewers call it a story of inspiration, heartbreak, perseverance and the power of love.

Gilbert is in her first year on faculty in NSU’s Department of New Media, Journalism and Communication Arts. She is an award-winning documentary filmmaker and film professor who has directed, produced, shot and sometimes edited seven feature-length documentaries since 2002. She served as a producer for other documentary projects, including “Beneath the Ink,” which was nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Short Documentary; “Women Outward Bound” (2016/PBS) and the James

Dr. Keith Dromm, professor of philosophy in the Louisiana Scholars’ College, had his article “CGI and Affective Responses to Narrative Films” published in the journal Film and Philosophy (Vol. 24, 2019, 155-173).

Kindergarten applications due March 20

Applications for the NSU Elementary Lab School kindergarten draw for the 2020-21 school year are due at noon Friday, March 20.

Applications are available at the school office. A current utility bill showing proof of residency is required with the application.

Tuition for NSU Elementary Lab is $2,200 annually and must be paid by April 30 of the attending school year. A $100 supply fee is due upon enrollment.

For more information, contact Kellie Cedars, school secretary, at (318) 238-6385.
In celebration of Black History Month, Living Library will discuss ‘Ben Johnson: A Natchitoches Legacy’

Northwestern State University’s second Living Library event will examine the life and legacy of the late Ben D. Johnson (1910-2005), who was for several decades, a business leader, mentor and advocate in Natchitoches’s African American community.

The panel discussion will begin at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20 in the Ora G. Williams Digital Media Center (NSU TV Studio), Kyser Hall Room 142. Admission is free and open to the public.

Johnson was born in Campti, one of 10 children, and in the 1930s launched a successful funeral home business that became one of the most prominent minority business systems in Louisiana. He was involved in government, civic affairs, youth development and many philanthropic endeavors.

Johnson received many honors throughout a lifetime of service. He was named an honorary Louisiana state senator and awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters from Northwestern State University, where he established the Ben D. Johnson Endowed Professorship in Business. He received the NAACP humanitarian services award was lauded by U.S. President Bill Clinton and South African President Nelson Mandela.

Today, his work lives on through initiatives coordinated by the Ben D. Johnson Education Center, the Legacy Youth Workforce Development Program and the Legacy Café.

Joining the panel to discuss Johnson’s legacy will be his niece Claire Prymus, State Rep. Kenny Cox, Coushatta Mayor Johnny Cox, Edward Ward Jr. and Dr. Marcus Jones. Each will speak and answer questions about Johnson, his impact on their lives and the large footprint he left in the community.

“Ben Johnson: A Natchitoches Legacy” will last about 90 minutes and is being presented by NSU’s Eugene P. Watson Library. The concept of a living library encourages individuals to share their experiences on a specific topic so that listeners get a first-hand account of what the person saw or lived through.

“Ben Johnson’s lasting impact and achievements on the Natchitoches community deserves to be recognized,” said Deborah Huntington, head of Collection Development and Cataloging. “Black History Month is an ideal time to honor the legacy of Ben Johnson.”

For more information, about the event, contact Huntington, at huntingtond@nsula.edu.

Melody Gilbert ... Continued from Page 1


Prior to making independent documentaries, Gilbert was an award-winning broadcast journalist at TV stations around the country for many years. Her specialty was investigative reporting and covering the arts. She was also a freelance producer for networks including CBS, ABC and NBC News on assignment for the nightly news and the morning shows such as Today and Good Morning America.

Last year, Gilbert launched a series of film screenings at NSU, including “Love Them First,” and “Silicone Soul,” which premiered on STARZ in October.

“Love Them First” is available to watch for free, along with a discussion guide on the website. The trailer and information can be viewed at www.lovetheimfirst.com.
Northwestern State University will present the February Cane River Reading Series featuring Katherine Perkins, co-author of nine novels, including the “Fair Folk Chronicles” and the “Gothcraft” trilogy. Perkins has published 15 short stories, mostly through Writerpunk Press charity anthologies.

She will read and discuss her work at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20 in the Student Union Ballroom. Admission is free and open to the public.

Born in Lafayette, Perkins is a graduate of the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts. She currently lives in Austin, Texas with her husband and cat.

For more information on the Cane River Reading Series, contact Dr. Andy Briseno at brisenoj@nsula.edu.

Northwestern State University’s chapter of Phi Beta Delta, the honor society for international scholars, will host a Chinese and Hindi language and culture lecture series in February. The series will offer insights into the Chinese and Hindi greetings, language and culture.

Lecturers will be Dr. Weiwen Liao, assistant professor in NSU’s School of Business, and Neeru Deep, instructor in the Department of Psychology.

Anyone interested in these topics is welcome to participate with questions and discussion. Classes will be held from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Feb. 4 and Feb. 11 in the Natchitoches Room of Russell Hall. Organizers hope the class will expand participants’ knowledge and understanding of Chinese and Hindi culture and encourage interest in international study.

The registration fee is $10 per hour for NSU, LSMSA and BPCC@NSU students and $25 per hour for all other participants. Proceeds will support scholarships for NSU students participating in international studies.

To register online visit nsu.la/lcsltix. Registration is also available at the door.

For more information, contact Dr. Marcia Hardy at (318) 229-6807 or hardym@nsula.edu.
Congratulations

Ms. Frances Conine, Counseling and Career Services, received notification of a $1,500 award from the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission for “Alcohol and Distracted Driving Prevention.” Ms. Maggie Welch is collaborator.

Mr. Steven Gruesbeck, College of Education and Human Development, received notification of a $2,869,743 five-year award entitled, “NSU/Louisiana GEAR-UP Experiential Learning Program.

Ms. Nancy Alexander, Child and Family Network, College of Education and Human Development, received notification of a $46,850 award from the Louisiana Department of Education for “Child and Adult Food Program Support.” Ms. Kim Duncan and Ms. LaTrenna Cross are collaborators.

Ms. Nancy Alexander, Child and Family Network, College of Education and Human Development, received notification of a $364,575 award from the Louisiana Department of Education entitled, “Statewide Early Learning and Child Care Scholarship Program – Amendment #1.”

Dr. Michelle Fazio-Brunson, Director of Graduate Programs at NSU Early Childhood Development Center, College of Education and Human Development, received notification of a $500 award entitled, “Childhood Obesity and Diabetes Prevention: A Kindergarten Intervention to Support Young Children’s Physical Health.”

Ms. Debbie Dietrich-Smith, National Center for Preservation, Technology and Training, received notification of a $10,000 award from the Cane River National Heritage Area entitled, “Northwestern State University Tree Inventory.”

Current Activities

The following individuals submitted a proposal to the Louisiana Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF) Research Competitiveness Subprogram (RCS):

Dr. Alexei Muravitsky, Department of Mathematics, LA Scholars’ College, for “Consequence Relation: The Tarski-Lindenbaum Method,” and Mr. Trenton O’Neal, School of Biological and Physical Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, for “Biodegradation of the Antimicrobial Chloroxylenol by Aquatic and Terrestrial Microorganisms.”

Dr. Jafar Al-Sharab, Department of Engineering Technology, College of Arts and Sciences, submitted a proposal to Louisiana Space Grant Consortium (LaSPACE) for “Hands-on Experience at NASA Wallops Flight Facility.”

COBT announces changes in personnel duties

Near the end of the Fall 2019 semester, the College of Business and Technology and School of Business had a change in personnel duties. Dr. Curtis Penrod is now in the role of Senior Coordinator of Business Programs for the School of Business with Becky Stephens serving as the administrative assistant in that area. Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne still serves as the Dean of the College of Business and Technology with Tina Bridges serving as the administrative assistant in that area. Any questions that would normally go to a unit head should be sent to Dr. Penrod and Ms. Stephens in the School of Business. They can be reached at (318) 357-5162 or business@nsula.edu.

Questions regarding prospective students for the School of Business, advising within the School of Business, permits for classes, suspension appeals (after reaching out to the advisor), and general questions regarding the School of Business should all be sent to Penrod and Stephens. If you have any questions about this change, please contact us at the phone number or e-mail listed above.
Governor appoints Brunson to 2020 census committee

**Dr. Michelle Fazio Brunson**, professor of early childhood education at Northwestern State University, has been appointed by Gov. John Bel Edwards to the Louisiana Complete Committee (LCCC) created to help raise awareness of the 2020 census.

According to the Governor’s Office, the advisory panel is made up of community, government and business leaders who represent the diverse populations of communities across the state.

“It is vital that every Louisianan participate in the 2020 census, which provides us an opportunity once every 10 years to take a snapshot of our population in order to make the best decisions possible to better serve our citizens, determine congressional representation and that we are in the best possible shape to receive our share of federal resources as they are made available,” Edwards said. “This is important work that this committee will undertake, and I am grateful to everyone who has made the commitment to participate.

Fazio Brunson is president of Louisiana Early Childhood Association. There are 23 LCCC members of various religious, political and personal backgrounds. The composition of the committee is a direct reflection of the rich diversity of Louisiana.

LitCon seeks submissions for fourth annual event set for April 17-18

Northwestern State University will host its fourth annual LitCon April 17-18 and invites submission of proposals for single-person readings, presentations, performances, panel presentations, workshops and tables for the book and art fair hosted across both days in and around the Orville Hanchey Gallery.

Organizers have moved to an online submissions portal, which can be accessed at [https://tinyurl.com/twd9tn7](https://tinyurl.com/twd9tn7). The deadline for submissions is March 2. All submissions must go through the online submissions portal. Anyone with questions should direct them to the centralized e-mail address litcon@nsula.edu.

The Call for Proposals is open to any faculty, graduate and undergraduate students and/or independent writers, artists, and musicians.

LitCon is a two-day celebration of the humanities, which highlights the interconnectedness of academic and artistic disciplines. Humanities is defined broadly to include many facets of film, literature, music, writing, pop culture, theater, visual arts, etc. and the appreciation of their value to students, academics, and community members.

Started in 2017, this conference seeks to bring together and feature academics, artists, makers and thinkers from the local community and beyond. LitCon offers a playful environment for artists and academics where participants encourage and learn from each other.

At its core, LitCon is a hybrid event bringing together elements of the traditional academic conference and the popular culture convention.

All who are enthusiastic about contributing in a thoughtful and meaningful way are welcome.

Organizers are especially interested in seeing crafting, cross-curricular and collaborative work, digital culture, drama, film, gaming, literature, music, new thinking in academia, poetry, pop culture, theater, visual art, writing other humanities-related subjects.

NSU LitCon is free and open to the public.
11th annual Natchitoches-NSU Multicultural Christmas Concert celebrates the season, supports Cane River Children’s Services

By Shane Rasmussen
Director of the Louisiana Folklife Center

The 11th Annual Natchitoches-NSU Multicultural Christmas Concert was held on December 4th at Treen Auditorium at the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts. The event was a benefit concert for the local nonprofit organization Cane River Children's Services and was sponsored by the Louisiana Folklife Center, the NSU Center for Inclusion and Diversity, and the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts.

The concert featured an array of both sacred and secular Christmas performances. Snare drummer Mathew Johnson performed “Carol of the Bells” and “The Little Drummer Boy”; Justin Cruse sang “The Little Drummer Boy,” “Mary Did You Know?” and “There’s a New Kid in Town”; the LSMA Dance Ensemble performed “White Winter Hymnal,” choreographed by Crystal Lewis; NSU student Emerson Rodrigue read “Best Christmas in Haiti”; the Thistle Dancers and Pipers performed traditional Scottish sword dance and bagpipe Christmas tunes “Good King Wenceslas,” “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen,” and “Jingle Bells”; NSU graduate student Dylan Blade Trahan sang “Last Christmas”; the Bollywood Babes performed the dances “Urvashi” and “Desi

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Girls”; the youth members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints sang “Angels We Have Heard on High,” including soloist Cedrick Braxten who sang “Mary Did You Know?”; Ron Helaire read “The Night Before Christmas”; the Ministers of Peace performed the praise dance “More Than I Can Bear”; Mary Linn Wernet and Sharon Wolff of the Cammie G. Henry Research Center performed the readings “Rebirth,” “Midwinter,” “Let Us Have Peace,” and “A Vow for New Year’s”; the Anointed to Praise Dancers danced to “Speak the Name” and “Better”; and blues singer and saxophonist Hardrick Rivers performed “Jingle Bell Rock” and “Please Come Home for Christmas.”

Many people contributed to making the event a success. The Louisiana Folklife Center staff, comprised of NSU students Aaron Malone, Matthew Phillips, Benjamin Sanson, Terra Schulze, and Dylan Blade Trahan, as well as administrative coordinator Ashley Smith, planned and promoted the event. Malone also served as the concert emcee.

The Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts hosted the event, which was coordinated by Samuel Wright, event technology support coordinator for LSMSA, and Shirley Dobson, administrative assistant to LSMSA executive director Dr. Steve Horton.

“This year’s concert was magnificent,” said Dr. Shane Rasmussen, professor of English and Director of the Louisiana Folklife Center. “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! And 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 wishing to make a donation 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.

In addition to spreading holiday hope and cheer, the Concert also serves as both a retention and a recruitment event for NSU, with performances by community members of all ages as well as by current NSU students.
Northwestern State University’s Non-Credit Short Courses - February

**Phlebotomy Technician Training**
This seven (7) week course is broken down into two parts: five (5) weeks of classroom and two (2) weeks of clinical. It is designed to teach entry-level phlebotomy skills to students interested in pursuing a career in Phlebotomy. Students are required to complete 100 clinical hours 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 instructor the first night of class.
- Student may purchase required textbook prior to the first night of class: Phlebotomy Essentials, 6th edition (Wolters Kluwer). This book is not available through our bookstore but may be purchased through a variety of online locations. The book may also be checked out from the instructor at no cost. However, it must be understood that if it is returned damaged or not returned at all, there will be a $60 fee that must be paid before being allowed to sit for the National Board Examination.
- Set of solid scrubs for clinical days (any color) - Not needed until clinical begins.

Date: February 3 – March 6, Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Time: 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm (classroom) March 9 – March 20, Monday-Friday (Clinical Lab/hours vary)
Fee: $850 + $150 (Paid directly to the instructor first night of class - National Board Certification & material fee).
A minimum payment of $425 must be included with registration and does not include material fee or board fee. Remaining balance must be paid through Checkout prior to Monday, March 2.

Location: 2nd Floor South Hall
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 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.

Date: February 8, Saturday (Special Delivery Truck)
February 13, Thursday (Pink Roses)
February 27, Thursday (Colorful Cow)
Time: 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm (Thursdays)
9:00 am -12:00 pm (Saturdays)
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, attorney/notary Robin Jones, has a pass rate higher than the state average. The instructor additionally distributes significate 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.**

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Non-Credit Classes … Continued from Page 8

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 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 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 2/12/20 to get the early bird price of $430. After that date, the cost will increase to $450.

Date: February 18 – May 14, Tuesday and Thursday
May 16, Saturday
(No class 3/24/20 and 3/26/20)
Time: 6:30 – 8:30 pm, Tuesday and Thursday
8:30 am – 12:30 pm, Saturday
Fee: $430 (Early Bird Fee)
$450 (After February 12, 2020)
Location: Online
Instructor: Robin Jones

AccelePrep ACT Boot Camp
(Registration deadline February 17)
Come join us for a closer look at the ACT test through this two-day boot camp. Learn test power tips, set a game plan, and prepare for your next test session! This 12-hour session provides an accelerated overview of the most vital content and strategies for English, Reading, Math, and Science. Students must be in the minimum of the 8th grade.

Date: February 24 and 25, Monday and Tuesday
Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Fee: $179 (Materials included)
Location: 2nd Floor South Hall

Instructor: Jennifer Anderson

Line Dance Class
Exercise your body & 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, Hip-Hop, and an Introduction to Salsa, Waltz.

Date: February 25 - March 31, Tuesdays
Time: 5:30 - 7:00 pm
Fee: $65
Location: 127 Health & Human Performance (Old PE Majors)
Instructor: Wanda & Avila Kahey

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 on our Non-Credit programs, go to www.nsula.edu/ece/non-credit-programs/ or call (800) 376-2422 or (318) 357-6355.

To register for classes, go to checkout.nsula.edu

To learn more about our on-line non-credit courses visit http://www.gatlineducation.com/nsula & http://www.ed2go.com/nsu/
Cox named UL Staff Member of the Year

Reatha Cox, director of Student Affairs at Northwestern State University, was named Outstanding Staff Member of the Year during the third annual University of Louisiana System’s For Our Future Conference that took place on University of Louisiana – Monroe campus last week. Cox was honored for more than 30 years of service and dedication to NSU students. The UL System is comprised of nine universities, including Northwestern State, with a collective enrollment of about 92,000 students. Dr. Jim Henderson, UL System president and an NSU alum, presented the award. About 500 delegates from all nine universities attended the conference, which focused on innovation, integrity and inclusion.

Stan Chadick Math Professorship is near fulfillment

A professorship honoring the memory of Dr. Stan Chadick, a member of the Northwestern State University faculty for 37 years, has almost reached fulfillment, according to faculty in NSU’s Department of Mathematics.

Chadick’s colleagues in the department, who established the professorship last year to honor the memory of an outstanding teacher, mentor and friend, announced that only $6,000 remains to reach the goal of $80,000 that will be matched with $20,000 from the Board of Regents to create a $100,000 endowment. Income from the endowment will be awarded to a professor in the department who will carry on Chadick’s legacy of working with mathematics teachers at all levels.

Chadick, a professor emeritus, passed away in 2017. During his tenure at NSU, he served as a full-time faculty member, head of the Department of Mathematics and the first director of the Louisiana Scholars’ College. He was the curriculum coordinator at the Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts at the school’s inception where he helped develop the curriculum and supervised the 45 teachers at LSMSA during the first two years.

Chadick was one of three teachers to receive NSU’s first Distinguished Faculty Award in 1987. He was one of two teachers to receive the first Alumni Association’s Outstanding Teaching Award in 1990. He was awarded the Northwestern State University President’s Distinguished Service Award in 2005.

Before his retirement, he was recognized as NSU’s most prolific grant writer. After retirement, the Mathematical Association of America Louisiana-Mississippi Section selected Chadick as recipient of the Certificate of Merit given every five years to a member of the Section. He also received the Louisiana Association of Teachers of Mathematics’ first Lifetime Service Award in Mathematics Education. In 2014, NSU awarded Chadick an honorary Doctorate of Applied Science.

online portal for giving are available at http://www.northwesternstatealumni.com/donations/stan-chadick-endowment/. Information is also available by contacting NSU Director of Development Jill Bankston, at bankstonj@nsula.edu.