People

Leslie Sinclair, child care specialist with the NSU Child and Family Network, was selected for the Leadership Development Program sponsored by the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRA). The honor was announced in February at the National Policy Symposium held at the Hyatt Regency – Capitol Hill in Washington D.C., as one of six resource & referral specialists from across the nation chosen for the three-year internship, Leslie will be actively involved in state, regional and national events. She will represent Northwestern State University and the Child and Family Network at the 2008 National Policy Symposium and will ultimately develop, plan and coordinate a statewide project involving research and referral agencies.

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Welcome Back and Best Wishes for the 2007-2008 academic year

Faculty Institute, F/S luncheon announced

New faculty orientation will take place in the President’s Room of the Student Union Aug. 13-14, according to the Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Tom Hanson.

New faculty should plan to allow all day both days for necessary orientation. It is recommended that deans and department heads schedule their departmental meetings after Aug. 14 in order for new faculty to be able to participate in all departmental activities.

Faculty Inservice will take place from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Friday, Aug. 17 in the Orville Hanchey Gallery and Magale Recital Hall.

The Faculty/Staff Luncheon will be from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 17.
New university department heads announced

Health and Human Performance

Increasing enrollment, expanding undergraduate curriculums and increasing career opportunities for graduate students are the main goals for Dr. John Dollar, who has been named the head of the Department of Health and Human Performance.

Dollar joined the faculty at Northwestern in 2003 after serving at Texas A & M University, where he earned a Ph.D. in kinesiology and was teaching in the sports management program. Dollar earned a bachelor’s degree in secondary health and physical education at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, Ark., in 1974 and a master’s degree in secondary physical education at NSU in 1981 and he has more than 30 years of secondary and higher physical education experience in Louisiana and Texas. For the last four years, Dollar has taught NSU graduate classes in sports administration and hopes to incorporate that expertise into enhancing both undergraduate and graduate coursework in the department.

Undergraduate degree programs offered by the Department of Health and Human Performance include teacher certification in health and physical education and health and exercise science. The department also offers a minor in athletic training, teacher certification in health and physical education at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, Ark., in 1974 and a master’s degree in secondary physical education at NSU in 1981 and he has more than 30 years of secondary and higher physical education experience in Louisiana and Texas. For the last four years, Dollar has taught NSU graduate classes in sports administration and hopes to incorporate that expertise into enhancing both undergraduate and graduate coursework in the department.

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According to Dollar, refining the undergraduate and graduate programs to meet guidelines set forth by the North American Society for Sports Management and the National Association for Sports and Physical Education is an important networking tool for both recruiting students and placing students in internships.

“The NASSM and the NASPE combined and came up with common guidelines for undergraduate and graduate programs in sports management and sports administration,” Dollar said. “In meeting the guidelines, your program achieves national approval status and you are listed on their register of approved programs for recruiting purposes.”

Expanding the undergraduate curriculum could create a smooth transition for HHP undergraduates who plan to pursue the master’s degree. One benefit of NSU’s program is that students work closely with the athletic department for practical experience and many have pursued successful internships and

Biology

Bringing science laboratories to state-of-the-art condition and updating course syllabi are top priorities for Dr. Zafer Hatahet, newly-appointed chairman of the Department of Biological Sciences at Northwestern State University.

Hatahet earned B.S. and M.S. degrees in biology at University of Detroit and a Ph.D. in biochemistry at McGill University. He completed post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Vermont, where he began his career as a research assistant in the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics. He later was associate professor in the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Texas Health Center in Tyler and served as an adjunct member of the graduate faculty at Stephen F. Austin before joining the faculty at Northwestern two years ago as a professor of in the department of biological sciences. Hatahet’s research interests are in oxidative DNA damage and repair.

At NSU, Hatahet has served as chairman of the Pre-Med Advisory Committee and is an animal of the Animal Welfare Committee and the Faculty Senate Standards Committee, following service in faculty senates and advisory committees at previous universities. He has served as a research mentor to several NSU students and has been successful in securing thousands of dollars in grants to purchase, modernize and install new lab equipment at NSU.

“Biology is a very fast-moving field. In biology, the books that are three years old are outdated. Equipment from 10 years ago is outdated,” Hatahet said. He recently secured grants to install a modern genetics and molecular biology teaching lab, install computers in lecture and lab rooms, purchase equipment and modernize the introductory biology lab.

“Classes should have labs. What you read in a book or hear in a lecture is reinforced with hands-on experience,” said Hatahet, who believes that research experience in a state of the art lab prepares an undergraduate for a Ph.D. lab. “They can learn skills that are comparable to students at larger universities with huge resources.”

Hatahet plans to review courses to ensure that the extensive core requirements in biological

See Dollar Page 8

See Hatahet Page 9
Northwestern’s Academic Advising Council promotes dissemination of Academic Advising Best Practices

Last spring and this fall, Northwestern’s university-wide Academic Advising Council is participating in Noel-Levitz Advanced Advising Webinar Series. This ongoing comprehensive series highlights specific methods for improving academic advising. Upcoming dates and topics are listed below. All interested faculty and staff are welcome to participate in these upcoming 90-minute sessions.

“Academic Advising: The Pivotal Point in Assisting Students to Attain Educational and Career Goals” will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 12. This Webinar will offer excellent “basic” training for new and experienced advisors. It will emphasize communication skills and campus resource knowledge that all effective advisors must possess. The session will include discussion on connections between effective advising and teaching.

“Relating to Students Through Advising” will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday, October 10, 2007.

This session will examine the characteristics of an effective advising interview and focus on how to develop an ongoing relationship with students. Information on managing advising loads and advising special populations will also be provided.

Encore presentations of past webinars are also available through the end of 2007. Past webinars addressed the following topics: Strengths-Based Advising: Going Beyond Course Scheduling With Developmental Advising; Academic and Career Advising for Sophomores; Strategies for Using Academic Advising to Enhance Retention and Student Engagement. To obtain materials and/or to arrange for an encore presentation of any of these webinars please contact Steven Gruesbeck, Academic Center Coordinator, in University College.

Graduate Council meetings for 2007-08 academic year set

The following dates have been scheduled for the Graduate Council meetings for the fall/spring semester of 2007-2008. Meetings are set for 1:30 p.m. in the Roy Hall Conference Room 203C. Please submit 13 copies (hard copies) of proposals to the Graduate School office no later than two weeks prior to the meeting dates. Also listed are the Graduate Council members for 2007-2008 academic years. If you have any questions regarding submission of proposals please contact Janine in the Graduate Studies and Research Office at 5851 or the Council Member representing your department listed below.

Members
Dr. Lisa Abney, Language & Communication, 1st year, (abney/6166)
Dr. Michael Moulton, Health & Human Performance, 2nd year (moultonm/5142)
Dr. Brenda Hanson, Education, 2nd year (daily/5518)
Dr. Elizabeth Guin, Social Sciences, 1st year (guine/4057)
Dr. Connie Veazey, Psychology, 2nd year (veazeyc/5354)
Dr. Dennette McDermott, Creative & Performing Arts—Music, 1st year (medermottd/5761)
Dr. Norann Planchock, Nursing, 1st year (planchockn/318-677-3100)
Dr. Cathy Seymour, Education, 2nd year (seymourc/6178)

Associate Members
Dr. Sally Cook, Nursing, 1st year (cooks/318-677-3140)
Dr. Roger Chandler, CAPA—Art, 2nd year (echandler/6176)

Graduate Council
1:30 Tuesday, Room 203-C, Roy Hall
Tuesday, August 28, 2007
Tuesday, September 25, 2007
Tuesday, October 23, 2007
Tuesday, November 27, 2007
Tuesday, January 22, 2008
Tuesday, February 26, 2008
Nearly 70 members of Plant Services and Physical Plant enjoyed a special Fourth of July picnic on Tuesday, July 3. Hosted by the Physical Plant, everyone enjoyed the meal which consisted of a luncheon steak, potato salad, baked beans, veggie and fruit trays, bread and butter, and a variety of soft drinks. The dessert was a very tasty cake beautifully decorated in a Fourth of July theme.

The steaks were cooked to order over gas grills by Mike Salard, Malcolm Durr and Fred Terasa. Betty Creamer, Nancy Rachal and Brian Conant managed the serving line and supported the cooks. Setup and cleanup were orchestrated by Bill Rathburn, Charles Shivers and Perry Johnson.

Everyone enjoyed the delicious food and comradery this special event offered to those in attendance. Hovey Harrell and Chris Sampite have indicated their intention to conduct these joint events more regularly to recognize and celebrate the many successes of their teammates.
Scholarship to honor memory of Pam Miller

A scholarship honoring the late Dr. Pamela Anders Miller, former professor of business in the College of Business, has been established through an anonymous donation to the NSU Foundation. The Pam Miller Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a junior or senior majoring in business (statistics or operations management) with a 2.5 or higher grade point average.

Miller was associate professor of quantitative methods in the College of Business. Among her many professional activities, Dr. Miller was an active scholar and researcher who served on the NSU Research Council and was active in securing research grants. Dr. Miller lost her battle with cancer on Feb. 24.

“NSU’s 2007 Research Day was dedicated to her memory. “It is a tribute and honor to have a scholarship dedicated to Pam’s memory,” said her husband, Pat. “Pam was an outstanding teacher and supporter of Northwestern and her community. We hope this scholarship will provide the opportunity for students to continue their education and encourage them to be successful, not only in their future careers, but in life as well.

According to Pat Miller, Dr. Miller enjoyed teaching and helping students as they worked toward their goals.

“Pam believed in doing your best and making the most of all opportunities,” he said. “Pam would have been honored with this scholarship. She was a compassionate and loving person that cared about her students and set high standards for them. With the support of the NSU College of Business alumni and others, we can make this project a success.”

Donations for the scholarship can be made to the NSU Foundation by contacting Jill Bankston at (318) 357-4241 or e-mailing bankstonj@nsula.edu.

Dear NSU Friends/Faculty,

I have really grown professionally during my two years here at Northwestern State. I will never forget the time spent here at NSU and Natchitoches or the kind people that I have been lucky enough to work with. I’ll miss the College of Education and NSU, but will also be happy to be returning to my home state where I will work at Mississippi State University’s Meridian Campus in Educational Leadership. I hope to stay in touch and maybe collaborate with some of you on research projects. Please contact me anytime.

Your friend in Meridian,
Matt Boggan

ECE to offer Kenpo karate class beginning in August

The Office of Electronic and Continuing Education will offer a Kenpo Karate class Aug. 28-Dec. 6. Classes will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6-8 p.m in Room 127 of the Health and Human Performance Building. The cost is $65 for children and $75 for adults. Bruce Adams will be the instructor.

To register, contact Melanie K. Bedgood, Office of Electronic & Continuing Education at extension 6355 or by e-mail, bedgoodm@nsula.edu.
People...Continued from Page 1

Nancy P. Alexander, executive director of NSU Child and Family Network, and staff were recognized by the Multicultural Center of the South at events held in Natchitoches and Shreveport during the annual Week of the Young Child. The week is sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children to bring awareness to the importance of the early years in children’s development and future success. The NSU Child and Family Network provides extensive training and technical assistance to early childhood programs in the central and northern part of the state.

Dr. Pat Pierson, Department Head for Family and Consumer Sciences, presented at the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences’ annual meeting held June 20-24 in Reno, Nevada. As a member of the AAFCS Council for Accreditation, Pierson presented Gaining Confidence in Writing Self Studies—Standards One and Two as part of a workshop held during the meeting. Pierson is also serving as Secretary for Collegiate Assembly, the governing body for accredited university programs within the association.

Dr. Augustine Amenyah, assistant professor, College of Education, has been selected to present at the 2008 Hawaii International Conference on Education in January. His submission was entitled Inclusion Strategies for Enhancing Minority Academic Success at Predominantly White College Campuses and will be published in the conference proceedings.

Another proposal by Amenyah has been accepted for a concurrent/roundtable discussions at the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education conference Oct. 31-Nov. 2 in Norfolk, Va. Amenyah’s study Learning contexts, informal learning, non-formal learning and health behavior change, examines the perspectives of adults who changed their health behaviors in response to a health crisis.

Dr. Michelle Fazio Brunson and Cara Bertucci in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences had an article published in Collaborations, the Journal for the Louisiana Early Childhood Association. The article is entitled “Facilitating Early Literacy Skills with Mo Willems’ Texts: Developmentally Appropriate Practices for Young Literacy Learners.”


Head Archivist Mary Linn Wernet was recently appointed by Society of Southwest Archivists (SSA) 2009 Conference Planning Committee Chair. As part of the committee, Wernet will work closely with the vice president of SSA who will be responsible for developing the 2009 program. Wernet’s responsibilities include designing and printing the printed program.

The 2009 SSA Conference will be held in Shreveport. Founded in 1972, this is the first time this six state regional archive organization will meet in Shreveport. SSA includes Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona. Plans are already underway for the members of the organization to tour Natchitoches and the Cane River Lake region.

Dr. Sue Weaver, dean of University College, spoke June 29 in New Orleans as a panelist at the U.S. Forum of the Southeast Regional Meeting of Delta Kappa Gamma. This was for a regional meeting of chapters in 11 states of the long-standing fraternity for teachers. The topics were the effects on states of the No Child Left Behind legislation, better preparation of PK-12 students for college and work, and other issues affecting teachers and schools. Others on
the panel were Betty Westerchil, former adjunct faculty for NSU and current mayor of Leesville, and Dr. Betty Wiser, former member of the North Carolina legislature.

Dr. Julie H. Ernstein, assistant professor of anthropology, Heritage Resources Program, delivered a presentation co-authored with Heritage Resources graduate students Martha Arrington, Melissa Hagen Dezendorf, Dustin Fuqua, and Monica Pels at the American Democracy Project’s 2007 annual meeting in Philadelphia, PA. Their presentation was titled “Service Learning, Heritage Education, and Civil Rights: Civic Engagement in Northwestern State University’s Heritage Resources Program,” and focused on the service learning component of NSU’s graduate and undergraduate Heritage Resource programs.

Dr. Ernstein also attended a six-day workshop titled “GPS, GIS, and Geophysics,” at the National Park Service’s National Center for Preservation Technology & Training (NCPTT) headquarters here in Natchitoches. This workshop was led by nationally recognized experts in GIS and geophysical prospecting, and provided hands-on experience in collecting and integrating GPS and geophysics data (e.g., ground penetrating radar, thermal imaging, gradiometry, and conductivity/resistivity) in a GIS system using ArcGIS 9.2.

Dr. Shirley (Holly) Stave, associate professor of English at Louisiana Scholars’ College, attended the 7th Internation Conference of the Collegium for African American Research, which was held in Madrid, Spain. While there, Stave co-chaired a triple session on “Toni Morrison: Modernist or Post-Modernist?” with Walter W. Hoelbling from Graz University in Austria. She also presented a paper entitled Unreliable Narrators and Others: LOVE, Masculinity, and (Post)modernism. Stave received a grant from the NSU Enrichment Fund to attend the conference and present her research.

Dr. J. Mark Thompson, professor of music, recently completed his first season as bass trombone with the Des Moines Metro Opera, where he performed Bizet’s Carmen and Verdi’s Otello. This prestigious festival was founded in 1973, and it has become one of the most popular summer opera festivals in the United States. Dr. Thompson also completed his 10th year as bass trombone with the Lancaster (Ohio) Festival, where he helped the festival celebrate its 20th anniversary. While there, he performed with award-winning, multi-platinum country artist Jo Dee Messina. During his summer travels, he presented a low brass masterclass to the United States Air Force Band of Flight at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio.

Dr. Andrei Ludu, associate professor chemistry and physics, will spend the 2008 academic year on sabbatical as he joins the Department of Physics in University of Antwerp, Belgium, to work with the group leader, Dr. Francois Peeters, and his team in the field of mesoscopic superconductivity, specifically fluxonics and nanowires. Dr. Ludu was invited by that department June 5-10 to give a talk on his results and possible trends of collaboration June 5-10 with positive reactions towards future collaboration with us, especially from the students.

During the 2008 sabbatical Dr. Ludu will also work at the Institute Jaques Monod in Paris, working with Dr. Christian Cibert, who cited Dr. Ludu’s work in his recent papers, on molecular biophysics of axonemal motile cells, one of the main topics of the IDEAS program. He will also spend some time at Institute for Theoretical Physics, Trieste, Italy; Institute of Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies in Frankfurt, Germany, where he will work with his former collaborator Dr. Walter Greiner, and at Los Alamos National Laboratory to resume some former research on solitons on liquid nitrogen drops with the director of the Center for Nonlinear Studies Dr. Robert Ecke.

Dr. Ludu’s new book entitled “Nonlinear Waves and Solitons on Contours and Closed Surfaces” is in print and it will be released in Europe in September and in the U.S. in October. The book is already advertised here: www.springer.com/978-3-540-72872-6
Jack Brown, grandfather of Kerry Anderson, University Police, passed away recently. Funeral services were July 3 at Warren Meadows Funeral Home in Many.

Cheryl Donaho, instructor of mathematics, passed away Saturday, July 7. Funeral services were held Thursday, July 12 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches. A floral spray was sent from the NSU Floral Fund. The family requested that memorials be made to the American Cancer Society. You may express condolences at www.blanchardstdenisfuneralhome.com.

Crawford Mitchell, grandfather of Lanay Baldridge in psychology, passed away Sunday, July 15. Funeral services were held Tuesday, July 17 at Rocky Mount Church in Robeline.

J.C. McCrory, father of Dr. Jim McCrory, Information Systems, passed away on Friday, July 20. Funeral services for Mr. McCrory were held Monday, July 23 at Blanchard St. Denis Chapel in Natchitoches.

Kevin Richardson, associate director of bands, and his wife, Jenny, welcomed their daughter, Sydney Shea Richardson, at 4:54 p.m. Tuesday, June 26. Sydney weighed 7 pounds 12 ounces and measured 20-1/2 inches in length.

Yancy Spillman, University Police, and his wife Misty announce the birth of their son, Yancy Ryan Spillman Jr., born Wednesday, June 20 at Rapides Regional Medical Center. Ryan weighted 8 pounds 9 ounces and measured 10-1/2 inches in length. He was welcomed home by his sister, Madelyn. He is the grandson of Billy and Ann Spillman, Family and Consumer Sciences.

Dr. Rick Jensen, associate professor of history, Louisiana Scholars’ College, invites the NSU faculty and staff to participate in a guided tour of Italy May 21-June 2, 2008.

Faculty/staff invited to tour Italy with LSC group

Participation is for fun or for credit. Time will be scheduled for the beach, the opera and visits to historic sites. A formal description and itinerary of the trip is available through Dr. Jensen. Co-leader will be Dr. Janina Darling. Undergraduate students and older adults are expected participants. For more information or to view the itinerary contact Jensen at 357-4599 or jensenr@nsula.edu.

Dollar...Continued from Page 2

careers with professional sports organizations and facilities. Dollar intends to nurture those contacts to establish rapport with sports organizations, conferences and related agencies.

“Drawing students to a Division I program is a big plus for us because the experience is good for them. Our masters program is as good as any master’s program in the south, including Texas and all the Florida schools,” said Dollar, whose former students are on staff with the Texas Rangers, the San Antonio Spurs, and the New Orleans Hornets. “The availability of internships is outstanding.”

Students must meet rigorous academic standards to achieve the prized internships, which rely on organizational skills and experience in sales, marketing and promotions.

“I see career opportunities that are unimaginable in a field that is not gender specific,” Dollar said. “We are matching opportunities with education and providing a stepping stone to an exciting and lucrative career.
Dr. Malena McLaren, assistant professor of clarinet, won second place in the research presentation competition at the International Clarinet Association ClarinetFest in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. McLaren was chosen as one of six international finalists to present at the conference. The first and second place winners were announced at an awards ceremony before the conference concert.

The title of McLaren’s research presentation was “Miguel Yuste: His Music for Clarinet and His Influence on the Spanish School of Clarinet Playing in the 20th Century.”

“It focuses on the history of the clarinet in Spain, the history of clarinet pedagogy at the Madrid Conservatory, and on the clarinetist/composer Miguel Yuste’s influence on that pedagogy, as well as his compositions for the clarinet,” McLaren explained. Yuste was the clarinet professor at the Madrid Conservatory from 1910-1940 and in his time there reconstructed the clarinet curriculum, writing music for clarinet and piano, mostly for exams and auditions at the Madrid Conservatory.

“I became interested in Miguel Yuste when I came across a very brief biography on him in which it said that he wrote over 100 works for clarinet,” McLaren said. “I have since found out that is a misprint from a 1920’s Spanish book on music. We only know of seven pieces that were published. Most of them are difficult to get in the United States, and I’m hoping that, with my research and performances of these works, I can increase awareness of these great pieces of music and ultimately make them more easily available with more publications and distributors.”

Through correspondence with several prominent Spanish clarinetists, McLaren continues to be updated on new developments, including an interview being planned with the surviving members of Yuste’s family.

A native of Albuquerque, N.M., McLaren earned a bachelor’s degree in music education and a master of music degree in clarinet performance at the University of New Mexico. She earned a doctor of musical arts degree from the University of North Texas and has been a member of the Northwestern faculty since 2003.

McLaren has recorded with the University of New Mexico Chamber Orchestra, the University of North Texas Wind Symphony and has performed in orchestras throughout Mexico and the United Kingdom. Last year, she performed in Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Victoria, British Columbia, as a member Trio de Llano. She has been a member of the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra, the University of North Texas Wind Symphony, the North Texas Graduate Woodwind Quintet, as well as various professional orchestras and chamber groups in the Albuquerque and the Dallas metroplex. McLaren is currently a member of Trio de Llano and the Cane River Players Woodwind Quintet, both artist faculty ensembles-in-residence at Northwestern State University. She also performs frequently with the Rapides Symphony Orchestra.

The annual International Clarinet Association ClarinetFest is the major conference in the clarinet field and McLaren’s attendance was made possible through an NSU Faculty Development Enrichment Fund Grant.

Czech Republic, and Victoria, British Columbia, as a member Trio de Llano.

Hatahet...Continued from Page 2

sciences build upon each other.

“We will try in the next two years to have a more integrated curriculum so that what the students are learning is in the service of the other sciences,” he said, explaining that technological upgrades also have positive effects in this area. “In science, the tools have changed. Why teach the old technology the students are never going to use?”

Hatahet hopes that by modernizing the labs and bringing the curriculum up to date, NSU students as well prepared as possible for careers in medicine, biotechnology and the biopharmaceutical industry.

“One thing I’m most proud of is that some of my former students are now professors. I feel most proud for the ones that outdo me. I try to motivate that in the students,” he said. “The most satisfying feeling is if you give someone information and then you can see their brain working.”
The summer mystery dinner theatre production “Murdered by the Mob!” by Jim Dabb will continue Aug. 1-4, and Aug. 8-11, at 6:00 p.m. in the A.A. Fredericks Fine Arts Auditorium. Tickets are $20, which includes a four-course meal and the show. Reservations are recommended. If you think the 20s are roaring, you ain’t heard nothin’ ‘till you’ve been to D’Angelo’s, a speakeasy in Chicago. The jazz is hot and the gin is cold. Our master of ceremonies, Johny Biscotti, has his best show yet, featuring the ever popular Lydia LaJoy, and introducing a couple of cute chorines sure to turn the head of even the toughest mobster. The boss himself, Danny D’Angelo, is sure to make an appearance, along with several of his “business associates.” This gangster murder mystery will have you “swimming with the fishes.”

What is mystery dinner theatre? Audience members solve a hilarious comedy mystery while enjoying a four-course dinner. The dinner is served to guests by a zany cast of characters who provide clues to help guests solve the evening’s crime. Theatre-goers are given bribe money to entice “suspects” to give clues and a clue dossier, which contains riddles and puzzles to decipher to be eligible for the “Super Sleuth” prize.

A play for children, “Go Jump in the Lake” by Elaine Berman, will be presented Aug. 2-4 at 1 p.m. in Theatre West. Duration is one hour for the play, which is recommended for ages 4-13. Reservations are required for groups of more than 10. This is a charming story of a young boy named Ferdinand, a skunk named Bartholomew and a dragon named Jennifer who learn to appreciate their own uniqueness and defend themselves with non-violence.

All shows are reserved by calling 357-4483.

Regan McLellan, Rebecca Russell and Vincent Sisley play entertainers in a sizzling 1920s Chicago speakeasy

Artist earns 3rd in international competition

Matt DeFord, assistant professor of art, was awarded third place in the Art Interview 9th International Online Artist Competition.

The competition ran from April 1-June 30 and attracted artists from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Hong Kong, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, Norway, Poland, Puerto Rico, Portugal, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, and the United States with 321 original works submitted from 116 different artists.

As the 3rd place recipient DeFord will receive a cash prize, a free one-year subscription to Art Interview Online Magazine and the opportunity to exhibit his work at the Art Interview – International Award Exhibition in 2008. As the 3rd place winner DeFord also has the right to display the Art Interview International Online Artist Competition bronze medal in association with his artwork placing in the competition.

Images are linked to http://www.artinterview.com/CompetitionWinners/competition_winners.html.