Reading on the River organizers get grant to expand promotion of annual literacy event

A presenter for the Northwestern State University Child and Family Network received a grant from Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society to support next year’s Reading on the River, an event designed to engage young children and their parents in early literacy activities. Debra Jo Hailey is coordinator for the program, which engages volunteers from several of NSU’s academic departments, Greek organizations and honor societies who read and present books to children. More than 1,000 books were given to children who attended the event, which is free and open to the public.

“This money will allow us to do some things that we have not been able to do in the past,” Hailey said. “Participants will see at least one visiting author from out of town and we will have professional color hand-outs for parents and a catchy advertising jingle on local radio stations. In addition, we will have a greater internet presence in the form of a website and improved activities because we can reimburse presenters for educational materials.”

During the 2012 event in April, children and parents not only were audience to stories read aloud by Northwestern State faculty and students, but were also led in creating self-illustrated books and other activities that support literacy skills.

“Last spring’s event would not have had nearly the impact that it did without the participation of the NSU academic community,” said Pat Alexander, supervisor of the NSU Head Start Center and assistant coordinator of Reading on the River. “Teachers and other professionals used developmentally appropriate teaching methods to engage children and their parents in activities that entertained and educated.”

Parents were given reinforcement so they could easily mimic those methods at home, Alexander said. In addition, each gift book contained a Quick Response Code to connect parents to the Reading on the River Facebook page, which provided additional links to resources and information.

Reading on the River takes place every spring in downtown Natchitoches.

Faculty Insitute, employee luncheon Aug. 15

Northwestern State’s annual Faculty Institute will take place Wednesday, Aug. 15 with presentations in Magale Recital Hall.

A faculty/staff luncheon will follow in Prather Coliseum.

Employees from all campus departments are invited to the luncheon.
Three faculty in Northwestern State University’s Department of Radiologic Sciences were named winners in the Jean I. Widger Distinguished Author Award, presented by the American Society of Radiologic Technologists. The award honors the best peer-reviewed articles published in ASRT journals.

Dr. Laura Aaron, Dr. Pamela Simmons and Diane Graham-Webb, M.S.N., R.N., are the winners of the Widger award for their article “Academic Dishonesty and Unprofessional Behavior.” The article appeared in the November/December 2011 issue of Radiologic Technology.

Aaron is an associate professor, department chairman and graduate coordinator for the radiologic sciences program at Northwestern State’s campus in Shreveport. Simmons is a professor and the department chairman of the nursing program at Northwestern State University. Graham-Webb was an associate professor and the director of nontraditional studies in nursing at Northwestern State until her recent retirement.

Their study investigated differences in perceptions of academic dishonesty and unprofessional behavior among radiologic science students and faculty members. “We noticed instances of academic dishonesty in our program and wondered if this bode unfavorably for the future nurse or radiologic sciences student in terms of their professionalism in practice,” Simmons said. “Since the study, I think we have seen an increase as more and more courses go online.”

In conducting the study, radiologic science faculty and students were questioned about their perceptions of academic dishonesty and unprofessional behavior using ethical scenarios. The researchers noted significant differences between faculty and student values regarding the seriousness of cheating and unprofessional behavior. Efforts should be directed toward bridging the gap between faculty and student perceptions, researchers concluded.

In receiving the award, each researcher received a certificate, plaque and a cash award to divide between them.

For more information on Northwestern State’s Radiologic Sciences programs, visit radiologicsciences.nsula.edu.
As an Air Force nurse, as well as a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom, Dr. Stephen Hernandez witnessed the psychological trauma that combat can inflict upon soldiers and was aware of negative stereotypes that often prevent veterans from seeking mental health services. Focusing on an area more specific to his career as a critical care nurse, Hernandez recently completed his doctoral dissertation conducting research that studied the perceptions of stigma related to active duty nurses regarding seeking mental health services.

Hernandez’s findings indicate that nurses do have a similar level of stigma associated with seeking mental health services, feelings similar to soldiers who recently returned from deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan.

“It is surprising because nurses receive education and continuing education that support the benefits of mental health services,” Hernandez said. “This suggests that stigma extends to people who support combatants.”

A native of Shreveport, Hernandez is an assistant professor in Northwestern State University’s College of Nursing and Allied Health and a major in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

In surveys, Hernandez’s gauged resistance to seeking mental health treatment on two fronts. On a stigma scale, individuals indicated whether or not they were felt they were treated differently or had a feeling of being different for seeking medical treatment. A barrier scale revealed practical reasons that an individual would not seek help, such as a lack of transportation or lack of knowledge of where to find services.

“In the military, the stigma has to do with the possibility that seeking treatment could affect one’s career,” Hernandez explained. “The culture of the military is that you depend on those with whom you serve so you don’t want to let them down. Despite the military’s efforts to increase access to mental health services, the stigma persists.” Hernandez’s research suggests that the stigma extends to non-combatant caregivers.

Hernandez’s interest on the subject arose after he read a 2004 article published in the New England Journal of Medicine that discussed stigma perceived by soldiers and Marines returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Hernandez chose to focus on those who are caregivers of service members and veterans to determine their perceptions.

“We now need to do additional research,” he said. “I hope to pursue a study with a broader range of health care professionals with samples from the Army and Navy.” He hopes to publish the study, disseminate the findings more broadly and seek ways to replicate the study with more branches in the military and the allied health community, which includes physicians, nurses, physicians assistants and other health care providers.

Hernandez earned his Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Northwestern State in 1995 and Master of Science in Nursing at NSU in 2001. He completed his Ph.D. in nursing this summer through the University of New Mexico and defended his dissertation with distinction. His areas of clinical expertise include intensive care, medical/surgical, trauma and telemetry nursing. He is a member of Sigma Theta Tau, the honor society for nursing, and Phi Kappa Phi.

Hernandez has served as a commissioned officer for more than 15 years. He was deployed from March 2003-March 2004 with the 94th Combat Support Hospital in support of Operation Enduring and Iraqi Freedom to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany. He serves in Air Force Reserves at Barksdale with 307th Medical Squadron and works as a relief nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at Overton Books VA Medical Center in Shreveport.
Northwestern State Student Affairs staff members Jamila S. Maxie and Traci LaBom-Norris joined higher education administrators and faculty from across the nation to participate in the Leadership and Mentorship Institute (LMI) sponsored by American Association of Black in Higher Education (AABHE) held at Miles College in Fairfield, Ala., July 15-22.

Maxie, the director of Testing, and LaBom-Norris, the assistant director of Counseling and Career Services, spent a week acquiring the requisite information and skills to prepare them for senior administrative or faculty ranks. The two were nominated by Dr. Henrietta Pichon, associate professor and program coordinator of the Student Affairs in Higher Education program. Pichon is also a 2008 alumna of LMI and currently a board member for AABHE.

“For the participants, it is a great honor to be selected to attend the institute,” said Pichon. “LMI accepts a limited number of participants each year who are selected on a competitive basis; based on their previous academic responsibilities and leadership, Jamila and Traci were selected from a pool of highly qualified applicants.”

“This was a wonderful opportunity to not only assess what skills were currently in my leadership toolbox, but also to establish mentoring relationships with administrators and faculty from across various disciplines and administrative roles,” said Maxie. “The institute facilitators were highly diverse and willing to share from their wealth of experience and information.”

The sessions ranged from “Working Effectively with Essential Units for University Success,” “Strategic Planning and Accreditation,” “Strategic Budgeting to Personality and Conflict Management” and Taking Care of You.

“We have assembled

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Phifer earns Fleming Thomas faculty literacy award

Northwestern State University Professor of Biology Dr. Curt Phifer has been named the 2012 recipient of the Fleming A. Thomas Faculty Information Literacy Award.

Recipients of the award must meet several criteria that include working with librarians to create assignments that will ensure a positive research experience for students, scheduling information literacy sessions for students and encouraging students to work closely with librarians to further their research.

According to Phifer, more scientific knowledge is available than ever before, but students can’t always trust what is available. Phifer’s students do library research in all courses, including introductory and laboratory courses.

“Evaluating information is harder to do today than it used to be,” he said. “There is no scarcity of information, but one has to be careful in evaluating what is valid and valuable and what is not. I try to teach students how to evaluate sources including websites, online journals, traditional journals and government publications.”

Phifer was at Duke University before joining the faculty in the Scholars’ College in 1988. A strong advocate of research, Phifer has obtained more than $500,000 in extramural grants. He has also published in leading scientific journals and made numerous presentations to state, national and international professional conferences.

Phifer was president of Northwestern State’s Faculty Senate in 1999-2000 and 2000-01 and has served on a variety of university committees, including chair of the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board for two separate terms.

“I am very honored to receive this award since I knew Fleming very well and respect all that he did for the library and NSU,” said Phifer.

Thomas was director of libraries in at NSU from 2005-09 and was interim director in 2004-05.

A 1955 graduate of Northwestern State, Thomas earned a graduate degree in library science at LSU and completed post-graduate coursework at Rutgers University. He worked in various capacities in libraries at The Citadel, Indiana University and Miami-Dade Junior College and served as chairman of the Division of Learning Resources at Burlington County College in Pemberton, N.J., while earning a certificate in library management at the University of Maryland’s Graduate School of Library Science. He was dean of academic affairs at Burlington County College for eight years and later was director of that campus library. He returned to Northwestern State in 1988 as reference and interlibrary loan librarian.

Leadership and Mentoring Institute ...Continued from Page 4

academic scholars and administrators who have demonstrated a commitment to excellence, leadership and mentoring,” said Dr. Barbara Johnson, director of LMI and professor and department chair at Northern Illinois University.

“LMI is an excellent opportunity for professional development,” said Dr. Chris Maggio, dean of students and assistant provost for Student Life. “There are limitless opportunities in higher education and the institute assists with defining a clear career path. I am excited that two of our staff members were able to participate in an institute of this caliber and I know this experience will prove beneficial for them, their departments, and the NSU community.”
The audience at the 33rd annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival held on July 20-21 was entertained and educated about the rich and diverse cultural offerings of the state. The Festival featured traditional Louisiana foods, music, narrative sessions and musical informances, cultural exhibits, Kidfest, and the annual Louisiana State Fiddle Championship.

The Festival began on Friday evening with a gumbo cook-off held outside Prather Coliseum. Four competitors cooked chicken and sausage gumbo, which hungry Festival attendees sampled at the price of “a buck a cup.” The Grand Champion of the cook-off was Alan Broussard, with Elvin Shields winning the People’s Choice Award.

The Festival continued with a rousing Cajun and country dance with Cajun dance lessons led by Champ and Joann Crossno, followed by main stage performances by Briggs Brown and the Bayou Cajuns, country singer Yvette Landry, and Cajun on Demand. Side stage performances included music by gospel group Jesus Rhythm as well as a crowded open bluegrass and country music jam.

Saturday’s events included performances in Prather Coliseum by Richard Smith and Julie Adams, Max and Marcy, The LaCour Trio, Goldman Thibodeaux and the Lawtell Playboys, Reverend Charley’s Patent Medicine Show, Ray Abshire, the Caddo Creek Band, Feufollet, Kenny Bill Stinson and the Ark-La Mystics, Henry Gray and the Cats, the Louisiana Purchase Bluegrass Band, Hardrick Rivers and the Rivers Revue Band, and Reasonable Facsimile. In addition to stage performances there were eight informances, where bands spoke with scholars and audiences about their traditions and influences, accompanied by impromptu acoustic musical performances.

Other narrative sessions included conversations with the makers of handmade instruments, as well as a session with songwriters on lyrics as an evocative storytelling device. The children in Kidfest made a variety of handmade musical instruments as well as participated in a cakewalk.

Beau Thomas was named the 2012 Fiddle Championship Grand Champion during this year’s contest. The annual Louisiana State Fiddle Championship was also held on Saturday in the Magale Recital Hall as part of the Festival. Fiddle Championship judges included Lauren Ford, the 2011 Fiddle Championship Grand Champion, as well as Chris Segura and Chris Stafford of the Cajun group Feufollet. The new Louisiana Grand Champion is Beau Thomas. As the new Louisiana State Fiddle champion, Thomas also performed on the main stage in Prather Coliseum.

Also placing in the Championship was Gracie Babineaux in second place, Fred Beavers in third place, Emily Young in fourth place, Justin Eddlemon in fifth place, and Pam Smellley in sixth place. Before the Fiddle Championship on the Magale stage was the musical revue “A History of Louisiana Fiddling: Styles and Genres,” presented by fiddler Ron Yule and the Medicare String Band.

In honor of this year’s Festival theme, “Celebrating Louisiana’s Folk Music,” three Louisiana musicians were inducted into the Louisiana Folklife Center Hall of Master Folk Artists: Cajun accordionist Ray Abshire, blues and jazz pianist Henry Gray, and accordionist and la la Creole musician Goldman Thibodeaux. NSU faculty members Dr. Pete Gregory and Dr. Shane Rasmussen as well as Natchitoches...
City Councilwoman Sylvia Morrow and Natchitoches Mayor Lee Posey took part in the induction ceremony. Thirty four craftspeople displayed their traditional work on Saturday. These craftspeople demonstrated and discussed their work with those attending the Festival. Craftspeople displayed beadwork, baskets, instruments, Pysanky eggs, bull whips, iron work, quilts and bonnets, whittling and needlework, wood carving, toys, dolls, paintings, sculpture, walking sticks and more.

Food vendors provided a cornucopia of traditional Louisiana foods to the Festival audience. For sale were fry bread and Indian tacos, cinnamon roasted pecans and almonds, po-boys, sweet tea, red beans and sausage, calzone, pizza, lemonade, catfish, shrimp, and gator on a stick, kolaches, strudel, nitz, tamales, boudin, and beef jerky and more.

Support for the Festival was provided by grants from the Department of Culture, Recreation, & Tourism: Louisiana Division of the Arts--Shreveport Regional Arts Council, the Natchitoches Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission, the Cane River National Heritage Area, Paragon Casino Resort, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The success of the Festival was made possible due to many volunteers from NSU’s faculty and staff, who gave generously of their time and talents. Thanks are due to Dr. Lisa Abney, Debbie Adair, Henry Beasley, Bill Brent, Ashley Briggs, Chuck Bourg, Sherry Byers, NSU alumni James Christopher Callahan, Kay Cavanaugh, Matt DEFord, NSU alumni Curtis Desselles, Shirley Dobson (and her husband, Ben Dobson), Heather Salter Dromm, Pam Dyes, Dr. Pete Gregory, Dr. Tommy Hailey (and his wife, Debra Jo Hailey, and son, Thomas Hailey), Gary Hardamon, Marcus Jones, Wanda Charlene LeBrun, Byron McKinney, Jim Mischler, Drake Owens, Sandra Prudhomme, Kathy Pylant, Michael Salard, Bill Smith, Jack Smith, Stephanie Stanton, NSU alumni Brian Sweeters, Sharon Sweeters, Sherrie Thomasee, Dr. Randall Webb, David West, Dr. Arthur Williams, Oona Zbitkovski, and the Red River Sanitors. Thanks are also due to NSU students Alicia Anderson, Lauren Carroll, Eugene Edwards, Sharonica Garrison, Randa Lopez, Raven Maxile, Robin Maxile, Clarissa Morgan, China Sheppard, and Angela Kimbrough, Folklife Center intern. The Folklife Center would also like to thank Cane River National Heritage Area volunteer Bernadette Cooney, NCPTT volunteers Jason Church, Jorge Rodriguez, and Stacey Urlacher, and Shirley Faye Winslow from Sodexo.

Dr. Shane Rasmussen, director of the Festival and the Louisiana Folklife Center and assistant professor of English, observed that “without the assistance of our many volunteers the Festival would not be a reality. These folks gave their best efforts to this event, and we are deeply grateful. On behalf of the Folklife Center staff as well as the Festival audience, I extend my thanks.”
CONGRATULATIONS

Ms. Shelia Richmond and Ms. Markita Hamilton, Creole Heritage Center, College of Arts, Letters, Graduate Studies and Research, received notification of a $6,450 award from Cane River National Heritage Area for “A Guide to Black Churches in Natchitoches Parish: A Cultural Guide.” Dr. Hiram F. Gregory and Ms. Loletta Wynder are collaborators.

Drs. Tommy Hailey and Hiram F. Gregory, Criminal Justice, History and Social Sciences, College of Arts, Letters, Graduate Studies and Research, received notification of a $25,000 award from the Cane River National Heritage Area for “Collections Management of CRNHA-Related Materials at NSU CRO and Williamson Museum.”

Ms. Lisa Rougeou, Department of Language and Communication, College of Arts, Letters, Graduate Studies and Research, received notification of a $20,000 award from the University of California – Berkeley for “Evaluating the Impact of Professional Development to Meet Challenging Writing Standards in High-Need Elementary Schools.”

Ms. Claudia Triche, Department of Social Work, College of Arts, Letters, Graduate Studies and Research, received notification of $3,406,295 award from the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services for “Undergraduate Training in Child Welfare.”

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Mr. Hiram F. Gregory and Ms. Shelia Richmond, Creole Heritage Center, College of Arts, Letters, Graduate Studies and Research, submitted a proposal to the National Park Service entitled “Symposium: ‘Hispanic Roots of Creole Culture.’” Ms. Loletta Wynder is collaborator.

Dr. Shane Rasmussen, LA Folklife Center, College of Arts, Letters, Graduate Studies and Research, submitted a proposal to the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival entitled “2013 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival.”

Mr. Kevin Ammons and Mr. Kirk Cordell, National Center for Preservation, Technology, and Training, submitted a proposal to the National Park Service for “GIS Interns.”

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

I. AVAILABILITY OF FY 2012-13 BOARD OF REGENTS SUPPORT FUND REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

Requests for proposals (RFPs) for FY 2012-13 are now available on the Sponsored Programs website (http://web.laregents.org) for the following Board of Regents Support Fund competitive grants programs: (1) Traditional and Undergraduate Enhancement; (2) Enhancement for Two-Year Institutions; (3) Research and Development; (4) Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars; (5) Graduate Fellows and Graduate Fellowships for Teachers; (6) BoR/SREB Graduate Fellowships to Promote Diversity; and (7) Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars. We would

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appreciate your disseminating this notice as widely as possible on your campus. The Board remains particularly interested in encouraging the development of projects that have statewide implications and benefits.

II. IMPORTANT DEADLINES


Applicants who wish to submit proposals under either of the Research and Development Subprograms (Research Competitiveness or Industrial Ties Research) must first submit a notice of intent in accordance with the guidelines in the R&D RFP.

B. Deadline for Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholard (ATLAS) Notices of Intent: October 10, 2012

Applicants who wish to submit proposals under ATLAS Program must first submit a notice of intent in accordance with the guidelines in the ATLAS RFP.

C. Deadline for Asking Questions about these RFPs: October 15, 2012

In accordance with R.S. 39:1503, a deadline of October 15, 2012 has been established for receipt of questions related to these RFPs. After this date, no further inquiries can be accepted. All questions posed and answers provided by Board staff will be posted on the Sponsored Programs website as soon as possible after the deadline. Operating in this manner ensures that all potential applicants receive the same information.

D. Deadlines for Submission of Full Proposals

October 24, 2012  Traditional and Undergraduate Enhancement Programs and Enhancement Program for Two-Year Institutions

October 31, 2012  Industrial Ties Research Subprogram

November 7, 2012  Research Competitiveness Subprogram

November 14, 2012  Graduate Fellows, Graduate Fellowships for Teachers and BoR/SREB Doctoral Fellowships to Promote Diversity Programs

November 21, 2012  Awards to Louisiana Artists and Scholars Program

February 1, 2013  Endowed Chairs for Eminent Scholars Program

For more information regarding funding opportunities, visit ORSP’s website at www.nsula.edu/orsp.
The Creole Heritage Center at Northwestern State University is beginning a project to document the history of black churches in Natchitoches Parish and is seeking input from pastors and congregations willing to share church histories and records.

Researchers plan to compile an index of churches and eventually publish a book that would be of interest to historians and genealogists. The Center was awarded a grant from the Cane River National Heritage Area to begin the first phase of the project.

“In the first phase, we will work to compile a list of churches and contacts. Then we will create a survey asking if they have their church history. Many churches do and they read those on their church anniversary,” said graduate student Markita Hamilton, the project’s principal investigator. She plans to work with the Natchitoches Ministerial Alliance and attend district church meetings in search of records pertaining to births, baptisms, deaths, marriages, pastors, memberships and any photographs that may exist. Hamilton hopes congregations will be willing to have their records scanned, digitized and eventually made searchable. “I’m very interested in the little known facts about each church.”

“There was a book published in 2001 entitled, ‘Historic Black Churches of Natchitoches Parish’ which only included approximately 40 churches,” said Loletta Wynder, project coordinator for the Creole Heritage Center. “In our primary research, we have found that there were many more thriving churches that were not included, some that were established over 100 years ago. In addition, we need to include other churches that were established over the last ten years, after the printing of the original book. The project could grow and grow, but first we have to get the information.”

Hamilton and Wynder will give priority to older churches that have the most fragile records. They will document cemeteries associated with the churches, deacons and information pertaining to how each church was established. They are also interested in how the churches got their names and if the name changed over the years.

“Church records are important. Some churches were built on land donated to the congregation from neighboring landowners in which case, there would be a record in the courthouse describing plats and where it came from,” Wynder said. A wealth of information can also be gathered from funeral programs and prayer cards that list dates and biographical information about the deceased.

Many churches have a long history with freemasonry with records that document cornerstone laying. Church records also often demonstrate a close connection between religion and education in the black community, Hamilton said, as many churches began in schools and many schools began in churches.

“The Guide to Black Churches in Natchitoches Parish” will include those that descend from churches that no longer exist and those that were formed when a congregation split. Often churches with similar names were once one church, Wynder explained, and there are some instances of congregations changing denominations altogether after a split. Those splits sometimes present a challenge to collecting and documenting records; elders may be hesitant to exhume old conflicts and, because small churches are so closely tied to family history, resentment over a split can endure for generations.

“Many church members remain faithful members of their family’s church, even if they move to a different part of the parish and many churches are populated by members of the same family. All the members are related,” Hamilton said.

Another challenge is that records passed down through decades of church secretaries sometimes get lost or placed in a cabinet and forgotten, Hamilton said. The Creole Heritage Center has resources to help congregations properly archive their documents to preserve them.

The Rev. Henry Edwards, pastor of St. Savior Baptist Church near Vienna Bend, is enthusiastic about the project, not only in recording the history of his 130-year-old church, but also some of the traditions associated with baptism, communion and celebrations like Homecoming and Family and Friends Day.

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The Northwestern State University Writing Project hosted the third annual Literacy Lagniappe Conference in the Friedman Student Union Saturday, July 28. NSU Writing Project teacher-consultants, in partnership with teacher-consultants from Acadiana Writing Project (ULL), Greater New Orleans Writing Project (UNO), and Southeastern Writing Project, presented workshops to an audience of over 125 educators from across the state. NSU faculty who work in K-16 partnerships with NSUWP also presented sessions. From left are Sarah McFarland, head of the Department of Language and Communication; Lisa Rougeou, NSUWP Director; keynote speaker Kelly Gallagher, adolescent literacy researcher and author; Kim McAlister, head of the Department of Teaching & Learning, College of Education and Human Development.

Bill Housel, head of the Department of Criminal Justice, History and Social Sciences, shared his K-16 Writing Project work in service area schools with conference participants.

“Black Churches..Continued from Page 10

“I would be eager to share,” said Edwards, who described the old St. Savior building, where the bell tolled for funerals and congregants shared meals under the trees by Cane River surrounded by cotton and cornfields. “There are some things that should never die. You want to make sure your children and grandchildren balance the present with the past so they respect and know what took place. Without the old, you can’t have the new.”

“Our main focus is genealogy. The first step is to get the church history itself and find out if they have records of baptism, marriages, death and who is buried in the cemetery,” Wynder said. “Once printed, this book will be an excellent tool for churches, genealogical associations and family members researching their family information. On a personal note, I am hoping that it will help me to fill in some of the gaps on my own family tree.”

For more information on “The Guide to Black Churches in Natchitoches Parish,” contact Hamilton at the Creole Heritage Center at (318) 357-6685.
Birth Announcements

Mike and Cindy Matthews welcomed a baby girl on Wednesday, July 18. Zoey Mildred arrived at 12:40 p.m. weighing 9 pounds 5 ounces and measuring 22 inches in length.

Mike is head of serials, media and interlibrary loan at Watson Library.

Callie Hammonds and husband Nick Hammonds welcomed their new baby, Blayne Lee, at 5:02 p.m. May 15. Blayne weighed 7 pounds 7 ounces. Callie works in the Admissions Office.

Sympathy

Mary Jane Day, a long-time employee of NSU, passed away July 5. A memorial service was held July 12. The NSU Floral Fund sent a plant to the service.

Yvette Garrett Ceasar-Williams, associate registrar for records in the Registrar’s Office, lost her father, J.D. Garrett, on July 4. Services were held July 14 in Natchitoches. A plant was sent to the service from the NSU Floral Fund.

University event calendar linked to nsula.edu

Northwestern State’s new calendar of events went live April 19 and is available for faculty and staff to use to list events regarding their department or office open activities.

The calendar can be accessed at nsula.edu/calendar. The calendar includes campus events which are open to the public or promote the educational mission of Northwestern State. Users can filter the calendar to show events they are most interested in and can download events to their personal calendar.

Those on the Northwestern State campus who need to book rooms for campus events should still use the existing EMS system. To place events on the calendar, faculty and staff should work with the campus communicator in their area of the Office of Marketing and Branding.

For more information, contact Bill Smith at extension 4245 or e-mail smithb@nsula.edu or Christina Lake at extension 4414 or lakec@nsula.edu.
AUGUST CLASSES

Water Aerobics
This workout consists of simple low impact exercises executed in the water. The program is designed to promote and maintain cardio respiratory fitness, strengthen muscles, and improve flexibility. This program is especially recommended for arthritic and/or pregnant women.
Date: Aug 1-31 (Session 3)
  Mon, Wed, & Fri
Time: 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Fee: $35 per session
Location: NSU Recreation Complex
Instructor: Denise Poleman

Instant Piano for Hopelessly Busy People
If you yearn to experience the joy of playing piano, but you don’t want years of weekly lessons, this short course is for you. Simply spend one enjoyable evening learning how to play the piano the way the pros do - with chords. Save time and money with this innovative approach that shows you the easy way to play several songs right in class - then develop your techniques at home using the practice CD provided by the instructor. This is an absolutely beginning class in chord piano techniques that will have you playing your favorite songs soon after this one session, and if you can find middle C and know the meaning of Every Good Boy Does Fine, you already know enough to enroll.
If not, send a SASE for a free pamphlet to:
  • Music Masters, 90 Molly Lane, Ringgold, GA 30736. Then register with confidence.
Date: Aug. 2, Thurs
Time: 6-9:30 p.m.
Fee: $55 + $25 Material Fee (to be paid directly to Instructor first night of class.)
Location: Creative & Performing Arts Bldg., Rm. 228
Instructor: David Haynes

1-Day Grant Writing and Funding Development Clinic
Minimum: 10
This course is designed to assist non-profit organizations, government agencies, individuals, and community and faith-based organizations identify and secure funding. Topics covered include:
  · Impact of the Great Recession
  · Current Trends in Philanthropy
  · Where is the Funding?
  · Why Human Services Ranks First in Funding Awards
  · How to Position for Funding
  · Key Facts on Proposal Development
Date: Aug. 25, Sat
Time: 8:30 a.m.- 5 p.m.
Fee: $99 + $30 Material Fee (to be paid directly to Instructor first night of class.)
Location: Russell Hall, Rm. 213
Instructor: E. Jean Bush

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