Outstanding Advisors recognized

Northwestern recognized Dr. Margaret E. Cochran and Steven Hicks with Academic Advising Awards during last week’s annual faculty institute. Dr. Cochran, professor of math and ecology in the Louisiana Scholars’ College, received the Outstanding Faculty Advisor Award. Hicks, director of General Studies and Advising in the University College, received the Outstanding Staff Advisory Award, the first staff member the university has recognized with the honor.

Outstanding Advisor Awards were presented by the Improvement of Advising Committee, who reviewed nominees based on advising philosophy, efforts to monitor student progress, professional development in advising, leadership in academic advising and letters of support from faculty, staff and students.

“Because it usually occurs one-on-one, academic advising is one of the less visible parts of a faculty member’s job. Sometimes it is the most important thing we do,” Cochran said. “Good academic advising can have a major impact on a student’s success in college and beyond. This reward is especially meaningful to me because the nominations came from our students.”

“Advising has been very rewarding for me on several levels. It is an extension of teaching in the classroom,” Hicks said. “Good advisors will help their advisees weigh the pros and cons to help them make informed decisions. Good advisors should not make the decisions, but they should guide, coach and mentor their students.”

“Dr. Cochran and Mr. Hicks are outstanding examples of the efforts made by all the faculty and staff at NSU who are very much interested in the education and development of the students at NSU,” said Dr. Dorene Fox, executive director for NSU’s Academic and Career Engagement. “Selecting the recipients

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for the faculty and staff awards, in academic advising, was a difficult task since all nominees were outstanding academic advisors.”

“Academic advising is a very important part of what we do at NSU, and to have such fine faculty and staff members working with our students has a direct impact upon student success,” said Dr. Lisa Abney, acting provost and vice president for Academic and Student Affairs. “Dr. Cochran and Mr. Hicks dedicate many hours to learning about our academic programs and to working with students in order to move them to completion of their degrees. We are, indeed, lucky to have these two outstanding individuals on campus.”

Dr. Austin Temple, dean of the College of Science and Technology, was recognized for 45 years of service to Northwestern during the school’s annual Faculty Institute. He was congratulated by President Dr. Randall J. Webb.
develop a teacher compensation system model. Members of each state team met in Nashville, Tennessee on August 10-11 to prepare for their work in the 2009-2010 year.

**Dr. Michelle Fazio Brunson** in Family and Consumer Sciences, Research Chair for LAECA, will have an article published in Collaborations, the journal of the Louisiana Early Childhood Association entitled *Research Column Collaborations: A Review of Observing Children’s Stress Behaviors in a Kindergarten Classroom* by Lori Jackson.

Dr. Brunson and **Dr. Barbara Duchardt** in the College of Education also collaborated on an article for the issue entitled *Louisiana Project Work: Documenting a Multisensory Experience*.

**Dr. Fazio Brunson** also applied for a grant to build a family literacy program at the NSU Child Development Center.

**Paul Christopher**, assistant professor of low strings, will be performing guest artist recitals at LSU-Baton Rouge Sept. 21 and at LSU-Shreveport Sept. 28. The Baton Rouge recital will consist of four 20th and 21st century works for solo cello including LSMSA faculty member Dr. Al Benner’s Recurrence and the premiere of Resonance for amplified cello by Dr. Mark Lee of Tennessee.

**Dr. Julie Delabbio**, director of the NSU Aquaculture Research Center, was invited to give a talk on biosecurity in aquaculture at a conference at the Catholic University of Temuco, Chile. Her presentation was a live video-conference televised to the audience at the “Improvement of Professional and Technical Competencies on Management in Aquaculture.” The conference was sponsored by the Human Capital Program of InnovaChile CORFO. CORFO is the primary organization within the Chilean government responsible for promoting economic growth in Chile. InnovaChile is the principal agency responsible for driving innovation in all types of businesses and supports research and education initiatives that further business development.

**Sue Champion** and **Margaret Kilcoyne** attended the Financial Service Representative Summit for the Northwest Louisiana Agency Field Office of State Farm held in Shreveport on Aug. 6. They presented information about NSU’s Coop Program and how others could use the model. Over 20 regional State Farm agents from Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, and Missouri attended the meeting. Several of NSU’s graduates organized and presented at the summit. They were Laura Wood, Raylie Hardy, Drew Payne, and Meredith Founds. These alumni are called “Agent Aspirants” because they want to be agents in the future.

**Dr. Julie H. Ernstien**, assistant professor of anthropology and coordinator of the undergraduate program in Heritage Resources, participated in the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU’s) “Politics and the Yellowstone Ecosystem” program on Aug. 3-9 at Yellowstone National Park in Montana and Wyoming. Offered as part of AASCU’s Civic Engagement in Action: The Stewardship of Public Lands initiative, the program brought together a dozen professors from around the country.

Participants met with National Park Service administrators, NPS researchers, wildlife biologists, conservationists, directors of environmental non-profits, a documentary film maker, cattle ranchers, activists, and legislators to discuss several controversial issues in/around the park such as gray wolves, bison, elk, and containment of the spread of brucellosis to herds outside the park. Participants were charged with using the experience to develop curriculum and activities to foster civil discussion of complex, flashpoint issues at their home institutions.

As a result, Ernstien is developing a graduate and undergraduate course which will examine the intersection of cultural and natural resource management issues within the greater Yellowstone ecosystem and is planning to incorporate a week-long immersion experience at Yellowstone into the class.
Dr. Thomas Hanson was recognized by Northwestern faculty and staff for his five years of service to the school as provost and assistant vice president for Academic and Student Affairs during the annual Faculty Institute. From left are NSU First Lady Brenda Webb, Hanson's successor Dr. Lisa Abney; Dr. Webb and Hanson.

Dr. Hanson was also honored with a reception for faculty, staff and colleagues on Aug. 20. In the left photo are Dr. Hanson, his wife Dr. Brenda Hanson, an assistant professor in the College of Education; Brenda Webb and Randy Webb. In the left photo are Mary Margaret Shivers, coordinator of Academic Affairs; Dr. Brenda Hanson, Dr. Steve Horton, associate provost and dean of the Graduate School, and Dr. Thomas Hanson.

NSU Floral fund made a donation to the Fleming Arden Thomas Book Fund at the NSU Foundation in memory of Mr. Fleming Thomas, Director of NSU Libraries.

NSU Floral fund made a donation to the NSU Foundation in memory of the following retirees: Mrs. Luvenia Friday, NSU Bookstore, Oscar Billingsley, Director of Testing Center, and for Ms. Loy Monroe, Student Resident House Parent.
Dr. James Crank has had a busy spring and summer. In April, he traveled on an NEF grant to Jackson, Miss., to the Eudora Welty Centennial where he delivered his paper, “‘They Came in a Body’: Imagining and Vocalizing Class in Welty’s *Ponder Heart.*” He visits the South Atlantic Modern Language Association in Atlanta this November where he will chair the session “Southerners in Contemporary Film.”


Susie Kuilan’s work on a new new edition of Kate Chopin’s *The Awakening* has been accepted by Broadview Press. Forthcoming in 2010. Her paper entitled “Charles Brockden Brown’s Theory of the Novel as Reflected in *Wieland; or the Transformation,*” was accepted and will presented at this year’s SCMLA in Baton Rouge. She was also recently accepted and started in distance learning version of the Army War College. Upon graduation in 2011, she will be awarded a Master’s of Science in Strategic Studies. In November, she will run her first marathon.

Michelle Pichon was one of the selected Regional Writers for the *Country Roads* magazine Regional Writers Edition in June; she had two haikus selected and published.

Shane Rasmussen is pleased to announce that the Louisiana Folklife Center has received a grant for $3,965 from the Shreveport Regional Arts Council in support of the 2010 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival. The grant is designated to pay for some of the craftpersons and musicians that will attend the Festival.

Fred Taulbee is currently involved in a documentary about a uniquely made bartop with about 20 frames in which items were placed and covered with shelac.

One frame contains coins from all over the world. Another frame contains pins. Several have beach themes with miniatures inside them. One actually has a miniature bowling lane. Some have advertising, personal pictures, stained glass, etc., most of them with tropical or beach themes since the name of the bar is Paradise. He will also present a Halloween poetry reading some time before Halloween, which will include works by Fred, Poe, Adam Rex, excerpts from horror rock songs and some student work.

Robert Tummons is writing a chapter for a book tentatively titled “iRhetoric,” which features aspects of classical and contemporary rhetorical views on the developing web and (especially) Apple Inc.’s advertising and hardware/software additions and their affect on society. His chapter is entitled “‘Hi, I’m a Mac…and I’m Aristotle’: How the Ancient Rules of Rhetoric Influence the Mac vs. PC Advertisements.” This book is planned for publication sometime next year (though hard dates are still unavailable).

Findings from Curtis’s research on emergency preparedness reaches national audience

Tammy Curtis, assistant professor of radiologic sciences at NSU, released findings from a study that suggest that many institutions lack key elements of an emergency preparedness policy necessary to prevent, respond and recover from mass casualty events, such as campus shootings. The study was published in Inside Higher Ed, U.S. News and World Report and other national media outlets.

Most campus safety experts agree that campus shootings can take place anywhere, and they also agree that a common set of emergency preparedness policies and procedures should be in place at every college and university. Curtis examined the publicly available emergency preparedness plans of 40 two-year and four-year colleges that have accredited programs in her field to see how closely they mirrored recommendations made by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Education Department’s Emergency Response and Crisis Management Technical Assistance Center. Of the plans she was able to access, just 29 percent had evacuation plans, 32 percent had policies for reporting suspicious persons or activities, 18 percent had procedures on how to handle an active shooter scenario, and a mere 7 percent had written policies on how to help students experiencing psychological distress.

NSU joins Environmental Leadership Program

Northwestern has been named one of four charter university members of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality’s Environmental Leadership Program (ELP). ELP is a voluntary program that aims to promote a cleaner and better environment for Louisiana.

“Our membership in Louisiana’s Environmental Leadership Program is indicative of our university’s commitment to protecting the environment, conserving resources, and minimizing waste,” said Steve Gruesbeck, director of Service-Learning at Northwestern. Gruesbeck has spearheaded green efforts at NSU aimed at creating a healthy and environmentally friendly campus. He plans to use the program to influence students’ academic and co-curricular activities.

“Faculty and students are encouraged to investigate ways in which ‘green’ issues could be appropriately addressed through coursework, research, service-learning and other academic endeavors,” Gruesbeck said. “Likewise, interested student organizations, as well as faculty and staff, will have opportunities to participate in ‘green’ service activities throughout the academic year like recycling and litter abatement.”

Northwestern has already placed focus on maintaining a safe and healthy campus. Prior to the start of the fall semester, NSU initiated a recycling program that includes not only university faculty, staff and student facilities, but also the lab schools and the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training.

The Louisiana Environmental Leadership Program began in 1995 as a cooperative effort between DEQ and participating companies, organizations and municipalities in the state. Today, any company, federal facility, municipality, school or individual committed to improving the quality of the state’s environment is eligible to join the program.

We want to hear from you!

Watch your email! As part of our assessment and improvement program, NSU will conduct an online survey of recent graduates this month. We look forward to receiving your response.

For more information contact: Roni Biscoe at ramirezv@nsula.edu or (318) 357-6359.
A team of students from Parkway High School in Bossier City won first place in Northwestern’s Cyber Forensics Camp in which students used analytical thinking, teamwork and the latest tools in cyber technology to solve a mock crime. Parkway was awarded $1,250 by the Cyber Innovation Center for their success in the multi-disciplinary immersion experience that included elements of criminal justice, computer information systems, history, biology, chemistry, geography, law, English and media. On the front row from left are Kristi White, teacher; Nathan Herwig, Shana Mullins, Midori McAtee and Anri Lemoine. On the back row are Zayne Grantham, Brian Hollingsworth, teacher, and Principal Joe Huffman. Not shown is Shaun Dilda.

The Faculty Senate will meet on Sept. 15, Oct. 20 and Nov. 17, according to Dr. Darrell Fry. Meetings will be held in the President’s Room in the Student Union from 3:30-5 p.m.

To have an item placed on the agenda, contact Fry at fryd@nsula.edu, Betty Howell-Maroney at howellb@nsula.edu or Jim Cruse at cruisej@nsula.edu.

“We will be looking for a new parliamentarian in September. One person has expressed a willingness to serve,” Fry said.

New officers will be elected at the November meeting. Traditionally officers have served two consecutive terms. Fry, Howell and Cruise have all served two terms.

Holly Stave and Lisa Galminas will be joining the Promotions Committee to take the place of members whose terms have expired.

Randy Reed has announced that he no longer wishes to serve on the Library Council. The LC membership calls for distributions among the colleges. Anyone from the College of Business who would be willing to serve on this committee should e-mail Cruise at cruisej@nsula.edu.

A team of students from Captain Shreve High School in Shreveport received $750 for second place at Northwestern’s Cyber Forensics Camp, supported by the Cyber Innovation Center. On front row from left are Morgan Gascoyne, Tiffany Haines, Aliana Wilson and Ashley Deal. On the middle row are Taylor Wiegand, Patricia O’Roarke, teacher, and Helen Marrs. On the back row is Seth Dubois, teacher. Participants in the camp learned about computer forensics, photo analysis and documenting wireless evidence. All of the northwest Louisiana high schools that participated received $500 technology award from the CIC.
CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Darlene Williams, Vice President of Technology, Research and Economic Development, received notification of an award of $381,000 from the U.S. Department of Education for “Campus Instructional Technological Enhancement – ‘Technology Upgrades’.”

Ms. Claudia Triche, Department of Social Work, College of Liberal Arts, received notification of an award of $3,278,281 from the Louisiana Department of Social Services, Office of Community Services, for “Undergraduate Training in Child Welfare.”

Dr. Julie Delabbio, Aquaculture Resource Center, received notification from the Louisiana State University Agriculture Center for an award of $132,310 for the “Aquaculture Research Project (River Water Research).”

Ms. Julie Longlois, Carl Perkins Program, Office of Electronic & Continuing Education, received notification of an award of $141,940 from the Louisiana Community & Technical College System for the continuation of “Carl D. Perkins Career & Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006 Local Application Plan Basic Grant-Postsecondary.”

Dr. Elizabeth Guin, School of Social Sciences, College of Liberal Arts, received notification of an award of $5,000 from The National Park Service for the continuation of “NCPTT – NSU Joint Assistantship.”

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Dr. Laura Aaron, College of Nursing, submitted a proposal to the American Society of Radiologic Technologists for “Academic Honesty and Professional Behavior among Rad. Sciences and Nursing Students and Faculty in the United States.” Dr. Pamela Simmons and Ms. Diane Webb are collaborators.

Dr. Norann Planchock, College of Nursing, submitted a proposal to the LSUHSC Foundation, Medical Homes Project, for “Sustaining and Expanding the Optimal Medical Home Workforce through the Identification of Quality Nurse Practitioner Preceptor-Preceptor Sites in Region 7.”

Mr. Jeff Girard, School of Social Sciences, College of Liberal Arts, submitted a proposal to the Louisiana Division of Archaeology for “Regional Archaeology Program 2009-2010.”

Dr. Elizabeth Guin, School of Social Sciences, College of Liberal Arts, submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation, subcontracting through the University of Delaware, for “U.S. - China Partnership for Research and Education in Preservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage.” Dr. Julie Ernstine and Mr. Jeff Guin are collaborators.

For more information regarding funding opportunities, visit ORSP’s website at www.nsula.edu/orsp.
Colleagues remember Fleming Thomas

By Stephanie Masson, NSU Department of Language and Communication

Books and beasts is how Jean D’Amato Thomas describes the memorials established to honor her late husband, Fleming Thomas. The words describe two of his passions in life.

“He really liked his work. Though 75 at the time of his death, retirement from the library wasn’t part of Thomas’ plan. “He really liked his work. There was no reason not to continue to do it.” D’Amato Thomas said of her husband. “He felt as though the library at this point needed a certain stability and he was devoted to it. NSU was important at the beginning and the end of his intellectual life.”

Fleming loved books and pushed for all he could so that the book budget for the library be maintained,” D’Amato Thomas said. “The most fitting tribute I could think of was a book fund.”

Together with NSU Acting Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Lisa Abney, she established the Fleming Arden Thomas Library Book Fund through the NSU Foundation. D’Amato Thomas said books purchased through the fund will be appropriate for the academic interests of the NSU community.

Memorial donations can also be made to the Natchitoches Animal Shelter. The Thomas’ two dogs were former shelter pets.

The Fleming Thomas Lecture Series will also serve to keep Thomas legacy alive. The series will bring local and regional faculty to NSU to discuss their research.

Thomas was a small town boy from Ringgold, who traveled far and wide before returning to his roots. After graduating from NSU and Louisiana State University, he served in the U.S. Army as part of the Army Intelligence Corps. A university librarian by profession, he worked in the libraries of The Citadel, Miami-Dade Junior College, Indiana University at Bloomington, and Burlington Community College where he was a founder of the college, helped to establish the library where he was later director, then served as dean of the College.

He returned to Ringgold to be near his aging parents and was in private business for a few years before joining the staff of Watson Library. Fifty years after his graduation from NSU, Thomas was named director of libraries.

It was during this time that he met and married his wife of 20 years D’Amato Thomas.

“One of the first things I did when I came to work at NSU was to go the interlibrary loan office, where I met Fleming behind the desk. He ordered a book for me and six weeks later we were engaged.” Thomas was a widower and D’Amato Thomas had never married. “He seemed like a regular guy and an intellectual,” D’Amato Thomas said about her attraction to Thomas. “He had a keen intellect and I really appreciate that in a person. He had no pretentions.”

Many students and faculty benefitted greatly from Thomas’ help with their research.

FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES

“Dr. Hanson called the Senate into Session at 3:34 p.m., a good two minutes off his mark (he was in a very laid back mood) and called for approval of the minutes of 21 February 1995. The Minutes were approved but Ms. Howell-Maroney wanted it known that she was not swigging Evian water; it was just plain ole Wal-Mart water. She remains a woman of the common people… Well, anyhow, we gone meet next week no matter how high the bayou rises, and Dr. Simpson will send out all kinds of good stuff over the E-mail channel (we all have an E-mail channel, do we?) and we will get this matter settled.” (21 March 1995).

D’Amato Thomas said her husband was proud of the faculty minutes.

“It was a sacred time in the house when he worked on them,” she said. “He always used a typewriter to type them, he hated the computer.”

Thomas had many interests outside the library including canoeing, World War II history and the Mayan culture. He traveled to Mayan sites in Central America and last summer traveled to Sicily where he particularly enjoyed the ruins, D’Amato Thomas said. He was featured in the book “Armed America: Portraits of Gun Owners in Their Homes” photographed by Kyle Cassidy. In response to why he owned a gun, Thomas harkened back to his early days in Ringgold when guns were a tool for survival, used to harvest game for the dinner table.

Thomas was also a consultant for the Natchitoches Parish Library when it moved to its current location on Second Street and was active with the Literacy Council. He was also a supporter and participant in the Caroline Dorman Foundation.

Though 75 at the time of his death, retirement from the library wasn’t part of Thomas’ plan. “He really liked his work. There was no reason not to continue to do it.” D’Amato Thomas said of her husband. “He felt as though the library at this point needed a certain stability and he was devoted to it. NSU was important at the beginning and the end of his intellectual life.”
NON-CREDIT SHORT COURSES SEPTEMBER CLASSES

COUNTRY LINE DANCE
Date: Sept. 2 - 30, Wed
Time: 6 - 7 p.m.
Fee: $65
Location: Health & Human Performance Bldg., Rm. 127
Instructor: Sandy Tamplin with SandysDance Center/Shreveport

KENPO KARATE
Date: Sept. 2-Dec. 9, Mon & Wed
Time: 6:45-8 p.m.
Fee: $89-Children (ages 7-14)
$99-Adults (ages 14 and up)
Location: Health & Human Performance Bldg, Rm. 127
Instructor: O-Sensei San Romulus Roquemore

WATER AEROBICS
Date: Sept. 9-Dec. 11, Mon, Wed, & Fri
Time: 10-11 a.m.
Fee: $95
Location: Nesom Natatorium
Instructor: Denise Poleman

PRIVATE ONE-ON-ONE PHOTOGRAPHY LESSONS
(Availability Limited/Only 2 Students per Date)
FIRST COME FIRST SERVE
Choose one of the following dates:
Sept. 8, Tues
Sept. 29, Tues
Oct. 6, Tues
Oct. 27, Tues
Nov. 3, Tues
Nov. 17, Tues
Choose one of the following times for your lesson:
10 a.m. -12 p.m. or 3-5 p.m.
Fee: $85
Location: Dodd Hall, Rm. 132-B
Instructor: Gale Trussell

BASIC FLORAL DESIGN I
Date: Sept. 12, 19, & 26, Sat.
Time: 1-4 p.m.
Fee: $200 + $100 mat. fee
Location: Russell Hall, Rm. 203 (Natchitoches Room Kitchen)
Instructor: Dawn Martin

BEGINNING GUITAR
Date: Sept. 15-Nov. 3, Tues
Time: 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Fee: $49
Location: NSU Middle Lab, Rm. 161
Instructor: Philip McClung

INTERMEDIATE GUITAR
Date: Sept. 15-Nov. 3, Tues
Time: 5:30-6:30 p.m.

To learn more visit
http://www.gatlineducation.com/nsula
& http://www.ed2go.com/nsu/
To REGISTER CALL
800-376-2422 or 318-357-6355