



Library Hours

Watson Library hours for Christmas Festival weekend are as follows:

Friday, Dec. 6: Close at Noon

Saturday, Dec. 7: Closed

Sunday, Dec. 8: 2 p.m.-2 a.m.

Writers will share collaborative work Dec. 4

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.

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



It's Gala Time!

Performances moved to Natchitoches Events Center and Shreveport's Historic Strand Theatre

The Mrs. H.D. Dear Sr. and Alice E. Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts at Northwestern State University will present the 31st annual Christmas Gala Dec. 4-6 at the Natchitoches Events Center. Performance times are 7 p.m. each evening with a 9 p.m. performance on Dec. 6. The Gala will also be performed at the Strand Theatre in Shreveport on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 and are available at capa.nsula.edu. NSU, BPCC@NSU and Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts students are admitted free with a current student I.D. Students are advised to get their tickets in advance through the School of Creative and Performing Arts office in Room 110 of the Fine Arts Annex. Students should determine in advance which performance they will attend.

Exchanges will not be available.

A will call window will not be available in Natchitoches so those attending at the Natchitoches Events Center must pick up their tickets in advance or use the print at home option or mobile device.

Due to limited parking in downtown Natchitoches, a shuttle service will be available to take patrons from Prather Coliseum to the Events Center at 5:30 p.m. The service will be available after the performance.

More than 300 Northwestern State students, faculty and staff in the School of Creative and Performing Arts combine their talents to present the Gala as a kickoff to the Natchitoches Christmas Festival. Large crowds attend the Gala

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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).



Columns Cafe will serve Asian-inspired dinner Dec. 5

The Columns Café at Northwestern State University will serve a Asian inspired dinner from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5 in Room 225 of the Family and Consumer Sciences Building.

The menu will include an appetizer, Gỏi cuốn-Rice Paper Spring Rolls (Vietnam); Thai Noodle Salad with Peanut Lime Dressing (Thailand), Maeum Tang-Spiced Fish Soup (with cod) (Korea) and an entrée of Mu Shu Pork with Mandarin Pancakes (China). Dessert is Goma-anko Manju-Sweetened bean paste dumpling (Japan) served with Cha Yen-Thai ice tea made with Thai tea, sweetened condense milk and milk (Thailand).

The price is \$45. To register visit <https://nsu.la/ColumnsCafe120519>. For more information contact **Landon Amberg** at (318) 357-2736 or

ambergl@nsula.edu.

The Columns Café is a hands-on outreach of the Hospitality Management and Tourism program that debuted in 2018 that serves lunches and dinners on select dates. The Café is located in Room 225 of the Family and Consumer Sciences Building. Guests must purchase tickets in advance and seating is directed so that all seats are filled.

The Columns Café is student-run with seasonal, locally sourced meals prepared in the culinary arts lab and served by students. The Café provides students with experiential learning in the logistics and teamwork required to plan, prepare and serve a formal dinner. All proceeds go towards support of HMT students and academic programming.

Christmas Gala ... Continued from Page 1

each year which is based on the long-running Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular.

“The Christmas Gala is something both our students and the community look forward to each year,” said Gala Artistic Director **Michael Rorex**. “We prepare for the Gala throughout the year and enjoy presenting an event that has become a tradition for many area families. The overall experience is something our students never forget.”

According to Rorex, the program will incorporate popular pieces from years past along with several new elements such as a newly choreographed “Hip Hop” group by Theatre and Dance faculty member Jared Doster and a new Nativity this accompanied by the NSU Men’s chorus singing an arrangement of “O Holy Night.” Musical theatre students will perform a very entertaining rendition of “Mele Kalikimaka”

from the popular Christmas show “White Christmas.” The Toy Soldiers and the Rockettes will appear, performing to new numbers.

The Grand opening of the Gala is a new arrangement of “Carol of the Bells” using lots of singers, the Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony Orchestra and handbells from the First United Methodist Church of Natchitoches.

For more information, call (318) 357-4522.

From the Student's Side: *Maddison Shidiskis' Adventures at the University of Alicante*

By Ruben E. Smith
International Student Resource Center

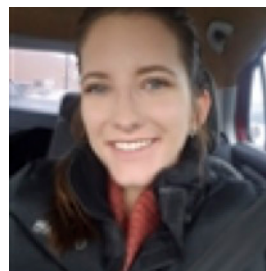
Maddison Shidiskis is a Business Administration major at NSU from West Monroe, Louisiana. When she was in Natchitoches, she worked as a spring event coordinator for the University Programming Council and a scorekeeper for intramurals. She was also involved in different organizations like SAOB, Purple Jackets, NSLS and Demon Crew.

In her second semester of her junior year, she decided to study abroad. When she started applying she discovered the Dual-Degree program that NSU and the University of Alicante have for business majors. Shidiskis said, "The application process was very easy, but everything else was intense and a little confusing." She was referring to the visa process, where there is a lot of paperwork that is needed to obtain a visa.

She said, "I am working on something to help others when they have to go through this process."

Shidiskis also talked about her experience being abroad in Spain. "It didn't seem real for

the longest time, even once we landed! It was so surreal. I was ready and very excited; I'd been looking forward to this experience ever since I decided to do it. I had only been to Alicante for one week for international week."



Maddison

Because of her previous journey to Alicante, Spain, she knew what to expect, but still the unexpected happened. The airline lost her luggage, but she received it a few days later. She said her father came with her, and it helped having him there for her and his own experience abroad.

"I love the culture and customs here. I think I have adjusted well, new things pop up here and there but overall it has been amazing," Shidiskis finished.

You can have a study abroad experience like Maddison's, just visit Russell Hall 227 and speak with Dr. Telba Espinoza-Contreras or **Vivian Pedroza** about opportunities to go abroad.

MAKERS' FAIRE
Dec. 11, 12, & 13 10 am - 5 pm

PAINTINGS and
POTTERY and
SCULPTURE and
CRAFTS and
GIFTS and ART
by STUDENTS
and FACULTY

NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
HANCHEY GALLERY

Artwork and unique gifts will highlight Makers' Faire

Northwestern State University's Department of Fine and Graphic Art will hold the annual Makers' Faire Dec. 11-13 in Orville Hanchey Gallery. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Work by NSU art faculty and students will be for sale, including paintings, pottery, sculpture and crafts.

"Come by and get your holiday shopping done. Give a unique, handmade gift to those you love," said Art Professor **Phyllis Lear**.

For more information, contact Lear at learp@nsula.edu.

Enrollment is open for Call Me MISTER program

Enrollment is open for the Call Me MISTER program at Northwestern State University, an initiative aimed at recruiting African American males to be teachers and mentors, particularly at low-performing schools. The first cohort of students will begin the program in the Fall 2020 semester.

Call me MISTER (Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models) was founded at Clemson University in 2000 to address the critical shortage of minority male teachers in America's classrooms. Student participants are largely selected from underserved, socioeconomically disadvantaged and educationally at-risk communities.

Northwestern State has a rich legacy of teacher preparation and is proud to partner with Clemson University to fulfill this goal, according to **Ramona Wynder**, program coordinator.

"Only two percent of America's public school teachers are African American men, according to the U.S. Department of Education, but there is a place for African American male teachers in our schools and classrooms," Wynder said. "African American men need to be viewed in positive contexts. What better place for that to happen than in our schools? This program has the potential to change lives."

Antavious Roberson is a 2018 graduate of Northwestern State and is currently the fourth and fifth grade math teacher at Crawford Elementary School in Arcadia, his hometown. He said his students definitely react differently to him than peers because a young African American man teaching

elementary school is not the norm.

"Typically, students matriculate through grade school not ever seeing a male in the classroom," Roberson said. "They're more conditioned to seeing them in administrative roles such as a principal. The impact that I have on my students is quite noticeable. My students are more engaged and motivated about the material that I present to them. They're more eager to listen and do as they are asked."

Roberson chose to pursue education as a career because of the influence of two African American teachers.

"Prior to my sophomore year of high school, I had never had a black male teacher. Being able to see someone that not only looked like me, but came from the same circumstances, influenced me a great deal to choose teaching as a profession."

Applications for Call me MISTER will be reviewed on a competitive basis each spring for consideration for cohorts that will begin each fall semester. Preference will be given to graduating high school seniors; two-year community college transfers; and first-year college freshmen. Eligible candidates will be selected based upon their potential for teaching and motivation for the program.

Prospective Misters must be a minority male and come from an underserved, socioeconomically disadvantaged, and/or educationally at-risk community. They must major in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Health & Physical Education or

Music Education and demonstrate record of high scholastic achievement and participation in extra-curricular and community service activities.

Misters will benefit from financial assistance to help cover tuition and fees, instructional support and preparation for licensure exams, a cohort system for social and cultural support and leadership development. They will gain immediate exposure to a classroom environment and job placement assistance after graduation.

"Research shows that teachers of color boost the academic performance of students of color," Wynder said. "Increasing teacher diversity is important for closing achievement gaps."

"The people who have inspired me as a student, and as a teacher are Cynthia Mason, my fourth grade teacher; Christopher Jackson, my 10th grade English teacher, and **Dr. April Giddens**, NSU College of Education. Those three phenomenal people have all instilled in me what it means to be an educator, and I thank them for that," Roberson said.

"What I would tell my peers who are looking to pursue a career in education is to be the teacher or person that you needed when you were their age," he added. "The students are looking to find some part of themselves in you. They want to know that you care about them. Once you show them that you have their best interest at heart, they will perform for you."

For more information or to enroll in Call Me MISTER, contact Wynder at wynderr@nsula.edu or (318) 357-4549.