Walking with a Purpose

Judy Rachal gives time and energy to raising funds for cancer research

“No one goes through cancer alone,” said Judy Rachal, director of University Printing and a survivor who channels her energy into raising funds and awareness for cancer research by walking for the cause.

Having completed multiple Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure events in the last three years, Rachal and her sister participated in February’s “26.2 with Donna, the National Marathon to Finish Cancer” the only U.S. marathon dedicated solely to raising funds to end breast cancer, in Jacksonville, Fla.

“I just did it for personal gratification. It was a very personal thing,” Rachal said in reference to the Jacksonville race. “A friend told me about it and my sister, who lives near Jacksonville, said she would do it and a friend wanted to do it with us. I just wanted to see what it was about and what the race was like, so we registered and made a donation. After the race, we were wearing our shirts and people were interested and asked about it. We are planning for a team for next year.”

Rachal has been participating in walks and runs for cancer research following her own battle with breast cancer. She has completed the Dallas Susan G. Komen Race the last three years and the New Orleans Race the last two years.

The nature of the events encourages connections with people who have shared the experience of cancer or have a passion for a cause.

“For the Dallas race, I always walk with the Dallas Cowboys team because of my soon-to-be daughter-in-law’s connections to their organization,” Rachal said. “They are a big sponsor with a big a team every year, with their wives, mothers, mothers-in-law participating.”

During last year’s New Orleans Race, Rachal participated with a team named Survivors Inc., made up of cancer survivors and their families, that she learned about through her daughter’s co-workers at FEMA.

“One lady who walked with us was a breast cancer survivor, but her cancer had come back,” Rachal said. “We didn’t know how sick she was when she did the walk...
interactive presentation, Lesche members read excerpts of a variety of copied documents.

Wernet traveled to Winnfield March 12, where she delivered a presentation before the members of the United Daughters of the Confederacy-William Walker Chapter on Civil War resource holdings in the Cammie G. Henry Research Center.

From March 17-19, Wernet attended the Louisiana Historical Association Annual Meeting in Lafayette. Wernet and Sheila Thompson conducted a day March 24 workshop on the Practical and Cost-Effective Practices to Care and Maintain Archival, Manuscript and Book Collections.

NSU Watson Library Cammie G. Henry Research Center workshop is part of an Archives Training Collaborative encompassing professional archivist associations from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

Drs. Paul Nagel and Jackie Mason of the College of Education and Human Development presented “Investing the Grande Ecore & Red River: A Hands-On Inquiry” at the 45th annual meeting of Geological Society of America in New Orleans on March 29. In this session for creating geoscience opportunities for high school students, an overview of Earthcaching was presented with an emphasis on a hands-on inquiry approach to teaching Earth science.

On April 1, Dr. Paul Nagel served as a judge for the 10th year in a row for the Geography Bee. The National Geography Bee, is a contest for students between 4th to 8th grade. Only 100 students from across the state are allowed to compete for a $25,000 college scholarship, sponsored by the National Geographic Society and a chance to go to Washington, D.C., in May.

Drs. James Mac Donald and Charles Pellegrin of the Criminal Justice, History and Social Science department presented papers at the Missouri Valley History Conference in Omaha, Neb., on March 3. Dr. Mac Donald’s paper was titled “The touch of a feather, would turn them any way: George Washington’s Role in the Nationalist Movement.” Dr. Pellegrin presented part of his ongoing research on the far right during the Cold War – his paper was titled “The Case of General Edwin A. Walker: The U.S. Military and the Far Right, 1950-1965.”

Mac Donald and Pellegrin also presented papers at the recent Louisiana Historical Association in Lafayette on March 18-19. Dr. Mac Donald’s paper was titled “A Great Waste, A Wilderness Unpeopled by any Beings: The Federalist Party Reacts to the Louisiana Purchase.” Pellegrin’s paper was titled “The Cold War and the Far Right: Kent and Phoebe Courtney and American Foreign Relations, 1954-1969.”


Dr. Gerra Perkins, College of Education and Human Development, was invited to review Child-Centered Play Therapy by authors VanFleet, Sywulak, and Sniscak. Dr. Perkins’ review was published in the March issue of Play Therapy, 6(1). Dr. Perkins was also asked to create a CEU e-learning test based on the book for the Association of Play Therapy.

Dr. Perkins, Dr. Nelda Wellman, Dr. Wendell Wellman, and NSU graduate Noel Collins had a paper and presentation accepted by the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education. The presentation, Using Technology to Impact Student Motivation, was given by Dr. Paula Christensen on March 11 in Nashville.

Dr. Juliette Delabbio, Director of the Aquaculture Research Center co-chaired with Dr. Ray McClain of LSU, half-day session on crawfish culture at the annual meeting of the United States Chapter of the World Aquaculture Society in New Orleans in early March. Dr. Delabbio also presented a paper which was co-authored with Dr. Jan Dean of the Natchitoches National Fish Hatchery and Dr. Brian Glebe
NSU Research Day is April 7

Northwestern’s 24th annual Research Day will take place Thursday, April 7 with faculty and students highlighting their scholarly endeavors. Oral presentations will be held in Morrison Hall. Performances will be held in the Fine Arts Building. Faculty, undergraduate and graduate students from all campuses have been invited to present.

A highlight of the event will be the presentation of several research awards. The Dr. Mildred Hart Bailey Faculty Research Award, which acknowledges outstanding research, distinguished artistic performance or creative work by a faculty member will be presented, along with the Jean D’Amato Thomas Lifetime Achievement Award, which honors a senior faculty member whose career has included significant commitment to research and service in their discipline, and two Student Research Awards.

Keynote speaker will be Dr. Jeffrey Anderson, delivering an address on “Voodoo: A Religion and a Warning to Researchers.” Anderson is an assistant professor at the University of Louisiana-Monroe whose areas of expertise are the American south, African American history, modern Europe and religion.

A new feature of this year’s Research Day will be a poster session set to take place from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom. Presenters will be at the session to answer questions about their work.

Scheduled are 33 poster and 70 oral presentations.

For more information, e-mail Dr. Margaret Cochran at cochran@nsula.edu.

Commencement will have different times and locations

Northwestern will change the dates and location for its Spring Commencement Exercises due to a construction project in Prather Coliseum.

The College of Nursing and Allied Health will hold its ceremony Tuesday, May 3 at 6 p.m. at First Baptist Church in Bossier City.

Graduates from the College of Education and Human Development and those receiving degrees in Journalism and Social Work and from the Louisiana Scholars’ College will take part in a ceremony Thursday, May 5 at 10 a.m. at the A.A. Fredericks Auditorium.

On Thursday, May 5 at 3 p.m., diplomas will be awarded to those earning associate and bachelor’s degrees in general studies in the A.A. Fredericks Auditorium.

Those receiving graduate degrees in art, clinical psychology, English, heritage resources and music along with those earning bachelor’s degrees in addiction studies, communication, criminal justice, English, fine and graphic arts, heritage resources, music, political science, psychology and theatre will participate in commencement on Friday, May 6 at 10 a.m. in the A.A. Fredericks Auditorium.

A ceremony for graduates from the College of Science, Technology and Business will be held Friday, May 6 at 3 p.m. in the A.A. Fredericks Auditorium. Graduates from the Class of 1961 will also be honored with a second diploma during this ceremony.

For more information, contact the NSU Registrar’s Office at (318) 357-6171 or go to http://registrar.nsula.edu/graduation-information.
in October. She passed away in January. None of us knew at the time how much that walk would mean to us.”

Rachal was diagnosed with breast cancer in May 2006 and is currently in remission. Because of her ordeal, she now stresses to others the importance of annual check-ups.

“I was so bad about not doing annual check-ups and I was diagnosed through my annual check-up when my doctor made the appointment for the mammogram for me,” she said. “After I went in for the mammogram, they called me back and said they detected something suspicious.”

Since being in remission, she has turned her attention to a local event, the Natchitoches Relay for Life, an all-night community event that raises funds for the American Cancer Society. Rachal has served as chair for the Natchitoches Relay for the last two years after, initially reluctant, she got involved at urging of her sister.

“A lot of people hear about the Relay, but are not sure what all it involves. If anyone is interested in the Relay, don’t worry about joining a team or raising money. Come to the event and see what it’s about. Once people experience it, they get excited and they want to join a team or raise money.”

This year’s Relay, set for April 29-30 at the NSU football practice field and Demon Alley tailgate area, will take place from 6 p.m.-6 a.m. and will include booths, music, food and entertainment, in addition to a survivors lap, a luminary ceremony and a fight back ceremony. Teams will incorporate a Festivals of Louisiana theme into their activities. Rachal’s team is the Hot Tamale Festival team.

“This year, my Relay team is called ‘We Are Family’ because several members of my immediate family, as well as several members of my church have formed a team.”

The 2011 event will also place emphasis on recognizing people who are caregivers to cancer patients – family, friends, doctors, nurses and volunteers.

“This year we’re going to honor those who have helped me and so many other people get through this ordeal,” she said.

The Relay and events like it draw people affected by cancer together, Rachal said.

“I run into a lot of people who are newly-diagnosed and other survivors, as well as people who say ‘I’m running for my mom or I’m walking for my wife,’” she said.

After this year, Rachal will step down as chair of the Relay, but will continue to be involved.

“I hope that someday, we don’t have to do this. If we could find a cure that would be fantastic, but there are more people who have been diagnosed early and more effective treatment because of what we do in fund raising and increasing people’s awareness.”

Anyone interested in learning more about or participating in the Natchitoches Relay for Life can contact Rachal at sfrrachal@nsula.edu or go to www.relayforlife.org/natchitoches.
Natchitoches Clean-up Day: Saturday, April 30

Beginning at 10 a.m. on Normal Hill, NSU faculty, staff, and students will *Keep Louisiana Beautiful* by cleaning-up the campus and surrounding neighborhoods. From campus, the group will work their way downtown and arrive at the riverbank by noon. Free T-shirts, gloves and trash bags will be provided to NSU volunteers. Light refreshments will be available at the riverbank. NATCHITOCHES CLEAN-UP DAY is funded through a contribution from *Keep Louisiana Beautiful*. To RSVP or for more information about joining our NSU team contact Steven Gruesbeck at sgruesbeck@nsula.edu.

Faculty, students attend Service Learning conference

Several members of the NSU faculty and their students attended the ULS Service Learning Conference at Grambling.


News from Language and Communications

**Thomas Reynolds** presented his paper “Reader/Writer/User: Complicating Literacy Roles in Wiki Technology” at the Louisiana Association for College Composition in Lafayette, Louisiana, on March 19.

Fred Taulbee has three short stories up on Smashwords.com and may have a novel posted soon. Taulbee started a blog about the writing life at fredderman.blogspot.com, which includes poetry, reviews, cooking and scanned copies of his NSU Current Sauce articles from the early 1990s.

He also just shot a short film called “Fellini Sucks!”

The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities announced that Julie Kane is one of three finalists for Louisiana Poet Laureate. Governor Bobby Jindal will make the final selection by May 2011.

Kane gave poetry readings at LSU-Alexandria on March 10 and at Xavier University of New Orleans on March 24. On March 23, faculty and students of Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, Minn., gave a reading of her poems and Anne Sexton’s in honor of Women’s History Month.

In February, Kane gave a paper on the “Post-Katrina Poetry: Five Years Later” panel at the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) annual conference in Washington, D.C.

She also read at the offsite reading sponsored by Entasis Press.

In the last few months Kane has published poems in American Arts Quarterly ("Bric-a-Brac"), Connotation Press: An Online Artifact ("Gift Horse"), Dark Horse ("Colorific"), Drunken Boat ("Family Dramas"), and Lighten Up Online ("Urohydrosis" and “Status Update”). In addition, she published nine translations of poems by the Lithuanian poet Tautvyda Marcinkevičiūtė in The Drunken Boat. A former NSU graduate student, Rima Krasauskytė, assisted Kane with the Lithuanian translations.
Dr. Vickie Gentry, Dean of the College of Education and Human Development, was an invited panelist at a pre-conference workshop of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) on Feb. 24 in San Diego. AACTE is a national alliance of educator preparation programs dedicated to the highest quality professional development of teachers and school leaders. The pre-conference workshop was entitled Evaluation Nation: Responding to External Efforts to Measure Preparation Programs, and included presentations by four deans of education whose teacher education programs have been scrutinized by either a federal, state or private entity.

“At state and national levels, there are groups – some well-intended and some hostile – seeking to measure the quality of collegiate-based teacher preparation programs,” Gentry said. “It is important for educators to have knowledge of sound measurement practice vs. unscrupulous efforts underway by some groups claiming educational reform.”

Several states have been impacted by external groups who have measured and then judged the effectiveness of teacher preparation programs, Gentry said. Northwestern’s teacher preparation programs have been affected by findings published by the Louisiana Board of Regents Value-Added Assessment. Dr. Gentry and Dr. Jeanne Burns, Louisiana Board of Regents, presented on the progress made in the state by university teacher preparation programs to include teacher redesign, national accreditation by NCATE, and value-added assessment.

“Louisiana is far ahead of most states in its use of multiple measures for examining the effectiveness of teacher preparation programs. Fortunately, in applying these measures, Northwestern has had very positive outcomes,” Gentry said. “I was very pleased to represent Northwestern at a national conference and to be able to stand before a large group of higher education faculty and report our positive findings. These findings are directly related to the high quality preparation and support given by teacher education faculty at Northwestern.”

Other presentations at the workshop included reviews published by the National Council on Teacher Quality (NCTQ), a privately funded research and policy group that has been evaluating teacher training groups for the past 6 years. NCTQ has conducted state specific studies in Illinois, Texas, Indiana, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming and Colorado. Recently teamed with the U.S. News and World Report, NCTQ is currently seeking nationwide participation in a new project to determine the effectiveness of university teacher preparation programs. Based in Washington, D.C., and founded in 2000, NCTQ seeks “to provide an alternative national voice to existing teacher organizations, and build the case for a comprehensive reform agenda that would challenge the current structure and regulation of the profession.”

“Reports published by NCTQ generally find that teacher preparation programs at institutions of higher education are not doing a good job, and the reports have gotten significant attention at national and state levels,” Gentry said. “The vast majority of AACTE members who have been ‘studied’ by NCTQ have concerns with the methodology used, the tactics employed to acquire documents, and the bias NCTQ has against education schools. Again, it is important for those in the profession as well as the general public to have knowledge of other groups who are scrutinizing education using unsound practices.”

People...Continued from Page 2

of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. This paper reported on her recent research on larval rearing of alligator gar. At the moment, the culture of alligator gar is a topic of investigation by federal and stated agencies in six southern states because of conservation concerns and interest in the commercial farming of the fish.

Two other papers on research undertaken at the Aquaculture Research Center were presented at this conference. NSU graduate Lauren Wrubluski (Dec. 2010) had her research on “The Influence of Dietary elements on Carapace Color of Red Swamp Crayfish” presented, and Dr. Steven Gabrey (NSU Biology Dept) gave a paper on “The Potential Impact of Wading Birds on the Crawfish Industry in North Louisiana.”
Sympathy Services for Dr. Jack Lawler Fisher II, husband of Dr. Priscilla Kilcrease, director of Research and Sponsored Programs, were held March 18 in the chapel of Blanchard-St. Denis Funeral Home. Mr. Fisher passed away Tuesday, March 15.

Dr. Fisher was a native of Natchitoches and a retired professor of speech communications and radio and TV broadcasting having taught at Northwestern and at Southeastern Louisiana University and Louisiana State University.

A donation was made to the Natchitoches Hope for Paws, P.O. Box 2552, Natchitoches, LA 71457, in memory of Dr. Fisher.

NSU Theatre & Dance to offer summer intensives, professional development opportunities

NSU is beginning a new initiative for dancers and dance educators in the region. Beginning this summer the department will offer week-long summer dance intensives. The focus of these intensive is technique, repertoire and pedagogy. This summer there will be three exciting weeks of focused training available.

**Week one: May 16-21**

**Laban and Bartenieff**

Focus will be given to incorporating these somatic approaches into ballet and contemporary technique classes and composition.

Faculty: Kista Tucker, Tiffany Nighrider and Kirstin Riehl.

**Week two: May 23-28**

**Safety Release and Butoh**

Students will discover the profound connections between these two contemporary performance forms via technique, improvisation and repertoire classes.

Faculty: BJ Sullivan, Jennifer Hicks and Barry Stoneking

**Week three: June 6-11**

**All About Kids**

Students age 7-14 will gain collaboration and creative problem solving techniques while developing motor and performance skills. Teachers will examine effective pedagogy and practices appropriate for these age groups.

Faculty: Laura Peterson, Cissy Whipp, Kirstin Riehl and Sarah Stravinska.

Each of the three weeks will include technique classes, classes in repertoire and open discussions relating to the field. Each week will culminate in a public performance of the repertoire from the week. Classes will be held on the NSU campus in Natchitoches. Weeks 1 and 2 are open to all dancers and dance teachers age 15 and up and will include morning, afternoon and evening events. Week 3 is open to students age 7-14 and teachers working in the public schools or studios who wish to gain professional development credits and/or experience. Events planned during Week 3 will be limited to morning and afternoon time slots.

Discounted tuition is available for members of the Louisiana Alliance for Dance. Reduced registration is also available for individuals wishing to register for multiple weeks. Housing and meal packages are also available. For more information please contact Barry Stoneking, Director of Dance at NSU at (318) 357-5788 or stonekingb@nsula.edu. Additional information is also available on the NSU Theatre and Dance Website, http://theatre.nsula.edu/

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Professor of Political Science Dr. Greg Granger has been selected to participate in the sixth annual Strategy Implementation Seminar at the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Penn. July 19-21.

Granger was nominated to the seminar by Lt. Col. Susie Kuilan, Ph.D., and received the formal invitation from the USAWC Commandant, Maj. Gen. Gregg F. Martin. He will be one of 66 civilians in the seminar alongside students of the War College. The general theme for this year’s seminar is “Strategic Leadership in Current and Future Warfare.”

“I am honored to be recommended, much less invited, to this prestigious academic event,” said Granger. “I look forward to participating in the seminar and hearing the prominent speakers lined up by the conference organizers.”

Granger has been a member of Northwestern’s faculty since 1995. He was promoted to associate professor in 2001 and professor in 2008. He was interim director of the Louisiana Scholars’ College and 2004-05 and director of the School of Social Sciences at NSU from 2005-2010.

He earned a doctorate from the University of New Orleans in political science with an emphasis on U.S. foreign policy. Granger also has a master’s in history. He is a past president of the Louisiana Political Science Association. Granger’s research areas have included international organizations such as NATO and the nuclear non-proliferation regime, U.S. policy on nuclear arms control and non-proliferation efforts and geopolitics of Central Asia. His recent articles and book reviews have appeared in publications such as Eyes on the International Criminal Court, American Diplomacy and Joint Force Quarterly.

The Office of Electronic and Continuing Education will offer the following professional development sessions for April. Please join us and add new skills or update your existing skills.

Managing Your Gradebook in Moodle
- Thursday, April 7, 1:30-3: p.m. (Shreveport)
- Monday, April 11, 2:00-3:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 19, 9:-10:30 a.m.

This workshop will cover the tools and techniques to maintain your gradebook in Moodle effectively.

Creating and Organizing Content in Moodle
- Thursday, April 7, 9-11 a.m.
- Thursday, April 14, 10 a.m.-Noon; 1-3 p.m. (Shreveport)
- Wednesday, April 20, 2-4 p.m.

This session will cover several methods for organizing Moodle content. Participants will learn how to create new content in Moodle and organize the content into an easy to use structure that can be migrated from semester to semester.

The workshop will also cover how to reorient your materials that were converted from Blackboard so that you can quickly adjust to the new LMS.

Moodle Basics
- Monday, April 4th, 2-4 p.m.
- Thursday, April 7, 10 a.m.–Noon (Shreveport)
- Wednesday, April 13, 8-10 a.m.
- Thursday, April 21, 9-11 a.m.
- Tuesday, April 26, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

This workshop will cover the breadth of available options within the LMS and discuss the basic tools needed for implementing a Moodle course.

Creating Quizzes and Tests in Moodle
- Wednesday, April 6, 9-11 a.m.
- Friday, April 15, 9-11 a.m.
- Thursday, April 21, 10 a.m.-Noon (Shreveport)

This session will focus on how to create questions and set up quizzes in a Moodle course.

All sessions will be held in the computer lab, Room 113, Dodd Hall. To sign up, please email ece@nsula.edu or call 357-6355.
NSU Theatre and Dance will present “Three Penny Opera” at 7:30 p.m. April 13-16 in A.A. Fredericks Auditorium. The show is appropriate for ages 13 and up. Tickets are $15 for adults, $12 for seniors over 65 and children, and free for NSU and LSMSA students with ID.

Based on John Gay’s 18th century play The Beggar’s Opera, The Three Penny Opera is a savage, biting commentary on bourgeois capitalism and modern morality. Originally set in Victorian London, the bitter tale is told of the predatory outlaw known as Mack the Knife. He secretly marries the daughter of Soho’s underworld boss, but is soon betrayed by his sinister in-laws and sent to prison.

After being freed by the police chief’s daughter, he is again betrayed - this time by a prostitute - and sentenced to death.

At the final hour he manages a reprieve from the Queen herself, thus providing a menacing finale of ferocious irony. Timeless and timely, the NSU Theatre and Dance Department will bring this provocative classic into the 21st Century.

For more information call Jane Norman (318) 357-4483 or email normanj@nsula.edu. For more information about NSU’s Theatre and Dance Department, visit http://theatre.nsula.edu/current-shows-at-northwestern-theatre-and-dance/
Award recipients at the College of Science, Technology and Business banquet were, front row from left, Stephanie Tummons of Natchitoches and Meagan Vasseur of Eunice, recipients of the American Hotel and Lodging Association $1,000 scholarship; Tiffany Hudson of Natchitoches, recipient of the Culinary Arts award $500 scholarship; Leslie Bradford of Jena, recipient of the American Hotel and Lodging Association $1,000 scholarship, and Tammy Courtney of Fisher, recipient of the Marie Shaw Dunn Early Childhood Award. On the back row are Chef Todd Barrios, Connie Jones, Dr. Michelle Fazio, Bianca Shultz of Germany, recipient of the Esther Colley Award; Dr. Lynn Woods and Dr. Pat Pierson.

Students from College of Science, Technology and Business honored

Students, their guests and faculty enjoyed a sumptuous dinner and fun filled evening of gifts, scholarships and recognition at the annual College of Science, Technology and Business 2011 Awards Banquet hosted by Dr. Austin Temple.

Such delicacies as roasted pork loin, catfish jambalaya, gumbo and artichoke bisque topped off with trifle and king cake prepared by the Culinary Arts students of Chef Todd Barrios and Connie Jones, enhanced the ambiance of the theme of “Happy Mardi Gras.”

Special recognition was given to Dr. Tom Hall, retiring Department Head of the School of Engineering Technology, and David King, Department Head of Aviation Science, for their many years of dedication and service to the University.

Student award recipients received scholarships, plaques, and other gifts of recognition to commemorate their hard work and academic endeavors.

Andreia Barbieri, Kali Broussard, Hunter Curphy, Sara Durham, Laramie Lemon, Kelsey Manning and Joseph Straub were awarded from the Department of Biology by Dr. Zafer Hatahet. Dr. Nat Briscoe bestowed Donna Stephens with her award from the Department of Business.

Lori Engolia, Morgan Hebert, Zechariah Hennigan, Devin Lewis, Christopher Park, and Whitney Williams received their awards from Bobby Nowlin and Dr. Jack Russell of Department of Engineering Technology & Computer Information Systems. Leslie Bradford, Stephanie Tummons, Meagan Vasseur, Bianca Schultz, Tammy Courtney and Tiffany Hudson received their awards from Department of Family & Consumer Sciences Department Head Dr. Pat Pierson. Dr. Frank Serio gave the awards to Jessica Bass, Justin Copeland, Carrie Falke, Dennis Gibson, Wendy Kussman, Dustin McPhate, and Courtney Stevens for their accomplishments in Mathematics & Physical Sciences. Justin Copeland received an extra recognition gift (a chemist’s lab coat) from Drs. Mary Striegel and Carol Chin for his abundant research contribution to the National Historic Preservation Center.

Dr. Richard DeVault bestowed the JOVE (joint venture research award) on Andreia Barbieri.

The event was a wonderful chance for students to show off their awards and have pictures with the faculty.