



# NSU News

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## PEOPLE

Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and English **Daniel Gordy** joined **Dr. Eddie Horton**, **Dr. Keicia Hawkins**, and **Randi Washington** for a presentation at the ULS For Our Future Conference held in Natchitoches March 10-11. They discussed “Easing Accessibility with Technology.”

Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and English **Daniel Gordy** joined **Dr. Eddie Horton** and **Dr. Danny Upshaw** to present, “Apple Neural Hash: A Exploration of Security, Public Trust, and the Law” at the Federation of Business Disciplines’ Conference. The event was held March 2-5 in New Orleans.



## Gregory, Riall honored by UL System

**Dr. Hiram “Pete” Gregory** and **Dr. Rebecca Riall**, professors in Northwestern State University’s School of Social Sciences and Applied Programs, were honored with faculty awards presented by the University of Louisiana System during the ULS’s fifth annual For Our Future conference.

Gregory was named a Champion of Diversity and Inclusion for decades of work in supporting indigenous people of Louisiana and surrounding states, through education, interpretation and preservation.

Riall was named the Rising Star in Diversity and Inclusion for her work with the Creole Studies program at NSU and in creating the American and Indigenous studies and Black studies programs.

“Dr. Gregory talked about cultural competency before the term was invented,” said ULS President Dr. Jim Henderson.

Gregory has been on faculty at Northwestern State since 1961 and is the longest-serving employee in NSU’s history.

He has taught thousands of Northwestern students who have gone on to be anthropologists, archeologists, nurses, teachers, businesspeople, professionals and university presidents. He is the academic advisor for the Louisiana Creole Heritage Center, the Louisiana Folklife Festival and the Folklife Center at Northwestern. In 2019, Gregory received the Lifetime Contribution to the Humanities Award from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. In 2018, the Creole Heritage Center presented Gregory with a Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2016, the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development

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# Horton named ABIS Educator of the Year

**Dr. Eddie Horton**, associate professor of computer information systems at Northwestern State University, was named Educator of the Year for the Association of Business Information Systems group at the Federation of Business Disciplines conference held this past weekend in New Orleans.

“I am very honored to have been selected for this award,” said Horton. “The Federation of Business Disciplines conference is held yearly and is a great opportunity for us to present our work. This year I presented (along with Daniel Gordy and Danny Upshaw) a paper we’re working on discussing Apple’s Neural Hash algorithm.”

The Federation of Business Disciplines is dedicated to the professional development of the academic disciplines represented in the Federation. The primary purposes of FBD are to: provide and coordinate an annual meeting for Federation members, provide a common general program in which all Federation members will participate together and provide a forum through an annual meeting for the discussion and exchange of ideas and presentation of papers. The federation also works to foster professional growth and enrichment for members in each of the professional associations and provides information which can be used to improve



classroom instruction, research and academic and business development.

Horton is the 2021-22 president of the Association of Business Information Systems group.

Horton has been a member of NSU’s faculty since 2014 and has held the DeVargus, LaCaze and Pierson Endowed Professorship and the Bryant and Heloise Lewis Endowed Professorship. He taught at Bossier Parish Community College for five years and held administrative positions at LSU at Shreveport, the Juvenile Court for Caddo Parish and Louisiana Tech University.

Horton earned his bachelor’s and master’s degree at Northwestern State and a doctorate at Northcentral University.

## *Gregory, Riall... Continued from Page 1*

recognized him as Louisiana’s Archaeologist of the Year.

Riall is an anthropologist and licensed attorney who coordinates the pre-law and paralegal studies program at NSU. Her research interests include legal anthropology, the anthropology of race, race and the law, federal Indian law, U.S. Constitutional law and tribal law. She co-founded the First Nations Educational and Cultural Center at Indiana University Bloomington. She is a former indigent defender

and built the first law practice in Zwolle focusing on criminal defense and family law for about 10 years before joining the faculty at NSU. She lives in Zwolle and has close ties to the Choctaw-Apache Community of Ebarb. She is currently the acting coordinator of Black Studies and American Indian & Indigenous Studies at NSU.

The fifth annual ULS For Our Future Conference was hosted in Natchitoches and attended by about 500 faculty and staff from the

nine institutions that make up the University of Louisiana System, including Northwestern State, Grambling, Louisiana Tech, McNeese, Nicholls, Southeastern, UL-Lafayette, UL-Monroe and the University of New Orleans.

Gregory and Riall were selected for the awards from a pool of nearly 10,000 faculty and staff.

Information on NSU’s School of Social Sciences and Applied Programs is available at <https://cjhss.nsula.edu/>.





Dr. Frank Serio, head of the Department of Mathematics at Northwestern State University presented the 2021 Distinguished Teaching Award to Dr. Leigh Ann Myers on behalf of the Louisiana/Mississippi section of the Mathematical Association of America. Since last year's conference was held virtually, the award was presented in person March 5 during the LA/MS section meeting held at NSU.

## Myers elected MAA section representative

**Dr. Leigh Ann Myers**, professor of mathematics at Northwestern State University, was elected section representative of the Louisiana/Mississippi section of the Mathematical Association of America. The selection was made during a LA/MS section conference that took place at NSU March 3-5. Myers served as program chair for the section and coordinated the conference.

The section representative serves as a conduit for communication between the MAA Board of Directors and the Louisiana/Mississippi Section of the MAA. As

section representative, Myers will represent the local section on the MAA Congress. The Congress of the MAA approves strategic goals and priorities, advises the Board on amendments to the bylaws, and recommends to the Board programmatic and social policies for the Association.

Myers' term will be July 1-June 30, 2025.

Myers also recognized as winner of the Section Distinguished Teaching Award for 2021. Since last year's meeting was virtual, Myers received a plaque at the 2022 meeting, presented by **Dr.**

**Frank Serio**, chair of NSU's Department of Mathematics.

The Mathematical Association of America is the world's largest community of mathematicians, students and enthusiasts that strives to further the understanding of the world through mathematics because mathematics drives society and shapes lives. The mission of the MAA is to advance the understanding of mathematics and its impact on the world.

Information on NSU's Department of Mathematics can be found at <https://mathematics.nsula.edu/>.

Submit your idea for 45-minute breakout session by emailing a descriptive paragraph to [mitchelldawn@nsula.edu](mailto:mitchelldawn@nsula.edu) by May 1, 2022.

## CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

LAIR 2022

Educate, Innovate, and Collaborate:

Share your knowledge, experiences, technical skills, theories, project successes, tips and techniques, and ongoing research. Highlight YOUR Team!

We are stronger together!

**LAIR**  
Louisiana Association for  
Institutional Research



Wednesday, July 13 & Thursday, July 14  
Northwestern State University | Natchitoches, LA

**LAAG**  
Louisiana Assessment  
Group

### Call for Presentations – Louisiana Association for Institutional Research

Do you have an interest in institutional data like retention rates, graduation rates and other metrics? Are you involved in assessment activities? Have you conducted and/or evaluated surveys?

Louisiana Association for Institutional Research (LAIR) is holding its 2022 Conference, scheduled for July 13-14 at NSU's campus. This year the Louisiana Assessment Group (LAAG) will be joining forces with LAIR to expand the topics and reach of the event. Some of the sessions are:

- SACSCOC Liaison Group Meeting
- IR Newcomers Workshop
- Assessment 101 Workshop
- IPEDS Data and Benchmarking
- Stop, Listen and Learn – How One System Office Created a Culture of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Please contact **Dawn Mitchell** ([mitchelldawn@nsula.edu](mailto:mitchelldawn@nsula.edu)) to talk about sharing your ideas or work at this conference. (You do not have to be a member of LAIR or LAAG already.)

## SGA approves new hours for campus entrances

Northwestern State University's Student Government Association recently passed a resolution this week to require the closure of all campus gates except for the Caspari Street entrance between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. The measure was introduced to "promote and enhance the safety and protection of Northwestern State University students by changing the hours that the gates to campus are opened and closed," according to the resolution.

The SGA will work with university administration to ensure that University Police have a presence in the guard shack at the Caspari Street entrance to monitor vehicular activity on campus.

"Having the new gate closure time will assist in the safety of the NSU community as we are able to monitor traffic entering the campus after hours," said University Police Captain **Wesley Harrell**.

# NSU joins U.S. Cyber Command AEN

NSU has been accepted into the United States Cyber Command Academic Engagement Network (AEN). The goal of AEN is to foster relationships between cutting edge academic institutions and the entire U.S. Cyber command enterprise, which includes the USCYBERCOM Headquarters, Cyber National Mission Force, Joint Force Headquarters-Department of Defense Information Networks, Air Force Cyber Command (AFCYBER), Army Cyber Command (ARCYBER), Coast Guard Cyber Command (CGCYBER), Fleet Cyber Command (Fleet Cyber), Marine Forces Cyber Command (MARFORCYBER) and their associated Reserve Cyber forces.

“This a great opportunity

for our students, as it will connect them to a wealth of resources as well as provide speakers for our classes,” said **Dr. Eddie Horton**, associate professor of computer information systems.

As a collaborative network, the AEN aims focus on engaging the future workforce, increasing cyber applied research and innovation, expanding cyber-focused analytic partnerships and enriching the strategic dialogue on cyber.

“I believe acceptance into the Academic Engagement Network is another sign of how the Northwestern School of Business and the computer information systems program are seeking to ensure our curriculum is meeting today’s

workforce demands,” said **Dr. Curtis Penrod**, director of the School of Business. “We strive to include certifications that are workforce relevant including CompTIA A+, CompTIA Network+, and CompTIA Security+ among others.”

By engaging with this network, NSU’s CIS students will benefit through exposure to job postings in the cyber-command field and through connections made through the AEN, he added.

“Two of our primary goals are to make sure we are teaching the skills that students need in the workforce and that we are then assisting them with connecting to job opportunities. The Academic Engagement Network helps us accomplish those goals,” Penrod said.

## NSU’s 6th annual Litcon set for April 8-9

Northwestern State University will host its sixth annual LitCon April 8-9 in the Orville Hanchey Gallery and Room 206 of the Fine Arts Annex. Presentations will be from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. each day. Admission is free and open to the public.

LitCon is a two-day celebration of the humanities, which highlights the interconnectedness of academic and artistic disciplines. Organizers define “humanities” 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. This is first time in three years the conference has been presented in person.

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 we all 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.

The event will feature literary presentations, vocal performances, creative

workshops, an artist vendor booth, a cosplay contest, slow stitching, Viking games, D&D roleplaying, poetry and dance, improv performance and las afrombras (carpets).

Presenters on Friday will be **Anna Tapia MacDonald, Carly Chandler, Phyllis Lear, Sarah Puryear-Dunn, Krista Hanson, John Dunn** and members of the Demon Writers Guild.

Making presentations on Saturday will be Lee Babin, Mary Fletcher, the Brainy Acts Poetry Society, Emilie Rodriguez, Holly Penta, Catelyn Errington and Meilyn Woods of Sigma Tau Delta, Dr. Steve Marsden, Austin Warren, Laura Osborne and Christy Lorio.



## April Non-Credit Classes

### **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 are allowed to enroll, but a parent **MUST** accompany the child the entire class. Parent does not have to enroll unless they participate. All supplies included.

Date:	April 7	Easter Gator
	April 21	Spring on the Bayou
Time:	5:30 - 8:30 pm, Thursday	
Fee:	\$45 per session	
Location:	2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor South Hall	
Instructor:	Shanna Dees Gaspard	

### **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:	March 31-May 5, Thursdays	
Time:	6:00 - 8:00 pm	
Fee:	\$125 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	

### **Cookie Decorating with Royal Icing for Beginners**

Cookie Decorating with royal icing is a beginning class to learn some basic decorating techniques. This course will teach students how to make an amazing sugar cookie dough suited for shaped cookies and then explore different royal icing techniques such as dip tie-dye, outlining and flooding with single and multiple colors, and painting on royal icing. Students will be encouraged

to express themselves creatively.

NOTE: There is a \$25 fee due at the first-class meeting (cash or check only made payable to the instructor). This fee will cover all ingredients needed in the course- cookies prebaked for some class dates; food coloring, paintbrushes, cookie cutters to be shared in the class; and a set of 3 piping tips, a coupler, and a reusable piping bag for each student to keep.

Date:	April 5-April 26, Tuesdays	
Time:	5:30 – 8:00 pm	
Fee:	\$75	
Location:	Culinary Arts Building (100 Caspari Street)	
Instructor:	McKenna Marsh	

### **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](https://www.nsula.edu) or call (800)376-2422 or (318)357-6355.**

## Photo Services Reich director establishes radiologic sciences scholarship in mom's memory

A Northwestern State University family recognized a loved one by creating a scholarship that will awarded to an upper-level student in the radiologic sciences. The Wilma Ortigo Reich Scholarship was created by NSU Director of Photographic Services **Chris Reich** and his father Lewis Reich. Mrs. Reich passed away in 2018.

Wilma Reich graduated from Northwestern State in 1976 and spent most of her career at Schumpert Hospital in Shreveport, retiring as chief of ultrasound. During her career she advocated to close pay disparities among her staff and was a dedicated employee.

"She was there most of my childhood," Chris Reich said. "I distinctly remember her taking calls often so that she shared the load with her other techs. Beyond that she was a great mom, loved to decorate for the holidays, baked, loved tending to her garden and before her death traveling a lot."

To be eligible for the scholarship, students must maintain a 3.0 or better grade point average.

"The criteria we both agreed on was that it went to someone who needed and deserved it, not someone who just made the best grades.



Wilma Ortigo Reich

We wanted it to have a meaningful impact," Reich said.

Friends can contribute to the scholarship by visiting <https://northwesternstatealumni.com/reich-scholarship/>.

Individuals interested in establishing a scholarship in honor of or in memory of a loved one can reach out to the NSU Foundation Development staff by calling Director of Development **Jill Bankston** at (318) 357-4241 or Assistant Director of Donor Relations **Cristy Bernard** at (318) 357-4292.

## Northwestern will host 35th Annual Research Day April 21

Northwestern State University will host the 35th annual Research Day Thursday, April 21. Faculty, staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students are invited to submit proposals to present their scholarly or creative projects for presentation at Research Day.

This virtual conference will include synchronous oral presentations (15 minutes + 5 minutes for questions), asynchronous virtual poster sessions with chat features

for answering questions, and brief (5 minute) prerecorded oral presentations, also with a chat feature for questions.

To apply to present this year, please complete the online form: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage>.

The final date to submit abstracts is noon, Friday, April 8, 2022.

- Student applications must designate a faculty sponsor. The faculty sponsor is responsible for ensuring the quality of the

presentation.

- Faculty may use a Research Day presentation to satisfy the dissemination requirement for a Faculty Development Grant received in the past year.

We hope that faculty will encourage advanced distance learning students to contribute either poster or oral presentations of their research.

Questions? Please contact **Dr. Betsy Cochran** ([cochran@nsula.edu](mailto:cochran@nsula.edu)), chair of the Research Council.

*Resources and Assistance*

For assistance in seeking information about funding opportunities, preparing proposals or administering projects, contact the Office of Sponsored Programs by phone, 357-5222; e-mail at [orsp@nsula.edu](mailto:orsp@nsula.edu), or visit the OSP website at <http://www.nsula.edu/orsp>.

OSP Staff

Carla Howell  
Director

Alysia Jones  
Associate  
Director

Office of Sponsored Programs

**CURRENT ACTIVITIES**

**Dr. Michelle Brunson**, Graduate Programs in Early Childhood Education, College of Education and Human Development, submitted a proposal to the Dollar General Literacy Foundation entitled, “Supporting the Cradle to College Pipeline through Early Literacy.”

**Dr. Shane Rasmussen**, Louisiana Folklife Center, College of Arts and Sciences, submitted proposals to the Natchitoches Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Natchitoches Historic District Development Committee, and Cane River National Heritage Area all entitled, “42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Natchitoches – NSU Folk Festival.” **Ms. Bessie Jones** is collaborator.

**Dr. Hiram F. Gregory**, School of Social

Sciences and Applied Programs, College of Arts and Sciences, submitted a proposal to the Cane River National Heritage Area entitled, “Caddo Conference 2022.” **Drs. Mark Melder** and **Rebecca Riall** are collaborators.

**Ms. Nancy Alexander**, Department of Child and Family Network, College of Education and Human Development, submitted two proposals to the Louisiana Department of Education entitled, “Statewide Early Learning and Child Care Scholarship Program” and “Statewide Early Learning and Career Development Program.” **Ms. Jenny Cowan** is collaborator.

If you should have any questions or have interest in submitting a proposal, please contact either Carla Howell or Alysia Jones at [orsp@nsula.edu](mailto:orsp@nsula.edu) or 318.357.5222 to discuss the proposal preparation process.

Early Childhood partners with ADK for service project



Northwestern State University’s early childhood program, directed by Dr. Michelle Fazio-Brunson within the School of Education, teamed with Alpha Delta Kappa, a international organization for women educators, to gift 20 Easter baskets to a local women and children’s shelter. The baskets, candy and stuffed animals were donated by ADK with members also making sure each mother had a basket full of personal items along with Easter candy. The early childhood program donated early literacy bags filled with pencils, books, scissors, crayons, erasers and a host of other supplies. The early literacy bags are a part of their Cradle to College Pipeline initiative. ADK members are, seated from left, Nancy Brown and Linda Young. On the back row are Christi Lee, Dr. Christy Hornsby, Kathy Arnold, Susan Walker, Gay Dezendorf, Linda Renegar and Shirly Johnson.





ADVANCE students engage in hands-on learning in a science lab.

## Registration is open for ADVANCE 2022 program

NSU's ADVANCE Program for Young Scholars (ADVANCE), now celebrating its 34th year, will host its traditional residential program for academically motivated students July 10 – 30. Students currently in grades 7 – 11 enroll in and complete one course during the three-week program. They attend 108.5 hours of class and cover an entire year's worth of high school material or a semester of college level material. Course offerings include the humanities, mathematics, natural sciences with laboratory components and computer programming.

All applicants must provide a copy of their most

recent report card and state standardized test scores to determine their eligibility. If scores have been misplaced, many schools provide that information on school transcripts, and transcripts may be submitted to ADVANCE. If applicants have taken an ACT or SAT, those scores may be submitted with their applications.

While the academic program at ADVANCE is top-notch, the residential program sets ADVANCE apart from other similar summer programs.

The residential staff offers a wide variety of social and recreational activities to assist students in forming lasting friendships, strength-

en the ADVANCE community and help all students have a great time when not in class. Dr. Chris Hynes, director of ADVANCE, states that "ADVANCE combines the need to improve academically with the desire to spend summer break in the traditional way – having fun!"

**A \$250 discount will be granted to families with two or more students attending the program or to applicants who are dependents of NSU employees or students.**

Applications are now being accepted. For more information visit <https://advance.nsula.edu>, call (318) 357-4500, or email [palm-erh@nsula.edu](mailto:palm-erh@nsula.edu).