Shirley A. (Holly) Stave attended the Collegium on African American Research, which was held in Bremen, Germany, March 25-29, where she presented a paper called “Across Distances Without Recognition: Toni Morrison’s A Mercy.” She received a grant from NSU OSRP to attend the conference.

After a nationally advertised audition Paul Christopher, assistant professor of low strings, has been reappointed as principal cello of the Des Moines Metro Opera for the 2009 summer season. The Des Moines Metro Opera is one of the largest and longest running summer opera companies in the United States. This summer features a total of 16 fully staged performances of operas by Puccini, Rossini and Weber. Fellow CAPA faculty member Dr. Mark Thompson, professor of low brass will also be returning for his fourth return.

NSU’s Impact of Spending $353 million
Faculty/staff contribute $63.5 million to local economy

Northwestern and the University of Louisiana System have released findings from a study that determined Northwestern had a spending impact of more than $353 million in its 10-parish service area in 2008. Overall, the University of Louisiana System has a $3.4 billion annual impact on Louisiana’s economy.

Northwestern’s study focused on the parishes surrounding its main campus in Natchitoches and satellite campuses in Shreveport, Alexandria, Leesville-Fort Polk and Jonesville.

Northwestern State’s total spending figures include $49 million in university operating expenditures, $14 million from capital outlay and construction projects, $17.5 million from health insurance payments, $13 million from retiree spending, $36.2 million from visitor expenditures, $63.5 million from spending by faculty and staff, and $152 million from student expenditures.

The study examined faculty/staff spending of NSU’s approximately 1,000 employees on housing, food, entertainment, telecommunications and transportation that generate an annual $63.5 million impact and supported 3,738 non-university jobs in the areas of construction, healthcare and food services. Student spending in housing, food, entertainment, telecommunications and transportation generates an annual $152 million impact and supports 1,500 non-university jobs, the study shows.

Visitors participating in cultural, sporting...
NSU Green volunteers join Natchitoches clean-up

More than 65 faculty, staff, students and friends of Northwestern State University volunteered to clean up areas near the NSU campus on April 25 as part of the Keep Natchitoches Beautiful campaign. The Orange Team, led by Lisa Abney, gathered trash along University Parkway and Second Street, and in and around City Park at Second and Amulet. The NSU Green initiative was coordinated by Steve Gruesbeck, director of service-learning, with assistance from several members of the NSU faculty and staff.

The NSU Purple Team led by Leslie Gruesbeck cleaned up public spaces along University Parkway, Cypress, Sydney, Pine, DeMezier, Nelken, Percy and Poete streets during the April 25 Keep Natchitoches Beautiful campaign. Participating on the three NSU teams were NSU Freshman Connectors, Fresh Campus. Blue Key, Kappa Pi, American Chemical Society, Student Activities Board, Student Government Association, River Campus Ministry, and the Natchitoches Northwest Flute Guild.

NSU Green volunteers contributed over 100 hours of service to the community during the April 25 Keep Natchitoches Beautiful campaign, which coincided with the city’s Earth Day celebration and the opening of the Cane River Green Market. The NSU White Team, led by Bill Shaw, cleaned an area along University Parkway and along Jefferson and Front streets.

Faculty/Administrator volunteers included Steven Gruesbeck and Marcus Jones (co-chairs of Northwestern Green Advisory Board); Lisa Abney, Leslie Gruesbeck, Bill Shaw, Walter Flomer, April French, Kioh Kim, James Mischler, Don Barker, Greg Handel, Tara Hawthorne and Jennifer Videtto.

Student Groups that signed up included NSU Freshman Connectors, Fresh Campus, Blue Key, Kappa Pi International Art Fraternity, American Chemical Society, Student Activities Board, Student Government Association, River Campus Ministry, Natchitoches Northwest Flute Guild.
and educational events offered at or through the university spent $36.2 million on transportation, food and lodging and account for over 350 jobs. The study finds that retired faculty and staff who reside in Louisiana added $13 million to the economy after their employment with spending supporting 100 jobs.

NSU’s university operating expenditures on supplies, equipment and services garnered an impact of $49 million for the state and created more than 700 jobs. Four construction projects on NSU’s campus since 2001 yielded a $122.2 million impact and created 1,000 jobs. Organizations affiliated with the university, such as food service companies, bookstores, housing management companies and foundations, generate an annual impact of $8.7 million.

The study reports that every $1 invested in a University of Louisiana System school has an $8 return in the state’s economy. Louisiana invested $438.7 million of state funding in University of Louisiana System schools for fiscal year 2007-08. That investment yielded a $3.4 billion impact to the state’s economy through spending alone.

“It is gratifying to have tangible evidence that Northwestern State University has a dramatic, positive impact on northwest and central Louisiana and beyond,” said NSU President Dr. Randall J. Webb. “State investment of funds in this university produces an exceptional return. Northwestern not only plays a major role in economic and workforce development, but in improving the quality of our citizens’ lives. As our alumni, faculty, staff, and students and their family members celebrate 125 years of Northwestern’s excellent service to our fine state, they now have yet another performance indicator in which they can take tremendous pride.”

In addition to spending, the study examined the university’s impact from teaching/workforce training, research/service and quality of life enhancement. Taking into account the incremental earnings per year as a result of degree attainment, the study reports that ULS graduates have added about $6.5 billion to Louisiana’s economy in the last 10 years. Graduates also have improved health and are more likely to participate in civic and charitable endeavors.

“Institutions of higher learning have a direct impact on the economic success of a state and region, and there is a direct correlation between higher education and the positive outcomes on quality of life measures. The state’s investment in higher education is an investment in the future of Louisiana as college graduates are generally productive members of society, volunteering, voting and raising families with similar goals of attaining a college degree,” said University of Louisiana System President Dr. Randy Moffett, who identified the study as a priority when he assumed his position last year. “Higher education has a tremendous payoff.”

Initiated in August 2008, the University of Louisiana System Economic and Community Impact Study was conducted by Applied Technology Research Corporation of Baton Rouge. The study relied on data provided by the eight universities in the University of Louisiana System, the Louisiana State Employees Retirement System, Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana and the Office of Group Benefits. The methodology used is consistent with that of other university impact studies conducted around the nation. In addition to Northwestern State, schools in the University of Louisiana System include Grambling State University, Louisiana Tech University, McNeese State University, Nicholls State University, Southeastern Louisiana University, University of Louisiana at Monroe and University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

For more information, visit NSU’s impact study page on the web at www.nsula.edu/impactstudy. To download a full version of the study, visit the ULS website at www.ulsystem.edu.

Northwestern State University would like to thank the following individuals for coordinating the school’s economic impact study: Dr. Marcus Jones, Veronica Biscoe, Leah Jackson, Fred Terasa, Jennifer Videtto, David Antilley, Dion Boyette, Kirk Cordell, Gary Hardamon, Dr. Steve Horton, Dr. Priscilla Kilcrease, Michael Lofton, Yonna Pasch, Curtis Penrod, John Rodriguez, and Dr. Darlene Williams.

NSU also acknowledges with thanks students, faculty, staff, community leaders and affiliated organizations that completed surveys to provide data for the study.
**People...Continued from Page 1**

Faculty and teacher candidates of the College of Education attended the first annual Student Teacher Conference, “Teaching, Reaching, and Leading” held on April 20 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Baton Rouge.

The conference was hosted by the Louisiana Association of Teacher Educators and Louisiana State University.

Student teachers attending included Rebecca Mahoney, Heidi Stallings, Cori Beth Manuel, Allyce Hartt, Emmy Lea Jeane, Markenia Boutte, Amy Verret, Jessica Benoit, Madelyn Cole, Allyson Songe’, and Jessica Fain. Faculty attending included Mrs. Connie Melder, Mrs. Dee Dee Perot, Dr. Paul Nagel, Dr. Greg Handel, Dr. Kioh Kim, and Dr. Vickie Gentry.

Dr. Julie H. Ernststein, assistant professor of anthropology and coordinator of the undergraduate program in Heritage Resources, coached five graduate students in Heritage Resources who competed on Thursday, April 23 in the 2009 Ethics Bowl at the annual meetings of the Society for American Archaeology in Atlanta.

The NSU team, consisting of M.A. in Heritage Resources May graduates Curtis Desselles, Whitney Fooks, Ellen Ibert, Josh Martin, and Tamara Miller, was one of only eight teams from around the country selected to participate in this single-elimination tournament. These students were enrolled in HR 5240 (Ethics & Administration in Heritage Resources) during the current term, and were cheered on by several members of NSU’s Anthropology Club.

Dr. Paul Nagel, College of Education, has been selected to serve on the Praxis Middle School Social Studies Test Development Standing Committee. The purpose of this test development committee is to develop test items related to social studies that education candidates must know to become a certified teacher. Dr. Nagel will write questions related to geography and has previously served on a committee to help write test items for the 2010 Geography NAEP exam for 4th grade students.

Dr. Mark Melder, assistant professor of sociology, presented the latest findings in his research on female perpetrated intimate partner homicide, “The Racial Disparity in Intimate Partner Homicide: A Structural Explanation,” at the 72nd annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society in New Orleans April 1-4.

Dr. Gerra Perkins, College of Education, and two NSU students in the SPS Counseling program, Kim Cain and Danyelle McDaniel, presented at the American Counseling Association Conference in Charlotte, N.C., March 19-23.

The presentation was entitled Service learning in counselor education programs: Combating truancy and detailed work completed on the Combating Truancy Service Learning Project. Dr. Perkins also published an article of that same title in the Compelling Counseling Interventions: VISTAS 2009 publication.

Dr. Gerra Perkins, Dr. Mary Lynn Williamson and Dr. Henrietta Pichon presented Service-learning outcomes: Preparing counseling students for teaching and leadership roles at the Gulf-South SUMMIT on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement through Higher Education in Baton Rouge on March 26.

Dr. Gerra Perkins was elected as the Counselor Educator Member-at-Large of the Louisiana Association of Counselor Educators and Supervisors at the March 27 meeting.

Dr. J. Mark Thompson, professor of music, performed bass trombone with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra in Birmingham on April 24. The SuperPOPS! concert featured pop-jazz trumpet sensation Chris Botti, who played standards including “My Funny Valentine,” “When I Fall in Love,” and “Someone to Watch Over Me.” The first half of the concert was a brass section feature and included such works as the “Triumphal March” from Verdi’s opera Aida, the final movement from Respighi’s The Pines of Rome.
NSU recently honored Dr. Paralee Norman at a reception where her dedication to the university and some of her many accomplishments were recognized. Dr. Norman will retire at the end of the spring semester, after having taught English at Northwestern for the past 32 years.

On her tenure at NSU’s Leesville campus, Dr. Norman had this to say: “Teaching English at all levels at NSU Leesville-Fort Polk Campus requires many hours of professional development by faculty each year. When I started in 1979, we had no computers, no library, and few offices for faculty. Dramatic changes since then allow detailed and timely research and a student writing process which allows maximum skill in their presentations. My gratitude goes to Northwestern and to the state of Louisiana for these continuous and ample investments in our students.

“We welcome and accommodate transfer students as well as those new in the college system. Our classes include training for students with special needs, for the very bright, and for those needing advanced work during high school years.”

Dr. Norman earned her B.A. in English from the University of Missouri, her M.A. in English and Philosophy from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, and her Ph.D. in English from the University of Iowa. Her dissertation was entitled, “A Study of Light Satire in Three Novels written by Marmion Savage.”

Praising Dr. Norman’s dedication to her profession, Dr. Lisa Abney, Dean, College of Liberal Arts, observed, ‘‘Dr. Norman has continued throughout her career to write for publication, and even now will soon have a work on Emily Dickinson published.’’

Dr. Lisa Abney, right, congratulated Dr. Paralee Norman on her retirement.

Sen. Mary Landrieu to present May 8 commencement address

U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu will be the speaker at Northwestern State University’s Spring Commencement Exercises Friday, May 8.

Landrieu will speak to graduates from the Colleges of Education, Liberal Arts, Nursing and the Graduate School at 10 a.m. She will address graduates from the College of Business, the Louisiana Scholars’ College, the College of Science and Technology and the University College at 3 p.m. Members of the Class of 1959 will receive their second diploma at the afternoon ceremony.

Landrieu is in her third term in the United States Senate. She is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. In January, Landrieu also began serving as Chairman of the Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee.

Landrieu has been ranked by the nonpartisan Congress.org as the 10th most effective legislator in the Senate. She first won elective office at age 23 as the youngest woman ever elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives. Landrieu also served two terms as State Treasurer.

She has received numerous awards from the military for her work on their behalf including the top military honor from the Reserve Officers of America for her work to increase the pay of soldiers of the Reserves and the National Guard when they are deployed. Her national energy policy includes increasing domestic production to lessen dependence on foreign oil. In addition, she crafted the bill that gives Louisiana a larger share of the tax revenues generated off its coast.

Landrieu has earned her numerous awards from both the U.S. Chambers of Commerce and the National Federation of Independent Businesses.
CONGRATULATIONS

The following individuals received notification of awards from the Kentucky/Louisiana Campus Compact, Service-Learning Course Mini Grant:

Dr. Henrietta Pichon, College of Education, for “Integration of Service Learning in an Orientation 1010 Course” for $3,000, and “Integration of Service Learning in a Graduate Level Group Dynamics Course” for $3,000;

Dr. Michael Cundall, Jr., Louisiana Scholars’ College, for “Local Organics and Healthful Living” for $1,500;

Dr. Gerra Perkins, College of Education, for “Service Learning Component in COUN 5570” for $3,000; and

Ms. Robyn Whitehead, Department of Health and Human Performance, College of Science and Technology, for “Evaluation of Community Physical Activity and Health Status” for $2,994.

Dr. Elizabeth Guin, School of Social Sciences, College of Liberal Arts, received notification of an award from the Cane River National Heritage Area of $5,000 for “CRNHA – NSU MAHR Joint Assistantship.”

Dr. Shane Rasmussen, Louisiana Folklife Center, College of Liberal Arts, submitted two proposals—one to the Shreveport Regional Arts Council for “2010 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival” and one to Entergy for “2009 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival.”

The following individuals submitted a proposal to the Cane River National Heritage Area, Competitive Grants Program:

Mr. Steven Gruesbeck, Service Learning, “Normal Hill Historic District Landscape Conservation” with Mr. Chris Sampité as collaborator;

Dr. Julie Ernstein, School of Social Sciences, College of Liberal Arts, for “Interpretive Plan for Kate Chopin/Bayou Folk Museum Site (Cloutierville, LA);”

Dr. Tommy Hailey, School of Social Sciences, College of Liberal Arts, for “Military Heritage Assessment and Tour of CRNHA (Phase 1)” with Ryan Smith as collaborator; and

Dr. Lisa Abney, College of Liberal Arts, for “The Cane River-Red River Conference” with Dr. Shane Rasmussen as collaborator.

Dr. Zafer Hatahet, Department of Biological Sciences, College of Science and Technology, submitted a proposal to the National Institute of Health, for “Interplay of human DNA polymerase eta and Werner syndrome protein in the development of...”
Northwestern recognized students and faculty for outstanding research during the school’s 22nd annual Research Day. Dr. Holly Stave and Matthew DeFord were presented with Mildred Hart Bailey Faculty Awards. The research of those nominated are evaluated for scholarly or creative significance, national, regional or local impact, originality and ingenuity of project design and critical recognition by experts in the field.

Stave is a professor of English in the Louisiana Scholars’ College whose interest is in contemporary women’s writing, specifically, but not exclusively the work of Toni Morrison.

“I am interested in how women write women’s lives focusing on women’s spirituality, sexuality and the mechanisms by which women negotiate a sexist and/or racist terrain,” Stave said.

DeFord is assistant professor of art in the School of Creative and Performing Arts, specializing in sculpture. His work has been included in more than 30 exhibits around the country.

“The creation and exhibition of my art is a special endeavor,” DeFord said. “I am at work and play at the same time. Often I will be making art and realize that I am giggling to myself at the product coming to fruition.”

Guest speaker Dr. Roberto Scandone, professor of physical volcanology at University of Roma Tre in Rome, presented a lecture on Mount Vesuvius, highlighting the volcanic terrain around Naples, Italy.

This year’s NSU Research Day also focused on the university’s accomplishments in research, scholarship and service during the school’s 125-year history and acknowledged the International Year of Astronomy, which commemorates the 400th anniversary of Galileo’s use of a telescope to study the skies. Research Day is hosted by the Northwestern Research Council and NSU’s Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. Research Day is supported by the NSU Foundation, the NSU Provost’s Office and the NSU chapter of Phi Kappa Phi. This year’s event took place in Nelson Hall, home of the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training.

Elizabeth Ann Pryer of Mont Belvieu, Texas, and Robert Abernathy of Robert were presented with Phi Kappa Phi Student Research Awards. Phi Kappa Phi Student Research Awards are presented to recognize the outstanding research, distinguished artistic performance, or creative work completed by a student or team of students while enrolled at NSU. To be considered, students must be nominated by an NSU faculty member. Ryan Smith of Natchitoches was recognized with Honorable Mention.
Students and faculty attending the Attending the AITP conference were, front row from left, Dr. Glenn Maples, Anthony Mason, Zech Hennigan and Allie Brewer. On the back row are Dr. Jack Russell, Timothy Straus, Paul Reisener, Jeff Turpin, Devon Drake, Kayloni Robicheaux, Jake Guidry, Cody Chop, Rod McIntoch, Lewej Whitelow, Devontay Joiner, Nadia Weber, Julien Banta, Marquis Montgomery, Jesse Calhoun and Anna Maples, faculty advisor.

COE announces Homecoming changes

The College of Education is planning several activities for Homecoming 2009. Reunion activities will include a pre-banquet gathering from 10-11:15 a.m. at the Natchitoches Events Center. A side room will be reserved for the event. Tailgating will be from 4:30-6:30 at the Tailgating Field. An Education Alumni tent will be set up adjacent to the NSU Foundation/Alumni area.

The College of Education will not hold its traditional breakfast reunion this year. All Education alumni are encouraged to attend as many events as possible to reunite with former friends and make new ones.

COB students excel at AITP

College of Business students Allison Brewer and Anthony Mason finished first in the Database Design competition at the Association of Information Technology Professionals National Collegiate Conference in Oklahoma City. Brewer, a junior computer information systems major from Olive Branch, Miss., and Mason, a senior computer information systems major from Patterson, finished in front of teams from Brigham Young University and Purdue University to win the competition. It was the 10th time in nine years NSU students have won national championships at the AITP Conference. Approximately 600 students from across the country attended the conference.

Both Mason and Brewer were in national competition for the first time. Each took part in regional competition last fall. They agreed they were well prepared for the competition.

“The database class I am taking under Dr. Lissa Pollacia also prepared me very well,” said Brewer. “Faculty in CIS offered tutoring sessions outside of class using old problems.”

Brewer said faculty member Dr. Glenn Maples encouraged her to join AITP and participate in competition.

For more information on Northwestern’s program in computer information systems, go to http://business.nsula.edu/CIS/CISHome.htm.

CGH Research Center to be included in Underground Railroad Network

With much assistance from former NSU graduate and Anthropologist Rolanda Teal who holds a master’s degree from the University of Houston, Cammie G. Henry Research Center applied to and was accepted by the U.S. National Park Service National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom as an official research facility on researching the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. The Cammie G. Henry Research Center will be listed in the U.S. National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom official site database and will be a part of a national and international network of research facilities.

The surviving family of late History Professor Dr. Marietta LeBreton graciously donated Marietta’s book and historical collection to Northwestern State University Watson Memorial Library. During the first week of April and with the kind use of U. S. Documents Librarian Gail Kwak husband’s truck, Gail Kwak, Library Specialist 1 Shelia Thompson and Head Archivist Mary Linn Wernet packed, loaded and unloaded 83 linear feet of books and documents. These books and manuscripts will evidently be properly cataloged and made available for library researchers.

On April 25 at the North Louisiana Historical Annual Spring Meeting and Banquet, Mary Linn Wernet was elected President of the North Louisiana Historical Association. She will serve as president of the association for a two-year term.
Four faculty make presentations at French university

Four Northwestern State University faculty members recently made presentations at Pôle Universitaire Léonard de Vinci in Paris as part of the institution’s annual International Week. Associate Professor of Engineering Technology Rafiqul Islam, Barry Smiley Endowed Professor of Marketing Krist Swimberghek, Assistant Professor of Art and Design W. Anthony Watkins and Associate Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences Lynn Woods were each selected to lecture.

The University of Louisiana System, which includes Northwestern, has created a partnership with Pôle Universitaire Léonard de Vinci that includes student and faculty exchange opportunities.

The partnership covers students in business, engineering, technology, computer science and visual arts, and includes the reciprocal exchange of faculty, staff and students; development of international student programs; hosting of visiting scholars and study tours/summer sessions and organization of joint academic and scientific activities such as courses, conferences, seminars, symposia or lectures. The partnership also includes enrollment of highly qualified students in undergraduate and/or graduate studies and development of textbooks, journal articles or other scholarly publications.

Islam’s presentation, “Qualcomm’s CDMA and its Implementation in the United States and beyond,” discussed Code Division Multiple Access, the driving technology behind the rapidly advancing personal communications industry. Swimberghek’s lecture was “Doing Business in the USA: A Guide for the French Businessperson.” Woods presented her lecture on the “Eight “P’s” of Service Marketing: Mult-Faceted Techniques for Multinational Corporations, which are product, price, place, and promotion.

Mathews conducts music research with composers abroad

British composers of wind band music was the focus of Dr. Jeff Mathews’ NSU Enrichment Fund supported trip to England and Belgium March 12-22. Dr. Mathews, associate professor of music, conducted personal interviews over a five-day period with two composers, Adam Gorb and Nigel Clarke, in his continuing research into British wind band composers.

“The purpose of the research is to attain a more in depth understanding of the music and to eventually create a resource for conductors to aid in the interpretation the composers’ music,” Mathews explained.

The interviews documented information about the composers backgrounds, their influences, preferred performance practices, compositional style and also gleaned specific comments from them about interpreting their works. This research continues as Dr. Mathews will analyze several works by each composer and document all of their compositions to date.

Dr. Jeff Mathews visited the home of his research subject, composer Nigel Clarke. The two spent several days together discussing the composer's music.
Watrous Featured at Jazz Festival/Trombone Extravaganza

The Louisiana State Jazz Festival was held March 13-14 at the Mrs. H. D. Dear and Alice Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts at NSU. Sponsored by the Louisiana Association of Jazz Educators (LAJE) and NSU, and organized by NSU trumpet professor Galindo Rodriguez, the event included fifteen jazz ensembles of various sizes from high schools and colleges throughout the state.

On Friday night, a combo played at Mama’s Oyster House and Blues Room downtown, and it featured soloists Dick Eckstein, a Shreveport freelancer and Mt. Pleasant, Texas, band director; Andy Pizzo, LAJE President and Baton Rouge/New Orleans freelancer, and legendary jazz artist Bill Watrous.

On the Saturday evening program and under the direction of Rodriguez, NSU’s Jazz Orchestra undertook the “Trombone Extravaganza” concert, including nine trombone feature works. Because of the unique nature of this performance, the International Trombone Association has posted this news item on its online website and it will also be presented in the ITA Journal later this year.

Soloists included Watrous, Pizzo, Eckstein, Rance Hawthorne, Galindo Rodriguez, Chris Bloom and Andy Pizzo. (Photo by NSU Alumna Ami Thompson)

Sympathy

❖ Yvonne Smith, mother of Dr. Eric Fountain and mother-in-law of Mary Reeves, Department of Mathematics, passed away Thursday, April 2. Visitation and funeral services were held at Hillcrest Memorial Cemetery in Haughton. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made in Yvonne’s memory to Grace Home in Shreveport or to the American Cancer Society.

The Floral Fund made a contribution to ACS in memory of Mrs. Smith.

❖ A memorial services for Garnett Richard McGuirt Sr., father of Dr. Karen McGuirt McFerrin College of Education, was held April 18 at Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church in Clinton. Mr. McGuirt passed away on April 5. A rose bush was sent from the NSU Floral Fund.

❖ Roy Horace Jackson, brother of Miss Bobbie Jackson in the Department of Language and Communication, passed away Sunday, April 12. Services were held April 18.

❖ The NSU Floral Fund made a donation to In-Home Health Service/Hospice, 100 East 20th St., Hope, Ark., 71801 in memory of Herman Smith, father of Tony Smith, associate professor, Creative and Performing Arts.

❖ Services for Ms. O’Neal Horton, mother of Linda West, Leesville Campus Library, were held April 26 in DeRidder. Ms. Horton passed away Thursday, April 23 after a lengthy illness.
The Space Science Group from Northwestern State University presented a science show to students at Marthaville Elementary that included a very special guest. Supriya Jindal, wife of Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, spoke to third through fifth grade students about math and science and helped SSG members perform experiments to demonstrate combustion, exothermic reactions and chemical properties.

“How much do you love school?” Jindal asked the assembly before talking about her job as a chemical engineer and the presence of math and science in daily life. She discussed with students how math and science might play a role in their future careers.

The visit to Marthaville Elementary was part of Mrs. Jindal’s state-wide campaign to promote math and science. Her staff expressed interest in involving the NSU Space Science Group in future visits to schools in the region, said Space Science Group coordinator Patty Varnado.

The Space Science Group at NSU is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping Louisiana’s students excel in the areas of science and mathematics. The Space Science Group is actively involved in the development and implementation of educational programs that utilize aspects of NASA’s space program to motivate students in their studies. The Space Science Group also sponsors an annual Space Art contest, and travels to area schools to engage students’ imaginations with an exciting, interactive Science Show, performed by Jessica Odom and Georgia Hilton. For more information, visit spacesciencegroup.org.

**ECE NON-CREDIT SHORT COURSES MAY 2009 CLASSES**

**Grant Writing Clinic: Writing a Proposal that Gets Funded-Series II**

- **Date:** May 16, Sat.
- **Time:** 9:00 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **Fee:** $120 + $40 book & material fee (if attended Series I not necessary to purchase book, will use the same one)
- **Location:** Russell Hall, Rm. 213
- **Instructor:** Emma Jean Bush

**School Administrator Certification Examination Prep Course**

- **Date:** May 16, Sat
- **Time:** 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- **Fee:** $75
- **Location:** TBA
- **Instructor:** Kenneth Booth, Ph.D.
  Assistant Professor Educational Leadership

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER CALL 800-376-2422 or 318-357-6355**
The Department of Language and Communication held their first departmental creative reading on April 23 in the Watson Library Reading Room. Instructors Michelle Pichon and Lori LeBlanc organized the event.

“I wanted to do something like this,” says Pichon “because as English teachers obviously, we all love literature, but it’s not very often that we get to read or talk about what we really like, just as a literature loving person. It is even rarer that we get to share another side of who we are as writers outside of the classroom with our colleagues, students, and community.”

Mi’que Lacaze-Brown, an undergraduate who attended the event, said she really enjoyed The Read! and was impressed to hear a poem written by one of her instructors.

“IT’s not that often that a student gets to see the true talents of their professors.” Lacaze also expressed that she was inspired by the readings she heard.

A cozy audience enjoyed the evening of literature read by faculty and graduate students of the Lang/Comm department. Literature from notable authors included Dorothy Parker, read by graduate student Lee Ann Price, Julia Alvarez, read by Heather Salter, Randy Pausch, read by Samantha Sullivan, and Eavan Boland, read by Sarah McFarland. Original short stories and poems by Lang/Comm faculty included Dean of Liberal Arts Dr. Lisa Abney, Julie Kane, Michelle Pichon, Lori LeBlanc, Heather Salter, Elizabeth Sims, Robert Tummons, as well as graduate students Andrew Shirley and Oona Zbitkovskis.

The readings were followed by a panel discussion, “What We Read and How We Read,” with panelists Dr. Lisa Abney, Dr. James Mischler, Dr. Sarah McFarland, and instructors Samantha Sullivan and Stephanie Masson.

Faculty discussed what kinds of books they like to read, books they are currently reading or have recently read, as well as why they read what they do. The audience was also encouraged to respond and participate.

As the evening ended, people could be seen exchanging book information and making future reading lists.

The department plans to continue holding events like these in the future. Look for Fall Read! around Halloween.

Isaac Powell, assistant professor of art, was selected to attend Artcroft, a self-directed artist residency. Powell will be attending the residency this summer. The residency program allows literary and visual artists a rural and serene environment in which to work creatively without distractions.

The seeds for the Artcroft concept grew from the discussions of Robert and Maureen Barker and Florence Thorne as to the ideal use of 400 spectacular acres in rural central Kentucky. The three friends were guided by an appreciation of the unified continuum of work, craft and art supporting community life and the larger culture. With their strong interests in the arts and humanities, developing a retreat where individuals could do creative work in a rural, agrarian setting held great appeal.

Powell’s work is based upon botanical imagery with flowers and plants being a crucial part of the personal iconic images he uses in his paintings. Isaac plans on using his time at Artcroft to study (draw/photograph) the various botanical life at the Arcroft farm and in the central Kentucky area. It is his intention to then transfer these drawings and photographs to his paintings during his stay.

For further images or information visit arcroft.org or isaacpowell.com

Lang/Comm present Spring Read

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The readings were followed by a panel discussion, “What We Read and How We Read,” with panelists Dr. Lisa Abney, Dr. James Mischler, Dr. Sarah McFarland, and instructors Samantha Sullivan and Stephanie Masson.

Faculty discussed what kinds of books they like to read, books they are currently reading or have recently read, as well as why they read what they do. The audience was also encouraged to respond and participate.

As the evening ended, people could be seen exchanging book information and making future reading lists.

The department plans to continue holding events like these in the future. Look for Fall Read! around Halloween.