Registrar’s staff initiate McClung scholarship

A scholarship honoring the memory of Melinda Martin McClung has been established at Northwestern State University by McClung’s co-workers in the university’s Registrar’s Office. McClung was a Northwestern State alumna and worked in the Registrar’s Office for over 22 years. She was killed in a traffic accident on March 24.

“Among her many jobs, Melinda evaluated all transcripts that came in from other colleges and also helped determine eligibility of college athletes,” said Registrar Lillie Frazier Bell. “She helped many students qualify for graduation through her knowledge and expertise in evaluation of transfer credits. She was a dedicated and conscientious employee and a loving mother of her two sons, Joseph and Michael.”

The Melinda Martin McClung Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a student transferring into Northwestern State with a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 or better.

McClung’s husband, Phillip McClung, is a popular and respected teacher at NSU Middle Lab School. Their son Joseph plans to attend Northwestern State this fall.

McClung’s colleagues initiated the scholarship in recognition of their friend’s dedication to her family, her coworkers and the Northwestern State students she helped. McClung was instrumental in developing administrative policies and procedures on transfer credit, serving as the university liaison with other institutions and working tirelessly with members of the Louisiana Board of Regents in the development of transfer credit matrix systems.

“Melinda was a longtime, devoted member of..."
McClung Scholarship ... Continued from Page 1

the university family and my dear friend,” said Barbara Prescott, assistant to the registrar. “The expertise she developed in her years of service made her the ultimate transfer credit ‘go to’ person. She will be greatly missed by all.”

“Melinda always tried to put the student first,” said Yvette Williams, associate registrar for records. “She was compassionate towards the students and understood their needs when transferring to NSU. She was always honest and helpful.”

“The thing I loved about Melinda was her ability to tell the most interesting stories about even everyday events. I could listen to her talk all day. She had a great sense of humor, and we will really miss her,” said Maye Foster, administrative coordinator.

“Melinda was a dear coworker who made significant contributions to the Natchitoches community and to Louisiana higher education,” said Daphne Delphin, university records analyst. “Melinda truly cared about other people, and she gave generously of her time and knowledge to her Northwestern State University family - students, faculty and staff. The time our friend and colleague shared with all of us will be forever treasured.”

“Melinda always greeted you with a smile. She had a passion for her job and helping students in their transition into our school,” said Charlotte Grayson, university records analyst. “She loved her family and was so proud of her two sons. She and I would talk of our families with us both having only two boys each. She would tell stories of her and her husband taking their family on vacations and the new places that they would find in Louisiana and the different types of food they had experienced. Melinda will always be in my heart.”

“Melinda was a dedicated worker, a loving, caring and dependable person, who always put her family first,” said Rhonda Wood, administrative coordinator. “Phillip and the boys were her life. Her family was one of those that still did things together like go on vacations. They would read a book that the whole family was interested in out loud so they could all enjoy it together. That’s something you don’t hear families doing anymore. She had such a bubbly laugh that I will miss. During our lunch break we discussed different recipes to try and talked about the 50s, 60s and 70s music.”

“When I first came to interview for the other position as transcript evaluator, Melinda was one of the persons that interviewed me,” said Brenda Fowler Milner, director of registration and graduation. “It turned out to be more than an interview. She knew I was nervous, but she made me feel so welcome and I soon discovered that I knew her mother-in-law. She is the person that trained me in my first job with Northwestern, which has continually helped me in my present position in the Registrar’s office. She will be truly missed.”

“This memorial scholarship has been established to honor Melinda’s contributions to this institution and to continue her love for transfer students,” Prescott said.

Contributions to the scholarship can be made payable to the NSU Foundation and mailed to 535 University Parkway, Natchitoches, La., 71497. A notation should be made that the donation is for the Melinda Martin McClung Scholarship.

NSU employees can donate to Crisis Leave Poole

Northwestern State University employees are invited to donate to the Crisis Leave Pool. Anyone who accumulates annual leave can donate a minimum of eight hours or a maximum of 16 hours per fiscal year.

The Crisis Leave Program is a means of providing paid leave to an eligible employee who has experienced a catastrophic illness or injury to himself/herself or eligible family member. The program’s intent is to provide assistance to employees who, through no fault of their own, have insufficient appropriate accrued leave to cover the crisis leave period.

Employees can only donate annual leave into the pool. You can obtain a copy of the donation form by contacting Yvette Garrett Ceasar-Williams, associate registrar for records, by calling Ext. 6171 or e-mailing williamsy@nsula.edu. The form must be submitted to the Payroll Department in Business Affairs.
Research generated by Dr. Francene Lemoine was included in a scientific article about how irregular cell cycles in the presence of DNA damage can eventually lead to cancer. Lemoine is an associate professor of biology in Northwestern State University’s Department of Biological and Physical Sciences. The article, “Activation of WIP1 Phosphatase by HTLV-1 Tax Mitigates the Cellular Response to DNA Damage” appears in Plos One, a peer-reviewed online resource that reports scientific studies from all disciplines.

Lemoine conducted the research as a graduate student at the Baylor College of Medicine under the direction of Dr. Susan J. Marriott, director of BCM’s interdepartmental program in cell and molecular biology. Dr. Tajhal Dayaram, a postdoctoral associate at Baylor College of Medicine, authored the paper, which included data Lemoine gathered during her study but never published.

The article focuses on the HTLV virus, which produces a protein called Tax that causes infected cells to grow rapidly and increases the incidence of damage to DNA.

“Cancer is a disease of uncontrolled proliferation,” Lemoine explained. “Tax causes cells to grow faster and we’re trying to find out how this one protein makes cells divide more than it should. HTLV is a retro virus similar to HIV, but instead of causing immunity problems, it can cause leukemia. Our research seeks to understand how a virus creates the potential for the development of cancer.”

People cannot “catch” cancer, but they can be infected by viruses that create situations favorable for cancer development by altering cell activity, which can create genetic mutations, Lemoine said. HTLV, which is transmitted by exchange of bodily fluids, is rare in the United States but prevalent in South America and Japan.

Since her graduate student days, Lemoine’s interest in DNA veered from studying viruses to studying yeast cells.

“My current research is related because it is about DNA damage and chromosome changes and their relationship with different types of leukemias and lymphomas,” she said.

While at Baylor, Lemoine published four research papers, but not all her findings fit into her published research and the data remained with the lab when she left to complete postdoctoral research. There it remained until recently utilized by Dayaram, who “developed it into a nice bit of research,” she said.

Folklife Center looking for Folk Festival volunteers

The Louisiana Folklife Center needs many volunteers to help with the Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival being held in Prather Coliseum on Friday, July 19-Saturday, July 20. Hours are 4 p.m.-11 p.m. July 19 and 8 a.m.-11 p.m. July 20.

In return for 5 or more hours of volunteer work, you will receive a Festival t-shirt and free admission to all events. Visit the event website at louisianafolklore.nsula.edu for more information.

To volunteer, contact Director Shane Rasmussen or Hylan Wells at the Louisiana Folklife Center in Room 213 Kyser Hall, at (318) 357-4332 or e-mail rasmussens@nsula.edu or wellsh@nsula.edu.
Northwestern State University’s chapter of Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars inducted 12 new members during a ceremony in the Thomas-D’Amato Reading Room at Watson Library on April 14. Members of Phi Beta Delta include faculty, staff and students who are selected on the basis of their international orientation, scholarship accomplishment and/or contribution to international exchange.

Newly inducted faculty/staff members are Elena Bogaczova, Creative and Performing Arts; Reatha Cox, director of First Year Experience and Leadership Development; Margaret Kilcoyne, James Kilcoyne and Begoña Pérez-Mira, School of Business; Michael Moulton, Health and Human Performance; Holly Stave, Scholars’ College, English, and Perry Wisinger, geography. Newly inducted student members include Jebha Babu of Stafford, Texas; Annie Desoto-Buras of Pineville, Joanna McFarling of Coppell, Texas, and Taylor Nelson of Monroe, Louisiana Scholars’ College; Berwyn Chong of Singapore, Creative and Performing Arts, and Whitney Gochnas, Rockwall, Texas.

Phi Beta Delta is the first honor society in the United States to recognize scholarship achievement in international education. It was established in 1987 and now has over 170 chapters at universities in the United States and around the world. Its goals are to increase the recognition, credibility and importance of the international experience and create a catalyst for international academic-based programming on college campuses while providing support and recognition to those individuals on campuses who are involved in international endeavors.

Pérez-Mira, assistant professor in the School of Business, was the guest speaker, addressing current issues in Spain. Through multi-media and interviews with Spanish citizens, Pérez-Mira presented a fascinating overview of the financial crisis in Spain that included its effects on individuals in several occupations. Pérez-Mira is from the town of Aspe in the province of Alicante and has been in the United States for 15 years. She earned a B.A. in English and German philology at the Universidad de Valencia, a B.A. in Modern Languages at Coventry University in the U.K., an M.A. in English and a B.S. in

Phi Beta Delta .. Continued on page 5
Yonna Pasch, director of student activities and organizations at Northwestern State University, was recently recognized by the National Association for the Promotion of Campus Activities with the establishment of an award in her honor during the group’s annual national conference.

The organization set up the Yonna Pasch Heart of APCA Award to recognize her drive and determination in the field of higher education. Pasch was the first recipient of the award.

During the conference, Pasch served as intern coordinator and presented an educational session for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and the Up ‘til Dawn college program with NSU student Michael Stephenson, executive director of Northwestern State’s Up ‘til Dawn chapter.

Pasch has been director of student activities and organizations for five years and a member of Northwestern State’s staff since 2003. She was previously assistant director of student activities for Greek life, leadership development and organizations and associate director of student activities and organizations.

A Northwestern State alumna, she earned a bachelor’s degree in hospitality management and tourism and a master’s in student personnel services.

Northwestern State’s Student Activities Board won second place for its T-shirt design for the 2012 Up ‘til Dawn event at the conference.

Phi Beta Delta ... Continued from Page 4

Computer Information Systems and Business Administration at Northwestern State, and a Ph.D. in Business, Information Systems and Decisions Sciences at Louisiana State University. She was telelearning and Louisiana Virtual School instructor at the Louisiana School for Math, Sciences and the Arts and is presently the David D. Morgan Endowed Professor in Marketing at Northwestern State.

The reception for this event was prepared by students in culinary classes FACS 3070 and CULA 3250 and included a variety of Spanish and Latin delicacies.

The Northwestern State University Chapter of Phi Beta Delta received its charter in April 2010 with the induction of 25 faculty, staff and student members. This academic year Phi Beta Delta sponsored an International Student Panel in January, a Student Study Abroad Panel in February and held a no-host dinner for members and friends.

The Eta Mu Chapter at NSU is committed to supporting international students, domestic students who are interested in international travel and affairs, and faculty and staff who engage in international research and travel. Phi Beta Delta is interdisciplinary in nature and includes individuals from all content areas.

For more information about Phi Beta Delta contact Chapter Coordinator and President Sharon Joy at joys@nsula.edu or (318) 357-5754.
Paddlin’ Professor will swim again on 92nd birthday

Northwestern State University’s Alumni Association will host the Central Louisiana Alumni After Hours event in conjunction with Harry’s Big Swim from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 2 at Tunk’s Cypress Inn and Oyster Bar on Kincaid Lake. Harry’s Big Swim is an annual fund raiser in which Harry Briggs, a political science professor at Northwestern’s Leesville-Fort Polk campus, completes a 2-mile swim across Kincaid Lake to benefit the Dora Douglas Briggs Nursing and Radiologic Sciences Endowed Scholarship at Northwestern State’s Cenla campus. Briggs will complete the swim to commemorate his 92nd birthday.

All Northwestern State alumni, friends and supporters are invited to attend. Briggs is expected to emerge from the lake about 5:30 p.m. when his birthday celebration will take place. The cost to attend is $25 per person, which includes boiled crawfish and fried catfish with trimmings. There will be a cash bar. Representatives from Athletics, Alumni Affairs and Northwestern State faculty and staff will be present to update supporters on current happening at NSU.

Briggs has completed numerous swims to raise funds to support Northwestern State scholarships. Last year, he was recognized for establishing a generous planned gift annuity to benefit Northwestern State tennis athletes, a tennis complex project and scholarships to aid NSU’s nursing and radiologic sciences programs in Alexandria. Known since the 1950s as “The Paddlin’ Professor,” Briggs has over the years initiated several scholarship endowments to benefit current and future students at Northwestern.

Briggs is a member of the International Swimming Hall of Fame for his distance swimming exploits around the world as a young man and has not stopped challenging himself. In addition to his numerous swimming accomplishments, Briggs is a Marine Corps veteran of World War II battles in the Pacific Theatre at Saipan, Tinian and Okinawa. He has climbed the Matterhorn, worked in Alaska and is a native New Englander and graduate of Tufts University, where he also has created scholarship endowments. As a sportswriter and sportscaster, he traveled to Mexico and Cuba and interviewed luminaries such as Jackie Robinson, Ted Williams and Muhammad Ali.

For more information, contact Haley Blount at blounth@nsula.edu, call (318) 357-4414 or visit northwesternalumni.com.

Faculty/staff eligible for discount football ticket options

NSU Faculty & Staff Football Season Tickets are now available.

NSU Faculty & Staff chairback seats are $90, a discounted rate in the Reserved Chairback seating area. This is a savings of more than 45 percent, and includes a parking pass, which has a $60 value. Bank draft and payroll deduction options are available.

To order season tickets and pick your 2013 seat location call the ticket sales staff at Ext. 4268.
Nominations open for Fleming Thomas Award

Northwestern State’s Eugene P. Watson Memorial Library is soliciting nominations for the 2013 Fleming A. Thomas Faculty Information Literacy Award. Please submit nominations to Gail Kwak no later than Friday May 3. Self-nominations are welcome and encouraged.

Criteria by rank of importance is as follows.
1. Coordinates with librarians to create assignments which will ensure a positive research experience for students
2. Schedules information literacy sessions for students, and participates in the process of educating students in resources in their field
3. Encourages students to work one-on-one with librarians to further their research
4. Transforms students into life-long learners who have the information literacy skills to advance in their chosen field
5. Serves as an example to students through use of library resources in their own research

Nomination Process
· Any NSU or BPCC@NSU faculty member or student may make a nomination. Nominees must be currently employed at the time of the nomination.
· Self-nomination is encouraged.
· Nomination must include a brief explanation of how the nominee meets each criterion and any other relevant information.
· Nominations must be submitted by a date after midterm the spring semester designated by the chair of the award committee.
· The award committee will be chaired by a librarian and will include 2-3 other members drawn from the library faculty and the library council.
· The recipient will be notified as soon as the committee finalizes its decision and will be recognized and receive a plaque at the fall faculty institute.

Submit nominations to Kwak, reference/government information coordinator, Watson Library, or call Campus Extension 4574.

People ... Continued from Page 1

outstanding professional record.
2. Demonstrated distinguished service to the profession including interest and dedication to the profession, for example:
   a) outstanding commitment to and achievement in the profession of social work and it’s values and ethics, commitment to the community and commitment particularly to the LSU School of Social Work;
   b) commitment to providing quality social work education through support and dedication to the LSU School of Social Work;
   c) involvement in community activities that enhance social programs and awareness.
   d) This person’s commitment best reflects the values and ethics of the social work profession and has established a personal reputation at local, state or national levels of outstanding character and citizenship reflecting without reservation great credit and honor upon the University and the School of Social Work.

An article entitled “Research Review: Natural Environments and Outdoor Play” by Dr. Michelle Fazio-Brunson, FACS; Hailey E. Warner and Dr. Barbara Duchardt, COEHD, is published in the spring edition of Collaborations: The Louisiana Journal for Early Childhood.

Drs. Paula Furr, Barbara Duchardt, Steven Horton and Vickie Gentry presented “Writing Competencies in Online Graduate Courses: Results and Implications” at the 24th International Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education (SITE) Conference in New Orleans on March 26.

Tutoring Center seeking textbooks to update library

The Academic Tutoring Center is updating its library. Tutors are asking any faculty who have extra desk copies of their current or future textbooks to contact the ATC and the staff will retrieve the textbooks. For more information or to contribute textbooks, contact Lori Leblanc, counselor, Tutoring and Disability Support, at Ext. 5045 or e-mail leblancl@nsula.edu.
Music professors, ensembles participate in conference

CAPA music professors, a graduate assistant and the NSU Euphonium-Tuba Ensemble performed in the South Central Regional Tuba Euphonium Conference.

Dr. Masahito Kuroda, assistant professor of euphonium/tuba/Music technology; Dr. J. Mark Thompson, professor of trombone/low brass, and the Northwestern State University Euphonium-Tuba Ensemble with guest soloist Galindo Rodriguez, associate professor of trumpet, performed and presented their research at the 2013 South Central Regional Tuba Euphonium Conference at Louisiana State University April 6.

This annual conference is one of seven regional conferences in the U.S. affiliated with the International Tuba Euphonium Association.

A total of 18 ensembles from universities in Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Mississippi participated.

Kuroda presented his research entitled “Twelve-Tone System and Structural Analysis on Sonatina for Baritone Horn and Synthesizer (1970) by John Boda.”

“The sonatina was the very first musical composition ever written for euphonium and synthesizer combination and one of my teachers, Dr. Earle Louder, was involved in the composition process,” Kuroda explained.

“The purpose of the study was to shed new light on this lesser performed piece through studying the primary resources made available by Dr. Louder, as well as the Boda special collection at Warren D. Allen Music Library at Florida State University.”

Thompson, Northwestern State graduate assistant Andrew Eden, Dr. David Johansen of Southeastern Louisiana University and William Rose of McNeese State University gave a presentation on a rare and often misunderstood Italian low brass instrument entitled “Care and Feeding of Your Cimbasso.”

The NSU Euphonium-Tuba Ensemble conducted by Kuroda also performed a concert. The program consisted of two world premiere of classical compositions Kuroda arranged, as well as pieces utilizing marching baritones, sousaphones, alto horn and double-bell euphonium. Devin Alexander, Kuroda’s euphonium student, took an improvisation solo on marching baritone with plunger mute, along with Rodriguez as guest soloist.

“This was the first time the NSU Euphonium-Tuba Ensemble performed at a professional conference.” said Kuroda.

“Despite the demanding programming ranging from renaissance madrigal to rock, students were focused on making great music together for the audience with great enthusiasm and I believe we delivered more variety of colors and emotions out of a euphonium-tuba ensemble than one would normally expect,” Kuroda said. “We have received so many great comments from professional tuba players, alumni, as well as low brass students from other universities.”
Art student, Lab teacher create coloring book

A Northwestern State University art student used her talents as an illustrator to produce a children’s coloring book for Briarwood, the Caroline Dormon Nature Preserve near Saline. Courtney Hawkins of Gonzales spent many hours creating the book as a service-learning project for the Caroline Dormon Foundation. The 20-page book will be released during Briarwood’s annual picnic on April 6. Hawkins collaborated with Chris Evans, a gifted education teacher at NSU Middle Lab School, who wrote the narrative.

“It’s been fun making it and I’m so happy it’s done,” Hawkins said. Professor of Art Michael Yankowski introduced Hawkins to the project after he was approached by Marion Bienvenu, past president and member of the board of directors of the Caroline Dormon Foundation, about creating a book.

“I had been looking at student sketch books and noticed the quality of Courtney’s work,” Yankowski said. “Her style seemed perfect for the job and she has a good hand. When I asked if she was interested she jumped at the chance, knowing there was no financial or class credit reward.

It was simply an opportunity to produce something worthwhile. She has the hopes of becoming a book illustrator so the connection was both serendipitous and fortuitous.”

Bienvenu had seen other coloring books and wanted to develop one focusing on Briarwood that parents or grandparents could pick up for their children. She was pleased with Hawkins’ work.

“She is very talented and so enthusiastic. She did a great job,” Bienvenu said.

Hawkins is a senior who will graduate in December after presenting a final exhibition this fall. Illustrating the coloring book gave Hawkins experience working with a publisher, a writer and a printer. Daphne Hines at Impressions by Dunagan oversaw printing the book.

Evans said the narrative for the book developed from her readings of the Caroline Dormon biography, “The Gift of the Wild Things.” She and Courtney both visited Briarwood and talked with Briarwood curators Jessie and Richard Johnson. The coloring book narrative describes Dormon and her siblings as children and their experiences in nature, Evans said.

“We sat together to brainstorm and write the narrative together and we revised it a number of times while Courtney worked on the pictures,” Evans said.

“We got directives from Marion Bienvenu and Michael Yankowski as we went.”

It’s the first time either has been published.

“It’s a bit of a shock to see my name in print,” Evans said.

Briarwood is the former home of Dormon, a naturalist and horticulturist who made significant contributions to conservation in Louisiana. She was a writer, preservationist, botanist, ornithologist and historian who was instrumental in establishing Kisatchie National Forest, among other public and private projects. Briarwood is located at 216 Caroline Dormon Road near Saline and is open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturdays and noon-5 p.m. on Sundays in March, April, May, August and November. Conservationists and horticulturists from all over the world travel to Briarwood to walk down forest trails, to savor the beauty of the Louisiana iris bog, to admire the reflection pool and to enjoy the most complete botanical and wildlife sanctuary in Louisiana. For more information on the book, call (318) 576-3379.

Theatre & Dance announces summer programs, activities

NSU Summer Dinner Theatre will present two dinner theatre productions this summer, according to Scott Burrell, coordinator for Theatre and Dance.

*Songs of America* will be presented June 12-15 and June 19-22.

The summer mystery dinner theatre (show TBA) will be July 31-Aug. 3 and Aug. 7-10.

Theatre and Dance will offer a kid’s summer theatre camp where children 7-13 can learn about acting, singing and dancing. The camp will take place July 31 – Aug. 7.

During the camp, the students will also rehearse a kid’s musical that will be presented Aug. 8-10.

For more information call Ext. 4483.
HMT Presentations

Students in Dr. Lynn Woods’ Hospitality Management and Tourism 1000-Intro to Hospitality class dressed in costume to make class presentations on topics related to hospitality, tourism and recreation. Students researched people and places related to the travel/tourism industry and developed PowerPoint presentations to illustrate their findings. From left are Jared Henderson, Amsterdam; Keelie Ameson, Conrad Hilton/Hilton Hotels; Brooke Evans as Marie Therese Coin-Coin/Melrose Plantation; Darien Cline, Carnival Cruise Lines; Joshua Kezerle, Marriot Company, and Morgan Byrd, Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival. Other topics covered were Escada House of Fashion, Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel, Cedar Point, Bora Bora, Mardi Gras World and Silver Dollar City.

News from the Cammie G. Henry Research Center

Mary Linn Wernet attended the Louisiana Historical Association in March and displayed a juried traveling exhibit entitled “Joe Dellmon’s Alexandria,” in a Louisiana Historical Association annual meeting session with LSU-Alexandria Archivist Michelle Riggs. The session was entitled “Views of Alexandria: An Exhibition of Historical Photographs and Postcards, A Poster Session.”

Wernet also attended the North Louisiana Historical Association’s March board meeting in Shreveport and in April attended the association’s annual spring luncheon meeting held at the Karpeles Library and Museum in Shreveport with featured speaker Dr. Diana Greenlee who presented a program on “Poverty Point and Its Significance as a World Heritage Site.” At the annual meeting, Wernet was again elected as president of the association.

During this year’s Melrose Arts and Crafts Festival in April, Wernet worked with many other volunteers providing tours of the African House. Wernet provided a program on Louisiana’s participation with a train-the-trainer archival educational program known as the Archival Training Collaborative before the members of the Natchitoches Genealogical and Historical Association on Tuesday evening, April 23.
Ramona Wynder, an instructor in the Department of Teaching and Learning, College of Education and Human Development, was an invited delegate to the 2013 Leadership for Change! Louisiana Education Summit April 17. The summit drew leaders from around the nation to Baton Rouge where keynote speaker Dr. Condoleezza Rice, professor, former provost, former National Security Advisor and former U.S. Secretary of State, addressed education issues critical to the future of Louisiana and the nation. The summit concluded with a discussion with Rice and Gov. Bobby Jindall facilitated by journalist Campbell Brown.

A panel session on “Real World Experiences from Across the Nation” included Ann Duplessis, interim executive director for the French Market Corporation, and Gloria J. Romero, DFER California State Director. Other dignitaries participating were Stephen F. Carter, chair of the Education Committee in the La. House of Representatives; Conrad Appel, chairman of the La. State Senate’s Education Committee; Louisiana State Superintendent of Education John White, and Kavin Chavous, American Federation of Children.


“Attending the leadership summit was valuable,” Wynder said. “It afforded me greater insight into the reform initiatives that are taking place in Louisiana and throughout our nation to improve educational outcomes for all children, regardless of the neighborhoods they come from, the color of their skin or their socioeconomic status. Governor Jindal stated no child deserves to get on a bus heading to a school labeled failing, to which I totally agree. However, contrary to the assertion that only one group of people is responsible for low performing schools, I believe all of us--educators, parents, lawmakers, leaders and the community at large--hold some level of accountability. It will take ‘the village’ to transform public education.”
Nine students in Northwestern State University’s Computer Information Systems program competed at the 18th annual Association of Information Technology Professionals (AITP) National College Conference held April 4-6 in St. Louis, Mo. AITP is the leading worldwide society of professionals in information technology.

“No university or college came close to winning as many awards as NSU. We are so proud of our students,” said Dr. Jack Russell, coordinator of Northwestern State’s CIS program.


Sixty-three colleges and university from across the United States attended the conference with more than 500 students registered.

“It is so exciting to see that our students continue to do well in our traditional competition areas, but are also working to win in the newer areas such as Mobile Applications,” said Barbara Russell, instructor and AITP faculty sponsor.

The team and CIS faculty were honored during a recognition ceremony April 16 in the Natchitoches Room of Russell Hall. The event was also recognition for Dr. Mark A. Thompson, who completed his Ph.D. at Louisiana Tech in Computational Analysis and Modeling.

Northwestern State’s Computer Information Systems program offers curricula leading to the Bachelor of Science degree in CIS. The program provides both theoretical and practical hands-on classes in Database, Networking, Programming and Systems Analysis & Design. For more information on Northwestern State’s CIS program visit business.nsula.edu/computer-information-systems-home.
Sympathy

Charles Moore, father of Kammese Shelton in the Registrar’s Office and father-in-law of Alvin Shelton with Facility Services, passed away April 10. Funeral services were held April 16 at First Corinthian Baptist Church in Newark, N.J. A plant was sent to services from the NSU Floral Fund.

Janet Brooks, sister of John Adams, Physical Plant, and Dale Adams, Sodexho, and daughter of Doris Adams, passed away April 8. Services were held April 15 at Asbury United Methodist Church.

Melinda McClung, University Records Analyst, was killed in a traffic accident on March 24. She was the wife of Phillip McClung, a teacher at NSU Middle Lab School. NSU Floral Fund sent a plan to funeral services, held March 30 at The Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Natchitoches.

Funeral services for Bobby Pierson, brother-in-law of Dr. Patricia Pierson, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, were held April 27 at First United Methodist Church in Natchitoches.

Child and Family Network joins early childhood pilot program

Northwestern State University’s Child and Family Network will serve as Caddo Parish’s coordinating partner agency in the Early Childhood and Education Network, a pilot program that seeks to bring all state early childhood programs into one network. The initiative is intended to better serve birth to age five children and improve preschoolers’ readiness for kindergarten by providing access to quality Pre-K for at-risk 4-year-olds by fall 2015, according to the Louisiana Department of Education and Department of Child and Family Services.

Community Networks will put in place new common birth-to-five standards and assessments intended to enable communities to coordinate training, professional development and family engagement. The program involves school districts, childcare providers, Head Start programs and other partners.

The pilot programs, along with the Tiered Kindergarten Readiness Improvement System, will inform the transition, policies and operations of the Early Childhood Care and Education Network as it launches statewide. Community Network Pilots are unique in that they require all early childhood programs that receive public funds to work together to improve care and education for all children in need under age 5.

The pilot program marks the first time the state has made significant investment in building networks between schools, Head Start and child care.

“The program will unify standards and guidelines with the goal of having children better prepared when they start school,” said Nancy P. Alexander, executive director of the Child and Family Network.

Northwestern State’s Child and Family Network is part of the university’s Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and provides services in 21 parishes for parents and children, child care center employees and directors, family child care home providers and employers.

Their main office is in Shreveport with satellite offices in Alexandria and Natchitoches. The agency offers expertise in all areas of child care operations, including planning, staffing, food service, curriculum, regulations, national trends, enrollment, policies and procedures and financial matters.

For more information on Northwestern State’s Child and Family Network, visit cfn.nsula.edu.
Two of Sean Aldrin’s students in the Department of Fine + Graphic Art were winners of a poster contest sponsored by Barksdale Air Force Base’s 2nd Bomb Wing. Geoffrey Hollis of Deer Park, Texas, and Jared Roy of DeRidder were winner and runner-up respectively in the quarterly contest to design a poster for the foreign object debris (FOD) program that coordinates preventative measures to guarantee the B-52H Stratofortress stays airworthy. This is the first time an outside agency submitted posters for the FOD program and the first time a runner-up was selected, according to Staff Sgt. Jason McCasland, 2nd Bomb Wing public affairs.

Aldrin, assistant professor of art in Northwestern State’s graphic communications program, won the annual National Aerospace FOD Prevention, Inc. conference poster contest in 1997 and knew exactly what the FOD program is what the posters are for.

Hollis, the winner, received a certificate of recognition and a personalized tail flash plaque. His poster will be on display at the Touch-N-Go flight kitchen. Roy also received a certificate. 2nd Bomb Wing Vice Commander Col. Reid Langdon presented the awards.

“The submissions of the NSU students will go a long way towards raising the awareness of FOD and ultimately helping us prevent damage to our aircraft and help us save lives,” Langdon said. “We look forward to a continued partnership with NSU students in the future and appreciate the creativity our Airmen and the students of NSU have brought to the FOD program. Since it’s everyone’s responsibility to help keep a watchful eye for potential FOD threats, the poster program helps raise awareness and prevention by getting not just maintainers involved in the fight against FOD.”

The B-52H Stratofortress is valued at more than $73 million and provides the backbone of the bomber force with the ability for global attack and precision arrangement.

“The president of Northwestern State University saw an article that highlighted the FOD program earlier this year,” said Tech. Sgt. Steven Vance, 2 BW FOD monitor. “Shortly after, I was contacted by Sean Aldrin, an NSU professor, about submitting his students’ work. After reading the article Mr. Aldrin gave his students an extra credit assignment to create a FOD poster that would be submitted to us.”

“I wanted the students to know that they would be making something that could impact not just their grade, but others,” said Aldrin. “The students that participated in the poster contest had a great time working on the posters and put a lot of thought and hard work into them.”

For more information on the Department of Fine + Graphic Art at Northwestern State, visit art.nsula.edu.
Representatives from Rapides Regional Medical Center’s radiology department, cardiac catheterization and human resources conducted mock interviews for students in the radiologic technology program at Northwestern State University’s Cenla campus.

“In response to feedback received from our clinical sites regarding the interviewing skills of the graduates, the faculty decided to schedule a mock interview session,” said Kari Cook, assistant professor. Students dressed in business attire and resumes in hand met with a panel of interviewers and were given feedback about their performance. “All parties involved found this process to be extremely beneficial,” Cook said. “The students feel they learned valuable interview skills and have less anxiety regarding the interview process and the interviewers feel that they have some viable candidates to fill their vacant positions.” From left are Brandon Hughes of Pineville, Morgan Garner of Florien, Sandra Barthelemy of Goldonna, Landa Johnson of Pitkin, Lydia Kilgo of Bonita Springs, Fla.; Jessica Gray of Pollock, Dawn Carter of Leesville, Magen Creasey of Leesville, Lauren Waguespack of Addis and Garett Draughn of Leesville.