



NSU News

A Publication for the Northwestern State University Faculty & Staff

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PEOPLE

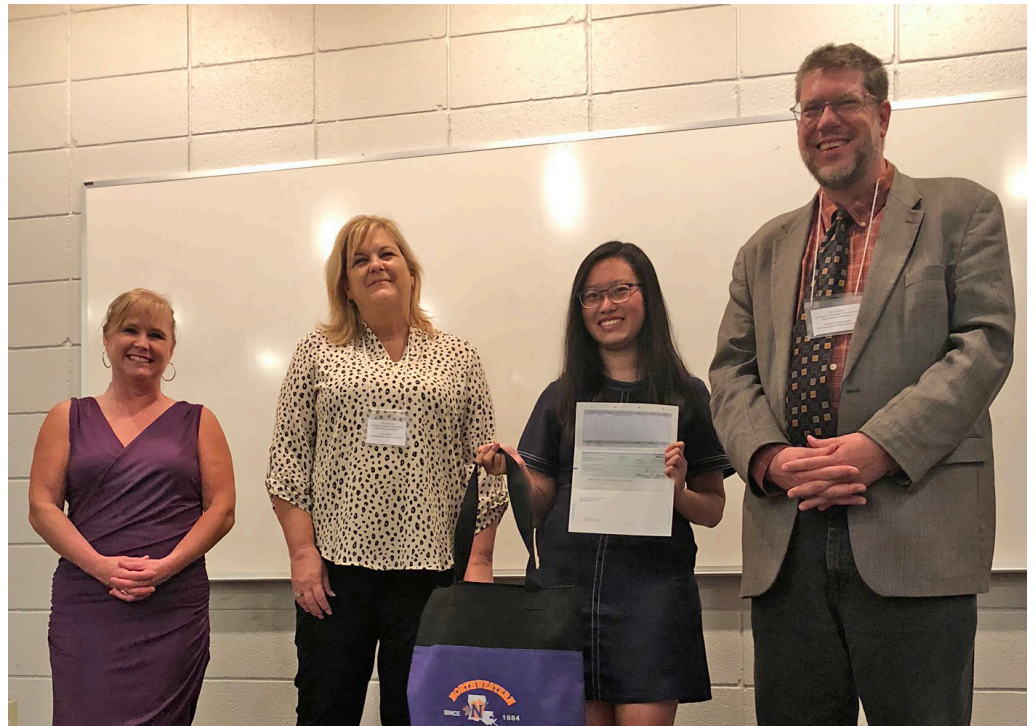
Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing Program Coordinator **Dr. Rebecca Macijeski** had four poems appear in the recent issue of *Border Crossing*, a literary journal based out of Lake Superior State University.

Steak ‘n Shake opening Oct. 9

Northwestern State’s newest eatery will open Wednesday, Oct. 9. NSU and the Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce will hold a ribbon-cutting for Steak ‘n Shake, home of the original Steakburger, at 10:30 a.m. with the restaurant opening for lunch at 11 a.m.

The restaurant is located in a newly renovated space on the ground floor of the NSU Student Union.

The restaurant will be open long hours. The location will accept student declining balance as well as cash, credit cards and SOGO gift cards that are accepted at all Sodexo locations on campus.



Director of Recruiting Jana Lucky and Director of the NSU National Writing Project Lisa Davis congratulated Essay Contest winner Hane Le. Her award was presented by Dr. Shane Rasmussen, director of the Louisiana Folklife Center.

11th annual Louisiana Studies Conference held at NSU

The 11th Annual Louisiana Studies Conference was held on September 20-21 at NSU. **Dr. Lisa Abney**, Faculty Facilitator for Academic Research and Community College Outreach and Professor of English, **Jason Church**, materials conservator at the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, **Dr. Charles Pellegrin**, Director of the Southern Studies Institute and Professor of History, and **Dr. Shane Rasmussen**, Director of the Louisiana Folklife Center and Professor of English, 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. **President Chris Maggio**, **Dr. Greg Handel**, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dean of the Graduate School, and Professor of Music Education, **Dr. Fran Lemoine**, Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Professor of Biology, **Dr. Scott Burrell**, Director of the Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts and Professor of Theatre, **Leslie Gruesbeck**, Gallery Coordinator

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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).

Louisiana Studies Conference ... Continued from Page 1

and Associate Professor of Art, and **DeFord** served as Conference Hosts. The staff of the Louisiana Folklife Center, administrative coordinator **Ashley Smith** and student workers **Aaron Malone**, **Caitlyn Martin**, **Matthew Phillips**, **Meghan Quaglino**, and **Terra Schulze**, as well as graduate assistants **Benjamin Sanson** and **Dylan Trahan**, kept the Conference running smoothly. **Charles Rachal** from Electronic and Continuing

Education served as Conference technical support. **Chris Reich** served as Conference photographer.

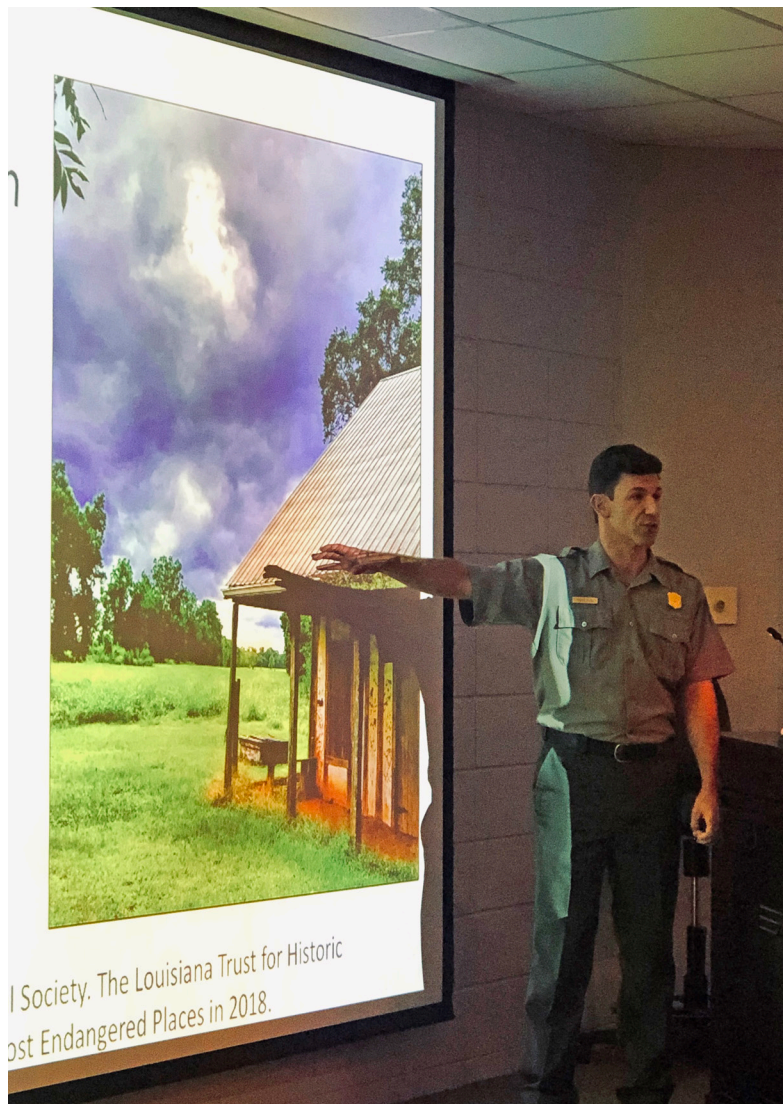
This year's conference theme was "Becoming Louisiana." The Friday evening keynote address, "Glocalization and Cajun Culture on the Market: Questioning the Isolation Myth of French and Creole Louisiana," was given by Dr. Nathan Rabalais, Assistant Professor of French

and Francophone Studies at the College of William and Mary. The Saturday morning keynote address, "Traditionally Associated People of Cane River: Using Ethnographic Methods to Document, Study, and Interpret Descendant Communities," was given by Dustin Fuqua, Chief of Resource Management at Cane River Creole National Historical Park. **Rasmussen** introduced the keynote speakers.

The two-day conference was a great success, with 51 scholars, creative writers, and cultural authorities participating in 13 separate panels. Conference participants came from Florida, Mississippi, New Jersey, Texas, and Virginia, as well as from throughout Louisiana.

Several of the presenters were NSU faculty and alumni. In addition to the keynote addresses, some of the many topics discussed included Louisiana literature, service learning, architecture, legends, vampires, labor history, history, politics, ethnic diversity and identity, the Louisiana Redbones, travel writing, autobiography, grave sheds, outlaws, tenant cabins, linguistics, Civil War history, material culture, Poverty Point, archaeology, Louisiana folkways, race relations, climate change and the environment, and medical history.

Each of the presentation sessions was chaired by a moderator. Session chairs included Church, **Heather**



Dustin Fuqua, chief of resource management at Cane River Creole National Historical Park, discussed "Traditionally Associated people of Cane River: Using Ethnographic Methods to Document, Study and Interpret Descendant Communities."

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Salter Dromm (English, Foreign Languages, and Cultural Studies), **Dr. Benjamin Forkner** (English, Foreign Languages, and Cultural Studies), **Dr. Christopher Gilson** (Criminal Justice, History, and Social Sciences), **Phyllis Lear** (School of Creative and Performing Arts), and **Dr. Sarah E. McFarland** (English, Foreign Languages, and Cultural Studies).



A captive audience heard many interesting presentations.

The following individuals made scholarly presentations at the Conference:

Bruce A. Craft (English, Foreign Languages, and Cultural Studies) presented his paper “Becoming Redbone: The 3D (Re)Materialization, (Re)Discovery, and Abstraction of a Redbone Cultural Artifact.”

Dr. Jon Griffin Donlon (Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts) presented his paper “Looking for Lafayette in Louisiana.”

Heather Salter Dromm presented her paper “Jana DeLeon Shoots Down Gender, Age, and Regional Stereotypes.”

Dr. Benjamin Forkner presented his paper “Louisiana French: Old Challenges—New Opportunities.”

Dr. Christopher Gilson presented his paper “A Loop, a Canal, and a Larger Town: Lessons from the 1957 Natchitoches Master Plan.”

Jeffrey S. Girard (Criminal Justice, History, and Social Sciences) presented

his paper “The Discovery and Recovery of a 14th Century Dugout Canoe on the Red River.”

Dr. Hiram “Pete” Gregory (Criminal Justice, History, and Social Sciences) presented his paper “Making the Memphis Run.”

Steven Gruesbeck (Psychology) and **Andy Ferrell** of the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) presented their paper “Becoming Louisiana: Shaping Buildings, Shaping Ourselves.”

Phyllis Lear presented her paper “The Travels of Poverty Point Objects (PPOs) to a Little Mound in Arkansas.”

Dr. Sarah E. McFarland presented her paper “Rising Waters: Environmental Crisis in Louisiana Literature.”

Dr. Mark O. Melder (Criminal Justice, History, and Social Sciences) presented his paper “Climate Change as a Factor in Homeland Security: Sociological Lessons from

Katrina.”

Dr. Dean Sinclair (Criminal Justice, History, and Social Sciences) presented his paper “Grave Sheds of Western Louisiana.”

Mary Linn Wernet (Cammie G. Henry Research Center) and **Sharon Wolff** (Cammie G. Henry Research Center) displayed their exhibit “The Making of *Gumbo YA-YA: A Collection of Louisiana Folk Tales*.”

The awards ceremony for the 11th Annual NSU Louisiana High School Essay Contest was also held on Saturday morning at the Conference.

Lisa Davis, Director of the NSU National Writing Project and Instructor of English and of Teaching, Leadership, and Counseling and **Jana Lucky**, Director of Recruiting awarded the prizes, assisted by **Rasmussen**. 1st place winner Hana Le of Ruston High School read her essay “That Gray Area: A Self Reflection on Culture and External Factors.”

Unable to attend were 2nd

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Receptions planned for Nursing, Rad Sci anniversaries

Northwestern State University's College of Nursing and School of Allied Health are celebrating important milestones in 2019.

This year, the College of Nursing marks its 70th anniversary while the Radiologic Sciences program observes its 50th year. The College of Nursing and School of Allied Health are planning events for alumni and friends in Shreveport and Alexandria to commemorate the milestone years.

A reception for all alumni, friends and community partners from Alexandria and Leesville will take place at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10 at NSU's Cenla Campus, located within the England Industrial Airpark and Community, 1420 Neal Kirby Drive, Alexandria. Those

who plan to attend the Alexandria reception should RSVP to **Gwen Cope** at (318) 769-7991 or copeg@nsula.edu before Oct. 5.

Shreveport alumni and friends are invited to a reception that will begin at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24 at NSU's Shreveport Nursing Education Center, 1800 Line Avenue. Guests who plan to attend the Shreveport reception are asked to RSVP to **Eloise Chambers** at (318) 677-3020 or chamberse@nsula.edu by Oct. 14.

Information on NSU's College of Nursing and School of Allied Health is available at <https://nursing.nsula.edu/nursing-programs/> and at <https://nursing.nsula.edu/allied-health-programs/>.

Louisiana Studies Conference ... Continued from Page 3



Refreshments at the Conference were served by Sodexo and the NSU Culinary Arts students in the Hospitality Management and Tourism program, led by Chef John Carriere.

place winner Emily Savell of Grant High School in Dry Prong, 3rd place winner Timmie Harris of C.E. Byrd High School in Shreveport, and Honorable Mention winners Sydney Hedrick of Grant High School and Summer Netterville of C.E. Byrd High School. **Abney, Church, Davis, and Rasmussen** served as the Contest selection committee.

Refreshments at the Conference were served by Sodexo and the NSU

Culinary Arts students in the Hospitality Management and Tourism program, led by **Chef John Carriere** (Hospitality Management and Tourism).

The Conference is co-sponsored by the Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Cultural Studies, The Friends of the Hanchey Gallery, 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 12th annual Louisiana Studies Conference will be held in September 2020.

The 2020 Conference theme will be "Losing Louisiana." For more information contact Dr. Shane Rasmussen at rasmussens@nsula.edu or (318) 357-4332.

Cane River Reading Series, other events set for this fall

The Cane River Reading Series at Northwestern State University will return with the first reading of the semester starting at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 16 in the Student Union Ballroom.

This will be the first of two readings this semester.

The Oct. 16 event will feature Zach VandeZande, author of a novel, “Apathy and Paying Rent” (Loose Teeth Press, 2008) and a forthcoming short story collection, “Liminal Domestic: Storie”s (Gold Wake Press, 2019). His work can be found in Smokelong Quarterly, DIAGRAM, The Adroit Review, Milk Candy Review and dozens of others. He splits his time between Ellensburg, Washington, and Washington, D.C., where he knows all the dogs in both neighborhoods.

Writer Jessica Chiccehitto Hindman will be the featured author at the next session of the Cane River Reading Series at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 5 in the Student Union Ballroom. The reading will be followed by a

question and answer session. The event is free and open to the public.

Hindman grew up in the Potomac Highlands of West Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Her debut, “Sounds Like Titanic: A Memoir,” was named “best book of 2019 so far,” by Amazon, described as “moving” by The New Yorker, “outrageously funny” by O, the Oprah Magazine, “fascinating” by NPR and “powerful” by Vox.

Her recent writing has appeared in McSweeney’s Internet Tendency, The New York Times Magazine, Brevity and Hippocampus. She holds a BA in Middle Eastern studies and an MFA in creative nonfiction writing from Columbia University and a PhD in English from the University of North Texas.

She is an associate professor of English at Northern Kentucky University. She lives in Newport, Kentucky, with her husband, astronomer Nathan De

Lee.

The Cane River Reading Series is sponsored by Ryan Branson and W.W. Norton.

Upcoming events sponsored by NSU’s Department of English, Foreign Languages and Cultural Studies includes the annual Fall Read in Orville Hanchey Gallery on Oct. 28 and a NaNoWriMo writing party in Varnado Hall Ballroom that celebrates National Novel Writing Month beginning at 7 p.m. Nov. 11.

On Dec. 4, English 3030 will host a community reception called “Words and Pictures” to share their collaborative work from the semester. This will take place in Hanchey Gallery or Gallery II.

In related events, the Demon Writers’ Guild is also planning a Fall Read. Details will be announced as plans are finalized.

For more information, contact **Dr. Andy Briseno** at brisenoj@nsula.edu or call (401) 526-3739.

New Media professor’s documentary premieres on STARZ

Following an acclaimed run on the film festival circuit comes the announcement that award-winning documentary filmmaker and NSU Professor **Melody Gilbert’s** “Silicone Soul,” which explores the emotional connection some people have to synthetic companions, had its U.S broadcast premiere Oct. 1 on STARZ TV network. The feature-length documentary is also available for streaming on STARZ ON DEMAND (www.starz.com/movies/52232) and for educational distribution via Collective Eye Films: <https://www.collectiveeye.org/products/silicone-soul?variant=28768666615913>.

Viewers who don’t have STARZ, can try it for free for a one-week trial, which includes the STARZ on Demand app for streaming (www.starz.com).

An additional screening will be at 10:35 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 27.

The documentary was screened as a sneak preview recently on the NSU campus as part of the new Documentary Screening Series sponsored by the Department of New Media, Journalism and Communication Arts and was viewed by 75 students and local residents.

Gilbert, professor of New Media, attended the screening, which was followed by a lively Q & A session about love, loneliness, secrets and the future of human relationships. View trailer and read more about the film at: www.siliconesoulmovie.com.

Another documentary produced by Gilbert was nominated for a national Emmy award for Outstanding Short Documentary.

The documentary, “Beneath the Ink” focuses on a tattoo artist who covers up racist tattoos on people who have experienced a change of heart.

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, or visit the OSP website at <http://www.nsula.edu/orsp>.

OSP Staff

Carla Howell
Director

Alysia Jones
Associate
Director

Office of Sponsored Programs

CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Shane Rasmussen, Louisiana Folklife Center, College of Arts and Sciences, received notification of a \$3,500 award from the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival and Foundation, Inc. for “41st Annual Natchitoches – NSU Folk Festival.”

Dr. Hiram Gregory, LA Creole Heritage Center, College of Arts and Sciences, received notification of a \$4,969 award from the USDA National Forest Service for “NSU Student Archaeology Training.”

Mr. Corbin Covher, School of Creative and Performing Arts/Visual Arts, College of Arts and Sciences, received notification of a \$6,614 award from Keep Louisiana Beautiful for “Keep Louisiana Beautiful (KLB) Healthy Communities Grant.”

Mr. Kirk Cordell, National Center for Preservation, Technology and Training, received notification of an additional \$399,999 award from the National Park Service for “Partnering for Preservation Technology 2019.” **Mr. Kevin Ammons** is collaborator.

Dr. Mary Striegel, National Center for Preservation, Technology and Training, received notification from the National Park Service for the following:

- \$50,599.10 for “Insulation Performance for Historic Buildings,”
- \$50,599.10 for “Alternatives to Glyphosate for Weed Control in Historic Landscapes,” and
- \$50,599.10 for “Mitigating the Effects of Fire Suppressants on Cultural Resources.” **Mr. Kevin Ammons** is collaborator.

Mr. Joseph Biscoe, Department of Psychology, College of Education and Human Development, received notification of a \$25,000 award from the University of Texas at Austin entitled “Subaward – University of Texas – Amendment 2.”

Dr. Michelle Fazio Brunson, School of Education, College of Education and Human Development, submitted a proposal to International Paper and a proposal to the Frances R. Dewing Foundation both entitled “Supporting the Cradle to College Pipeline in Natchitoches Parish Schools.”

Dr. Michelle Fazio Brunson, School of Education, College of Education and Human Development, also submitted a proposal to the Natchitoches Regional Medical Center Foundation entitled, “Childhood Obesity and Diabetes Prevention: A Kindergarten Intervention to Support Young Children’s Physical Health.”

Request for Proposals (RFPs) for Board of Regents Support Fund FY 2019-20 Competitions

Requests for proposals (RFPs) for FY 2019-20 are now available on the Sponsored Programs website (<https://web.laregents.org/programs/borsf-programs/>) for the following Board of Regents Support Fund (BoRSF) competitive grants programs and subprograms: (1) Departmental Enhancement; (2) Research Competitiveness Subprogram (RCS) including the One-Year RCS; (3) Industrial Ties Research Subprogram (ITRS) including the Proof-of-Concept/Prototyping Initiative; (4) Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars (ATLAS); (5) BoR/SREB Doctoral Support Initiative to Promote Student and Faculty Diversity; (6) Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars; (7) Endowed Superior Graduate Student Scholarships; and (8) Endowed Two-Year Student Workforce Scholarships. The current policy for non-competitive Endowed Professorships is also available on the Regents website.

Across all programs, the BoRSF seeks projects that, if funded, are likely to have clearly defined, significant benefits for Louisiana higher education and economic development. In 2016, the Board undertook a major

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CURRENT ACTIVITIES

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restructuring of the BoRSF to better achieve these Constitutionally defined goals. Program changes implemented beginning with the FY 2017-18 cycle emphasize alignment of limited resources with campus role, scope, mission, and strategic priorities, as well as impact of project activities and plans to sustain or grow project benefits after short-term BoRSF funding has ended. It is critical that potential applicants to all programs carefully read RFPs in their entirety to understand the types of projects solicited and the realigned emphases of each program.

Industrial
Ties Research
Subprogram;
BoR/SREB
Doctoral
Support
Initiative

November 7, 2019 Proposals:
Research Competitiveness Subprogram

November 21, 2018 Proposals:
Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars

February 3, 2020 Proposals:
Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars; Endowed Superior
Graduate Student Scholarships; Endowed Two-Year Student Workforce
Scholarships

IMPORTANT FY 2019-2020 DEADLINES

A. Deadlines for Submission of NoIs/Full Proposals

B. Deadline for Asking Questions about these RFPs: **Tuesday, October 15, 2019**

October 10, 2019 Mandatory Notices of Intent: Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars Subprogram

October 24, 2019 Proposals:
Departmental Enhancement – Targeted and Comprehensive

In accordance with R.S. 39:1503, a deadline of October 15, 2019 has been established for receipt of questions related to these RFPs. After this date, no further inquiries can be accepted. All questions posed and answers provided by Board staff are available on the Sponsored Programs website (https://web.laregents.org/downloads_page/frequently-asked-question/) and are updated on an ongoing basis until the deadline. Operating in this manner ensures that all potential applicants receive the same information.

CYCLE I – ELIGIBLE DISCIPLINES FYs 2019-20, 2021-2022

- Engineering B (Industrial, Materials, Mechanical)
- Biological Sciences
- Health and Medical Sciences
- Physics
- Social Sciences
- Humanities
- Agricultural Sciences
- Astronomy
- Targeted Workforce* (any program that is designed to prepare students for a specific job and that falls outside of the traditional disciplines represented in Cycle I and Cycle II. **This category is eligible every year.*

IMPORTANT NOTICES

A. Program Changes: The Board of Regents approved major revisions to BoRSF program offerings for implementation in FY 2017-18 and beyond. See applicable requests for proposals for details about eligible activities and projects, submission requirements, and other information.

October 31, 2019 Proposals:

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- B. Availability of LOGAN Submission Modules: Submission for all BoRSP subprograms will be available in LOGAN by July 19, 2019. Potential applicants should consult the appropriate RFP(s) for instructions to access the system. Note that LOGAN submission modules will close immediately following the appropriate deadlines published in the RFPs. No submissions may be completed or changes made after published deadlines, and no extensions may be granted.
- C. Endowed Chairs RFP: Provisions in the Endowed Chairs policy to limit eligibility for campuses with high long-term vacancy rates are

in effect. Campuses planning to develop proposals should consult the policy for information on how vacancy rates are calculated.

I encourage anyone that may possibly be interested in submitting under these programs to contact the Office of Sponsored at ext. 5222 or by email at orsp@nsula.edu as soon as possible so that we can assist you in the proposal development process. We will help answer questions and provide resources as needed.

For more information regarding funding opportunities, visit OSP's website at <http://www.nsula.edu/tied/osp>.

53rd annual Porter Forum will address business and sustainability

Northwestern State University's School of Business will host the 53rd annual J. Walter Porter Forum Thursday, Oct. 17. This year's theme is "Growing Businesses while Sustaining the Environment."

The forum will begin with a welcome and introduction at 9:40 a.m. in Russell Hall Room 107. Speakers will be Kevin Guith and Whit Rankin.

Guith is principal for KGC, overseeing all aspects of business and technical operations. For the past 26 years, he has provided senior oversight and management of KGC's most complex industrial hygiene and hazardous waste management projects. Guith holds a Master of Science degree in public health (industrial hygiene) from Tulane University and is currently pursuing his doctorate in public health with emphasis in assessing chemical toxicity

and public health risks. He is a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) and certified Project Management Professional (PMP).

Rankin is a professional civil engineer with over 16 years of experience in structural design, geotechnical design and heavy construction processes. He is the principal for Rankin, LLC Consulting Engineers and serves as the engineer of record for the firm. Since its creation in 2014, Rankin LLC has participated in many structural and geotechnical design projects ranging from commercial buildings, roads and bridges, bulkheads and construction processes along the Gulf Coast. Many projects include environmental containment system design for cleaning and painting steel structures. Rankin has a B.S. in civil engineering from the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and is

currently licensed in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Arkansas.

The J. Walter Porter Forum is sponsored annually through NSU's School of Business. The forum is made possible by the 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.

The Porter Forum is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne, dean of the College of Business and Technology, at kilcoyne@

Professor of theatre Richard St. Peter co-edits new book

A new book co-edited by **Richard St. Peter**, assistant professor of theatre at Northwestern State University, was recently released. The book, "Teacher Representations in Dramatic Text and Performance," was co-edited by Melanie Shoffner and is published by Routledge.

Shoffner is an associate professor of English education at James Madison. St. Peter is in his second year on the Northwestern State faculty.



Richard St. Peter

"By considering how dramatic portrayals reimagine, reinforce and/or undermine our understanding of the teacher's personal and professional roles, this volume bridges the gap between truth in dramatic literature and truth in the classroom," he said.

Chapters critically explore the personas embodied by fictional teachers in well-known works such as "Educating Rita," "School of Rock" and "The History Boys" and illustrate how educators might use dramatic literature and performance to interrogate entrenched ideas about the student-teacher dynamic. By bringing together a diverse set of contributors from the fields of teacher education and theatre, this book takes a critical look at performance, text, society and culture to promote a new understanding of teaching and learning.

The book examines representations of the teacher on stage - in both theatrical performances and dramatic text - in order to demonstrate how these representations have shaped society's perceptions of educators in and out of the classroom and should be of interest to graduate and post-graduate students, academics and researchers in the fields of teacher education, drama and theatre education.

At the heart of this book, according to St. Peter, is the interaction between theatre and teacher education.

The book is available at routledge.com/Teacher-Representations-in-Dramatic-Text-and-Performance-Portraying-the/Shoffner-St-Peter/p/book/9780367227814

With Sympathy

Funeral services for Dr. Nelda Self Wellman were held September 25 at New Life Evangelism Center in Natchitoches. Interment followed at the American Cemetery.

A 1968 graduate of Pioneer High School, Welman earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Northwestern State University and a Doctorate of Educational Leadership from Stephen F. Austin State University. Throughout her career, Nelda taught various elementary grades at Hicks School, East Leesville Elementary and Newton Elementary, and also served as an Associate Professor of Educational Leadership at NSU.

Dr. Wellman was the mother of **Dr. Gerra Perkins**, professor in the College of Education.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her memory to the NSU Foundation Educator Excellence Fund C/O NSU Alumni Association, 535 University Parkway, Natchitoches. LA 71497 or the New Life Evangelism Center Youth Fund, 4810 University Parkway, Natchitoches, LA 71457.



Dr. Nelda Wellman



NSU Sciences seeks public interaction with video series

Love science? Have questions about the environment? Your brain? The universe? Northwestern State University's Department of Biological and Physical Sciences has launched a video series in which they invite viewers to submit questions on any science-related topic that interests them. The videos are posted on the NSULA Science's youtube channel where viewers can subscribe and/or follow on the department's social media channels.

Spearheaded by **Dr. Michael Scanlan**, assistant professor of physics, the video series is 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. The videos will feature demonstrations, interviews with faculty, profiles on student researchers and topics submitted by viewers.

"We want to interact with people as much as possible," Scanlan said. "What is happening in science? What are your

concerns? Do you have questions about water quality or the weather? It's a multi-pronged approach to community outreach and engagement."

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. He plans to produce at least two videos a month and hopes the series turns into something big.

"When I grew up, we had science shows like 'Bill Nye the Science Guy' and 'Beakman's World,'" Scanlan said. "We don't have that anymore. Everybody is on youtube now. We'd like to do demonstrations of chemical reactions, falling objects, the bed of nails - that's always a big hit. And I want to do interviews with students about their research to highlight the importance of the funds we're getting and where the funding goes."

Scanlan has been on faculty at NSU for two years teaching

physical sciences and says he enjoys having non-science majors in his classes because they see things differently.

"I don't like to bog them down in the math but it's fulfilling for me to open their eyes. That what I have in mind for the studio, too."

Following an introductory video that can be viewed here, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4L0ZFKoJrQ>, Scanlan created a student spotlight on Jordan Bringedahl, a senior biology/microbiology major who studies bacteria in feral hogs. That video can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-0MekzVW7I>. Students Missy Boyanton and Bryn Edmonston assisted with direction and production.

The videos are linked to @NSULA Sciences on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.

"We invite you to join us as we seek to unravel the mysteries of the university," Scanlan says. "We want to know what you want to see, what you want to hear."

For more information to ask questions, email bio_sci@nsula.edu or contact Scanlan