



NSU News



Volume 30 No. 6 July 2006

An NSU News Bureau Newsletter for the Faculty and Staff of Northwestern

People

Dr. Lissa Pollacia, professor of Computer Information systems attended a workshop in Portland, Ore., June 1-2. The workshop “Oracle 10g for Experience SQL Users” provided information concerning the latest upgrades to the Oracle Database Management System, which is one of the major software technologies used in business today. Several major companies from across the U.S. recruit CIS graduates due in part to the rigorous training they receive in Oracle database systems in the CIS program at NSU.

University Archivist **Mary Linn Wernet** delivered a presentation, along with LSU-Shreveport Archivist Laura McLemore, at the Freeman & Custis Red River Expedition Symposium at LSU-Shreveport on June 16. The title was “Archival Resources Related to the Freeman & Custis

See People Page 3

The Facts on SACS



EEO officer eliminating the fear and loathing of assessment

SACS—put it in the same file as death and taxes because there is no escaping it. As the July 1 deadline for division reports loomed, **Veronica Ramirez**, director of University Planning and Assessment and EEO officer, offered some explanations about why assessment is important. This information can help units prepare for next year’s deadline.

“If all units could envision this task as a way of trying to improve their areas, see what is working and continue to enhance those components and then see what is not, and has not, worked and move on to something different. People should not be afraid of change,” Ramirez said.

What is SACS? The Southern Association of

Colleges and Schools is Northwestern’s accrediting agency, which means they review Northwestern every 10 years. According to Ramirez, the main reasons institutions want to remain accredited are: 1) students are not eligible for federal money if the university is not accredited; 2) students are more “marketable” when they have earned a degree from an accredited institution; and 3) the accreditation process



Ramirez

ensures standards. “Also, the government wants institutions to be more accountable for what they do in regards to educating our society,” Ramirez said.

“This is really the time for every area of the university to shine,” Ramirez said.

The assessments for SACS help chronicle each unit’s activities using numbers, goals and accomplishments, with data, descriptions and methodologies. Sometimes these terms are intimidating, especially to units that don’t deal directly with students.

Data – information numbers of any type. Some comes from surveys, exams, tests, etc. Data is also gathered from informal methods such as suggestion

See SACS Page 2

Next Publication

The next NSU News:
August 2006

Deadline for entries:
**Wednesday,
July 19**

Please submit entries to **Leah Jackson** NSU News Bureau, 111 Prather Coliseum, by phone 357-6466, FAX 357-5905 or e-mail jacksonl@nsula.edu

NSU News is a newsletter published monthly by the NSU News Bureau.

NSU News serves all faculty and staff of Northwestern State University. Personnel on all campuses — CenLa, Shreveport, Leesville/Fort Polk and Natchitoches — are encouraged to contact us with information regarding their professional accomplishments as well as personal milestones.

SACS...Continued from Page 1

boxes, focus groups, and conversations. All of this examined as a whole constitutes data.

Description – in our system, the description is what one uses to “tell the story” (who, what, why, when, where?) about the numerical pieces of information reported. It helps someone outside of the unit makes sense of the numbers.

Methodology – we sometimes use this word interchangeably with the word “assessment.” It means how you are going to measure the progress you are making toward your objective ... these are surveys, exams, tests, etc.

“Those units who have national accrediting agencies already, such as Engineering Technology, CAPA, the College of Education, the College of Nursing and many others already realize the benefit of this process,” Ramirez said. “I am not saying that everyone lives to work on continuous improvement, because it does take much time and energy, but they should understand its usefulness.”

If someone is freaking out over SACS, what should they do? Take a deep breath and

realize several people are available for assistance.

•**Kristi Salard** – helpful with navigating the variety of applications used in the SACS process

•**Ramirez** – helpful with the continuous improvement process, which includes expected learning outcomes for degree programs and unit strategic plans. “I can also assist with course syllabi and faculty resumes; and the compliance audit & the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP),” she said

•**Dr. Steve Horton** – helpful with faculty issues, course syllabi, and the compliance audit & the QEP. **Dr. Tom Hanson** (Provost/VPAA) and **Dr. Patrice Moulton** (VPSA) are also very knowledgeable about the process.

•The SACS Leadership Team (**Dr. Webb, Dr. Tom Hanson, Dr. Patrice Moulton, Dr. Steve Horton, Dr. Larry Monk, Dr. John Williams** and **Ramirez**) is also a valuable source of information.

•**Dr. Virginia Crossno**, who has returned to NSU as coordinator of special projects, will assist with some EEO initiatives.

Workshops are offered during the summer and at the

beginning of each semester. Ramirez and Salard are available year-round to work with units who need help.

Units can make assessment easier on themselves by tracking it throughout the year, instead of waiting until the end of May.

“Units should also use assessment pieces that really ‘mean’ something,” Ramirez said. “We all can collect large amounts of information, but if we do not use it in our decision-making processes, we are wasting our time. Select assessment pieces wisely and make sure they will provide the type of information the unit is seeking.”

Dr. Webb began reviewing the division assessments immediately after the July 1 deadline. The compliance audit is due to SACS by Sept. 8.

“This process is not intended to penalize anyone. I think when people hear the words ‘assessment’ and ‘evaluation,’ they panic – it is their belief that someone is looking to ‘catch’ them doing something wrong. Quite the opposite, we are trying to ‘catch’ them doing good, so we can share it with the entire University and its constituents,” Ramirez



A plant was sent to the funeral service for Mr. Christopher C. Gardner, Sr., step-father of **Jamila Maxie**, assistant director of University Recruiting for the Louisiana Scholars’ College.

IDEAS researcher publishes interdisciplinary article

Dr. Andrei Ludu, assistant professor of chemistry and physics, co-authored an article that was accepted for publication in "Mathematics and Computers in Simulation," a research journal that covers foundations of systems modeling and numerical analysis and the development of algorithms for simulation.

Dr. Ludu and co-author Dr. Nathan Hutchings, former professor of biological sciences at NSU, focus on how pure geometry can be applied to microbiological research.

Hutchings and Ludu are two of three scientists that co-founded of the Interdisciplinary Experimentation and Scholarship (IDEAS) program at NSU, which encourages the use of several branches of sciences and mathematics to solve problems.

"This research was entirely the result of the IDEAS exchange and IDEAS funding," Ludu said. "The experimental data for this article were obtained by our students while working on IDEAS projects."

The research began with Hutchings' study of a parasite that causes African sleeping sickness. He

wanted to determine how the parasite moved under varying conditions.

"Understanding swimming requires understanding how the motion is created and transmitted," Ludu explained. "The cell is very complex. We had to create a physical model that was actually a very sophisticated geometrical model. The problem went from medicine and African diseases to microbiology, then to physics, then to pure abstract geometry. That is what I would call interdisciplinary work."

Ludu developed a math model for the problem and attempted to publish it in another journal.

"It was rejected mainly because the math reviewer didn't understand the biology and physical reasoning and the biology reviewer didn't understand the math. Without too many changes, we applied to another journal and they accepted it," Ludu said. "This article is the beginning of a long series. Part two is almost finished and we have projected two more articles. We have to come back from pure math, to biology to medical applications. Otherwise, our research will remain 'art for art's sake.'"

ECE announces July shortcourse

ECE NON-CREDIT SHORT COURSE JULY CLASS

MS Publisher 2003-Level 1, 2, & 3

Date: July 18, 19, & 25, Tues. & Wed.

Time: 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Fee: \$45 per session or \$99 for all 3 levels

Location: Williamson Hall, Rm. 103

Instructor: Cherry McNease

To learn more about our on-line non-credit courses visit
<http://www.nsula.edu/ece/non-credit.asp>

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER CALL
357-6355 OR 357-5003

People...Continued from Page 1

Expedition in Louisiana Repositories." As part of the presentation, Wernet compiled and handed out a 29-page bibliography of useful sources. If you are interested in a copy of the bibliography, contact Wernet at 4585 or wernet@nsula.edu.



AD addresses colleagues at NACDA conference

Director of Athletics Greg Burke was a featured speaker at the National Association of Collegiate Athletic Directors convention in New Orleans June 19 and joined counterparts from Army, Cal-Berkley and Northern Illinois in a June 21 panel discussion.

Burke, nearing the start of his 10th year in charge of NSU Athletics, spoke on “Budgets at Non-BCS Schools” in a breakout session to members of the College Athletic Business Managers of America at the NACDA convention.

Burke joined Sandy Barbour of Cal-Berkley, Kevin Anderson of Army and NIU’s Jim Phillips on a panel discussion of “Fundraising from an Athletic Director’s Perspective,” speaking to the National Association of Athletic Development Directors.

Burke began his intercollegiate career as director of athletic development at Northwestern from 1986-92 and served in the same capacity at

Akron from 1992-96.

Named athletics director at NSU in August 1996, Burke has steered NSU athletics to many of its greatest accomplishments while overseeing a program that has fielded championship caliber teams in nearly all of the school’s 14 NCAA Division I sports.

Last spring, Burke was one of three recipients of the All-American Football Foundation’s Gen. Robert R. Neyland Outstanding Athletic Director Award. He served a 4-year term on the NCAA Division I Football Issues Committee and concurrently served a term on the 8-member NCAA Division I-AA Football Championship Committee that administers the national playoffs. Since his committee terms has expired, Burke has served as a site-supervisor for I-AA playoff games across the nation and is regarded as one of the country’s premiere advocates of I-AA football.

Pasch selected as regional coordinator of APCA conference

Yonna Pasch, assistant director of Student Activities, has agreed to serve voluntarily as a coordinator of the regional conference for the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities, a national student activities programming

association.

In addition, she is one of only 15 representatives nationwide to be invited to Orlando, Fla., to act as a focus group for the needs of university programming boards like the Student Activities Board.

The focus group is hosted by the Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities.

These appointments will bring Northwestern State University into the national spotlight in the area of student activities.

Dates set for Faculty Inservice, Benefits Fair

Faculty Inservice will be held Aug. 15 followed by the faculty/staff luncheon. New faculty orientation will be held the morning of Aug. 16 in the President’s Room of the Student

Union, followed by the Employee Benefits Fair in the Ballroom of the Student Union.

The Benefits Fair is open to all NSU faculty and staff.

Birth Announcement



Kayla Danielle Chadbourne was born to Kacie and **Tim Chadbourne** (Information Systems) at 1:01 p.m. Friday, Jun 16. Kayla weighed 7 pounds 14 ounces and was 20-1/2 inches long.

Kayla arrived two days after her brother Tyler turned 2 years old. She is the granddaughter of David and **Phyllis Gardner** (Student Affairs).

Faculty/Staff Profile



Phyllis Gardner

Phyllis Gardner has worked in Student Affairs at NSU for the past 28 years and throughout her career has made friendships that last a lifetime. She is currently in her second year as administrative assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs, having spent one year with **Dr. Dan Seymour** and one

year with **Dr. Patrice Moulton**. She assists the vice president in daily operations.

“With the vice president being over five large and busy departments, there is never a dull moment,” she said.

Phyllis is a member of the Scholarship Committee/Hearing Committee on Athletic Scholarship Appeals and a member of the Housing Appeals Committee.

A native of Natchitoches, Phyllis attended LSUA and ULM for two years.

She is married to David Gardner.

“I feel truly blessed to have three wonderful children, Jason, an NSU graduate; Stephanie and Kacie, who have given us four wonderful grandchildren, Kaitlyn, 6; Tyler, 2; Leah, 1, and Kayla, 1 week. (See Page 4 for more on Kayla.) We also have an old and cranky Chihuahua named Milo.”

In her leisure time, Phyllis enjoys working out at the WRAC, shopping, cross-stitching, black and white movies, and enjoying her grandchildren. She is a member of Old Bethel Baptist Church.

“Working in the Division of Student Affairs has awarded me the opportunity to meet so many students and to watch them become professional young men and women,” Phyllis said. “It is gratifying to know that I, along with the wonderful faculty, staff, and administration at Northwestern, have helped them to achieve their educational goals.

“My son graduated from NSU in 2001 and like so many alumni has many fond memories of his time at Northwestern.”



Terrie Sebren

Terrie Sebren has been Library Specialist III at Watson Library for the last 13 years. She is responsible for maintaining records for journals, magazines and newspapers. She resolves problems related to changes such as frequency changes, discontinued titles, suspended

titles, split titles, merged titles, title changes and new titles. She checks in journals and helps students with on-line databases and searching the catalogue.

“The most challenging aspect of my job is journal title changes,” Terrie explained. “There are some that have been changed numerous times. A lot of research has to be done. The most rewarding aspect is helping patrons find what they’re looking for.”

Previously, Terrie worked in Family and Consumer Sciences and the Chemistry Department.

Terrie enjoys working out at the WRAC and recently participated in the first annual NSU WRAC Fit Challenge Feb. 6-March 31.

“Our team was called the WRAC Grannies,” she said. “We were first place winners. It was a lot of fun.”

Terrie is a native of Bastrop and attended Vocational-Technical School.

Terrie has one son, who lives in Canadian, Okla. She had a sister and a niece in Corpus Christi, Texas, and her mother lives here in Natchitoches. She also enjoys babying her two poodles, Lil Man and Baby.

In her spare time, Terrie enjoys working out at the WRAC, attending NSU Theatre productions and bowling. She is a member of Trinity Baptist Church.

“The library is a wonderful place to work,” Terrie said. “I love my job, my co-workers and NSU. I couldn’t ask for a better place to work.”



For assistance in seeking information about funding opportunities, preparing proposals, or administering projects, contact the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs by phone at 357-5222, email at orsp@nsula.edu, or go to the ORSP Web Site at <http://www.nsula.edu/orsp>

ORSP Staff

Dr. Priscilla
Kilcrease
Director

Carla Howell
Associate
Director

Jan Sims
Grants
Manager

Amy Vaughn
Administrative
Assistant III

Alysia Jones
Administrative
Assistant I

Research and Sponsored Programs

ORSP ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

ATTENDS SRA REGIONAL MEETING

Carla Howell, ORSP Associate Director, attended a Society of Research Administrators' (SRA) regional meeting in Charleston, South Carolina, June 3-7, 2006. She attended a half-day workshop on Sunday as part of a nine-series certificate program offered for more "seasoned" research administrators to explore the broad scope of multi-faceted research administration. Courses included in this series focused on Research Law, Research Ethics, Budget Construction, Electronic Research Administration, and several federal agency updates. Ms. Howell completed all of the program requirements and will receive an SRA International certificate of completion.

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs continues to strive to keep its staff up to date on the latest issues and regulations surrounding external funding by encouraging participation in professional development opportunities and sharing the information with the NSU community. More details about any of these sessions and/or copies of handouts provided may be obtained by contacting Ms. Howell at howellc@nsula.edu or 357-5222.

LA BOARD OF REGENTS' SUPPORT FUND DISCIPLINE ELIGIBILITY FOR FY 2006-07

Following the twin disasters of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Board of Regents extended for one year the Support Fund's Strategic Plan, through FY 2006-07. Thus, the following academic disciplines are eligible in the FY 2006-07 competitions for programs with cyclical eligibility:

Enhancement: Agricultural Sciences, Arts, Earth & Environmental Sciences, Engineering A, Health & Medical Sciences

RCS: Agricultural Sciences, Biological Sciences, Computer & Information Sciences, Earth & Environmental Sciences, Engineering A, Mathematics, Physics & Astronomy, Social Sciences

GF: Agricultural Sciences, Biological Sciences, Business, Chemistry, Computer & Information Sciences, Earth & Environmental Sciences, Education, Engineering A&B, Health & Medical Sciences, Mathematics, Physics & Astronomy

NOTE: ITRS, ATLAS, and the Endowment programs do not have discipline rotations. Consult RFPs for information on discipline eligibility in these programs.

For due dates and other information, please see

the Board of Regents' office of Sponsored Programs website at www.laregents.org and watch for further announcements on NSU's Messenger Service and in the Newsletter.

CONGRATULATIONS

The following proposals have been recommended for funding under the Board of Regents Support Fund grant programs:

Dr. Helaine Razovsky, Department of Language and Communication, College of Liberal Arts, for "Creating Portable Electronic English Classrooms" for \$10,514;

Dr. Juliette Delabbio, Department of Biological Sciences, College of Science and Technology, for "Enhancing Student Learning through Utilization of Advanced Technologies in Field Studies on Wetlands and Aquatic Ecosystems" for \$73,961; and

Dr. ElizaBeth Guin, Heritage Resource Office, School of Social Sciences, for "Enhancement of the Laboratory and Field Components of the Northwestern State Heritage Resources Program" for \$89,000.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Mr. Joe Morris, Department of Criminal Justice, College of Liberal Arts, along with **Daphne Levenson** and **Polly Snell**, Gulf States Regional Center for Public Safety Innovation Office, submitted four concept papers to the Department of Homeland Security, Preparedness – Office of Grants & Training program totaling \$5.7 million.

Two of these concept papers were approved for submission of full proposals: "Emergency Planning for Critical Infrastructure Families" for \$1.3 million and "Security for Shelters" for \$1.39 million and are due July 6, 2006.

The following preliminary applications have been submitted to the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation Creative Campus Innovations Grant Program:

Dr. Roger Chandler, School of Creative and Performing Arts, College of Liberal Arts, submitted "Rural Community, Public School, and Campus Outreach through Visual Artists-in-Residence Series;" and

Mr. Tony Smith, School of Creative and Performing Arts, College of Liberal Arts, submitted "Promoting Creole Performing Arts at Northwestern State University."

Ms. Darlene Williams, Electronic and Continuing Education, submitted a proposal to the Louisiana Community and Technical College System for "Carl Perkins Basic Grant FY 2006-2007."

See ORSP Page 7

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Program: Education Leadership
Agency: U.S. Department of Education
Next Deadline: July 27, 2006

New IES program addresses five goals: identifying the characteristics and practices of education leaders; developing new programs and practices for the preparation or professional development of education leaders; establishing the efficacy of programs and practices for the preparation or professional development; providing evidence of the effectiveness of programs and practices; and developing and validating new assessments of the quality of education leaders. In FY 07, awards are up to \$1.2 million. See <http://www.ed.gov/programs/edleadership/index.html> for details.

E-mail: david.sweet@ed.gov
Contact: David Sweet, Program Officer
555 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20208
Washington, DC 20208
202/219-1748

Program: Mathematics and Science Education Research
Agency: U.S. Department of Education
Next Deadline: July 27, 2006

Supports research that will identify and support new and ongoing interventions in mathematics and science education that improve math achievement for all students and close the achievement gap in these academic areas. In FY 07, awards may be up to \$1.2million. See:

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/mathresearch/index.html> for details.

E-mail: david.sweet@ed.gov
Contact: David Sweet, Program Officer
Institute of Education Sciences
555 New Jersey Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20208
202/219-1748

Program: Reading and Writing Education Research
Agency: U.S. Department of Education
Next Deadline: July 27, 2006

Supports projects to expand scientific knowledge of how students develop proficient levels of reading and writing comprehension, how reading and writing comprehension can be taught most optimally, & how it can be assessed in ways that reflect & advance current understanding of reading and writing comprehension & its development.

See: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/readingresearch/applicant.html> for details.

See also <http://www.ed.gov/programs/spcedreading/index.html> (84.324A) for the special ed version of this program which has a 7/27/06 deadline.

E-mail: david.sweet@ed.gov
Contact: David Sweet, Program Officer
555 New Jersey Ave., NW
Room 513
Washington, DC 20208-5573
202/219-1748

Program: Collaborative Research in Chemistry (CRC)
Agency: National Science Foundation
Next Deadline: August 11, 2006

Supports cutting-edge, interdisciplinary chemical sciences research projects involving 3 or more investigators with complementary expertise. Participants may be researchers with backgrounds in diverse areas of chemistry/other science & engineering disciplines. Projects should be scientifically focused in areas supported by Chemistry Division, have limited duration, & be

substantial in scope & impact. Deadlines refer to required preliminary proposals.

See http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5115 for details.

E-mail: kcovert@nsf.gov
Contact: Katharine Covert, Program Director
Division of Chemistry
4201 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22230
703/292-4950

**Program: Documenting Endangered Languages:
An Interagency Partnership**
Agency: National Endowment for the Humanities
Next Deadline: September 15, 2006

Partnership between NEH & NSF supports projects to develop & advance knowledge concerning endangered human languages. Funds 1-3 year project grants & fellowships for up to twelve months. Made urgent by the imminent death of an estimated half of the 6000-7000 currently used human languages, this effort aims also to exploit advances in information technology. Supports fieldwork & other activities relevant to recording, documenting, & archiving endangered languages, including preparation of lexicons, grammars, text samples, & databases.

See <http://www.neh.gov/grants/grants.html>

E-mail: haguera@neh.gov
Contact: Helen Aguera, Senior Program Officer
Preservation & Access
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20506
202/606-8573

Program: Faculty Humanities Workshops
Agency: National Endowment for the Humanities
Next Deadline: September 15, 2006

Supports local & regional professional development programs for K-12 teachers and faculty at post-secondary institutions. Proposals providing workshops for teachers with limited access to professional development in the humanities are encouraged. Successful applications will be awarded a grant of up to \$30,000 in outright funds for projects serving a single institution; regional or multi-institutional programs may receive awards up to \$75,000. Program replaces Humanities Focus Grants program.

See <http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/facworkshops.html>

Contact: Division of Education Programs
Room 302
Washington, DC 20506
202-606-8380

Program: Theoretical Physics Program
Agency: National Science Foundation
Next Deadline: September 27, 2006 (target date)

Supports development of qualitative & quantitative understanding of fundamental physical systems, ranging from the most elementary constituents of matter through nuclei & atoms to astrophysical objects. Includes interdisciplinary grants. Program supports infrastructure activities including both short & long-term visitor programs, workshops, & research involving the participation of external scientists from universities, national laboratories, & industry & graduate students & postdoctoral fellows. See http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5626 for details.

E-mail: elomon@nsf.gov
Contact: Earle Lomon, Program Director,
Theoretical Physics
Division of Physics/MPS
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22230
703/292-7382

Holy Cross welcomes new pastor, campus ministry leader

The pastoral leadership at Holy Cross Church will change this month as Father Dan Cook undertakes a new post at parishes in Echo and Cheneyville. Holy Cross and the Catholic Campus Ministry welcome Father Jason Gootee as the new pastor and director of campus ministries. Father Gootee is formerly of LSU-Alexandria.

A university faculty and staff wine and cheese reception will be planned for the start of the Fall semester. More details will be available in August.

Holy Cross was formed nearly 100 years ago as the Newman Center, to serve as a church home for both Catholic students and students from other faiths. In addition to daily masses, the church hosts numerous worship opportunities,

retreats and faith-based classes and fellowship opportunities. The church also encourages students and others to become involved in service opportunities in the area through Relay for Life, Lifeshare blood drives and other community organizations.

In January 2007, the annual Louisiana Catholic College Students Conference will be held at NSU, hosted by the Diocese of Alexandria. Other upcoming plans include the establishment of a Speaker's Bureau and a Legion of Mary and encouraging students in their studies and in the pursuit of scholarship opportunities.

For more information, contact James Sawyer, campus minister, at (318) 332-0516.

Rec Complex Pool Hours set



Hours: Tuesday-Sunday

1:00 pm- 7:00 pm

Free admission to current students with a spring 2006 sticker.

**Daily Rates and memberships available for Faculty/Staff and the General Public.
For more information call 357-3207**

Personal Training at WRAC

Get the healthy look and feel you want for the summer with the NSU Wellness, Recreation and Activity Center's Personal Training Program.

The Personal Training Program offers quality wellness education at a great price.

Why do you need a personal trainer?

- Motivation
- One-on-one attention
- Wellness education
- Variety, challenge and progression in your workouts
- Faster results
- Sport/activity specific performance enhancement
- Fun



For more information call the WRAC Fitness Assessment Lab at 5428.