Spotlight shines on NSU crawfish research

NSU’s Aquaculture Research Center received nationwide attention last month for its research determining that underwater lights increases production in crawfish ponds. Studies conducted over three harvest seasons confirm that the use of underwater lights produces bigger crawfish and more crawfish in the same pond acreage with no additional water, according to Dr. Julie Delabbio, director of the NSU Aquaculture Research Center in Marco. The news was picked up and reported in aquafeed.com, an international on-line publication devoted to aquaculture.

“The research very much supports a sustainable farming practice with negligible environmental impact,” said Delabbio, who has worked in commercial aquaculture for 30 years. The study, funded by the LSU AgCenter, also sought to determine whether the increase was significant enough to consider it viable for commercial farm application.

In July, the Associated Press released an article that was published on-line via several national news outlets from Washington, D.C., to Seattle, Wash., buzz with the findings.

Production numbers are very detailed, Delabbio explained. Every time traps were harvested over the past three seasons, crawfish were weighed and sorted into six size categories. Central Louisiana has only a three-month harvest season versus a seven-month harvest season in the southern part of the state. The Aquaculture Research Center surpassed the state average, which is 600 pounds of crawfish per acre, despite the shorter season and cooler water temperatures than the larger more southern crawfish farming centers in the state.

“Production results are really impressive,” Delabbio said. “This year was a difficult year for many crawfish farmers because of the drought situation in the state. However, we had our best production year yet and we didn’t use any more water than we normally do.”

At the Aquaculture Research Center for the 2011 harvest season, the ponds with lights produced an average of 1,659 pounds of marketable crawfish per acre while the ponds without lights produced an average of 854 pounds of marketable crawfish per acre.

“The key word here is marketable. The total production from all of the ponds was higher but some crawfish are too small to market. If the lit ponds only produced more small crawfish then the technique would not be commercially viable,” Delabbio said. “For us, marketable size is roughly a crawfish count of 35 crawfish or less to the pound when the crawfish weighs about half an ounce.”

The lighting impacts the size of the crawfish as well as the number of crawfish.
Mark Your Calendars

Aug. 17
Faculty Institute
8:30 a.m.-Noon
Magale Recital Hall

Aug. 18
Faculty-Staff Luncheon
Noon
Prather Coliseum

Aug. 19
Tenure and Promotion Workshop
9-11 a.m.

Aug. 21
Freshman Convocation
A.A. Fredericks
Fine Arts Auditorium

Aug. 16
Faculty Mentor Workshop
9 a.m.-Noon

Aug. 18
Recruiting, Retention, and Responsible Use of Social Media
2-4 p.m.

People...Continued from Page 1

2011 International Strategic Instruction Model conference in Lawrence, Kansas, July 13-15. An article by Dr. Duchardt was published in the Summer 2011 edition of Collaborations, the official Journal of the Louisiana Early Childhood Association. A Review of Technology in Early Childhood Programs Serving Children from Birth through Age 8: A Joint Position Statement of the National Association for the Education of Young Children and the Fred Rogers Center for Early Learning and Children’s Media at Saint Vincent College (Draft—Proposed 2011) by Dr. Michelle Fazio-Brunson, Dr. Barbara Duchardt, and Hailey E. Warner.

Dr. Duchardt served as a proposal reviewer for the 2012 International Council for Exceptional Children’s (CEC) conference and expo, to be held in Denver, Colo., April 11-14, 2012.

Dr. Duchardt provided research-supported professional development for Lafayette Parish teachers in the Sentence Writing Strategy, Strategic Instruction Model (SIM) on Wednesday, July 27 and Thursday, July 28.

Dr. Massimo D. Bezoari, professor of chemistry, was invited by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to present a paper at the Symposium on NSF Catalyzed Innovations in the Undergraduate Curriculum, which will be held at the 242nd National American Chemical Society meeting in Denver, Colo., this month. The paper, which is co-authored by Dr. Margaret Cochran and Dr. Jacqueline Mason, describes novel chemistry experiments and student outcomes that resulted from the NSF grant awarded to NSU in 2008. The paper is entitled “Teaching Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry in Undergraduate Laboratory Courses Using Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning (POGIL).”

Dr. Gerra Perkins, College of Education and Human Development, has accepted a one-year appointment to the Association of Play Therapy’s (APT) Director Nominations Committee and will also serve a one-year term on the 2012 Conference Program Committee.

Paul Christopher, assistant professor of low strings and music theory, traveled to San Pedro Sula, Honduras, July 12-19. While there he taught cello lessons and recruited at the Escuela de Musica “Victoriano Lopez” and at the Escuela de Aplicacione Musical and also presented a guest artist recital assisted by NSU cello student Jorge Rodriguez.

In August Christopher will return for his 18th season as assistant principal cello of the Peter Brit Music festival in Jacksonville, Ore.

Dr. Vickie Gentry, dean of the College of Education and Human Development, spoke as an invited panelist during the Day on the Hill congressional briefing in Washington, D.C. The briefing, which focused on “Transformations in Educator Preparation: Effectiveness and Accountability,” was coordinated by the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE). "Day on the Hill provides AACTE members with the opportunity to come together in our nation’s capital and meet one-on-one with Congressional leaders to advocate for federal policy and funding that supports educator preparation," Gentry explained.

Day on the Hill featured speakers from teacher education programs that serve as models of excellence in effectiveness and accountability. AACTE strives to highlight members’ focus on effective preparation practices and how institutions are documenting their success, Gentry said. Her presentation outlined NSU’s success in implementing the Value-Added Assessment model, which gages the success of new teachers based on student achievement data.

“Ten years ago, the Blue Ribbons Commission for Educational Excellence recommended the use of multiple measures for examining the effectiveness of teacher preparation programs. These measures served their purpose as teacher certification requirements were strengthened, new and rigorous alternate and undergraduate pathways to certification were created and teacher preparation programs were redesigned to meet national content standards and earn national accreditation by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education or Teacher Education Accreditation Council,” she said. NCATE and TEAC are professional accrediting bodies for teacher preparation recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

“Despite the challenges of Louisiana’s Value-Added Model, higher education has worked collaboratively with the Board of Regents, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Education to share and better understand data,” Gentry said.

“Because of the thoughtful way Louisiana has maximized its teacher preparation programs are producing teachers who can positively impact student learning, we have stronger programs in the state and the data to guide our decisions.”

News from the Cammie G. Henry Research Center

Mary Linn Wernet and Gail Kwak attended a Connecting to Collections Workshop at LSU-Alexandria May 25, sponsored by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) on improving Library, Museum and Archive environmental storage conditions and preservation of collections.

Wernet assisted the Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches (APHN) during Melrose Arts and Crafts Festival June 11 by providing tours of the African House from 9-11 a.m.

Wernet attended the June 28 Natchitoches Louisiana Bicentennial Committee chaired by Dr. Colleen Lancaster. Wernet plans to provide two exhibits during 2012 and serve on the committee.

Wernet and Shelia Thompson set up a traveling exhibit on “Home Care Preservation Tips for Documents, Photographs and Books” during the Grand Family Reunion held at the Natchitoches Events Center July 9. Creoles connected to the Guidry, Dupre and Goudeau families from across the United States including California, Michigan and Florida attended the reunion.

Wernet and Thompson displayed a traveling exhibit on “The Tribes Remain: Samplings of Southeastern Indian Cultures from the CGHRC Collection” at the 32nd Annual Natchitoches – NSU Folk Festival July 15.
Demon Aquatics will offer after school swimming

NSU’s Demon Aquatic Club will offer an after-school developmental swim program and competitive practices. Classes will be from 3-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday at Nesom Natatorium September through May. The cost includes a $60 registration fee that covers insurance and a monthly fee of $50 per swimmer.

Instructors will be students employed through NSU Demon Aquatics under the supervision of Cindy Davis, Aquatics director. Activities will include but not be limited to water safety, water games, drills, fitness swimming and stroke and race technique. All participants must have registration forms completed in order to participate.

The program is open to all swimmers who possess skills necessary to be independent in the water. At this time, Demon Aquatics is not accepting participants for swimming who are participating in swim meets as a club; however, Demon Aquatics can provide and supervise participation in swim meets through NSU Demon Aquatics under the direction of Cindy Davis.

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Folk Fest a success, thanks to volunteers

Several southeastern Native American tribes gathered in Natchitoches to celebrate their heritage during the Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival July 15-16.

Acknowledging the theme “The Tribes Remain: Contemporary Southeastern Indian Cultures,” Native Americans and others performed music and dance and demonstrated craft during the 32nd annual event.

The Tunica-Biloxi Singers welcomed visitors to the Folk Festival on Friday night with an opening performance. Other performances Friday included Richard Smith and Julie Delafose, French Rockin’ Boogie, Delafose and French Rockin’ Boogie, the Treater Band, the Richard Smith and Julie Delafose performances Friday included an opening performance. Other Festival on Friday night with welcomed visitors to the Folk Festival July 15-16.

Over 30 traditional crafts vendors sold traditional foods, such as Indian tacos and fry bread, buffalo burgers, sausage, tamales, boudin and old-fashioned gumbo.

Folk Festival...Continued from Page 5

Efforts of numerous NSU faculty and staff, including – among many others – President Dr. Randall Webb, Dr. Lisa Abney, Chuck Bourg, Dr. Bill Brent, Kirk Cordell, Matt DeFord, Dr. Pete Gregory, Marcus Jones, Steven Kauf, Gene Longino, Gary Nolley, Drake Owens, Alan Pasch, Barb Pierce-Cruise, Kristen Procell, Captain Donald Raciel, Sharon Sweeters, David West, and the Red River Sanitors.

“The Louisiana Folklife Center staff is deeply grateful for the generous assistance of the many faculty, staff, and students who volunteered throughout the Festival,” said Shane Rasmussen, assistant professor of English and director of the Louisiana Folklife Center. “Thanks so much!”

DeFORD works accepted in international show

Matt DeFord, associate professor of art, and the coordinator of the Art area of CAPA, was accepted into an international juried art competition at the Sylvia White Gallery in Ventura, California. The exhibit had over 1,800 submissions and only 168 pieces were accepted. DeFord has two pieces in the exhibit. The Sylvia White gallery represents many of the premier artists of the 20th century, including, Chuck Close, William Wegman, a personal favorite of DeFord; Alex Katz, Claes Oldenburg, Robert Motherwell and Louise LeBourgeois, among others.

Brennan Grady Dromm was born on July 1 to Heather Salter Dromm, instructor of English in the Department of Language and Communications, and Keith Dromm, associate professor of philosophy in the Louisiana Scholars’ College.

The NSU Floral Fund sent a donation to the American Heart Association in memory of Mrs. Barbara Russell, a beloved faculty member in the Department of Engineering Technology and Computer Information Systems. Mr. Stricker was the father-in-law of Dr. Jack Russell, Coordinator of CIS.
Volleyball team to host Demon Digfest fund raiser

The Northwestern State University Women’s Volleyball Team will host the third annual Demon Digfest, a four on four sand fundraiser tournament Aug. 13-14 at Point Place Marina.

Proceeds from the tournament will be used for a summer scholarship fund, team travel expenses, locker room renovation and other projects for the Women’s Volleyball program.

Participating teams can have up to six players with a female player on the court at all times.

Play schedules will be presented to each team via e-mail prior to the tournament. The cost to play per team is $85. Courtside sponsorship is available for $100.

Team and courtside sponsorship is $150. The event will include music, food and prizes.

For more information, contact Stephanie Hernesman at hernesmans@nsula.edu or call (318) 357-4408 or visit www.NSUDEMONS.com.

Don’t Die Wondering Golf Tournament Aug. 16

The NSU Lady Demon Basketball program will present the 23rd annual Don’t Die Wondering golf tournament Saturday, Aug. 16 at Northwestern Hills. The 18-hole scramble is one of the team’s most popular fund raisers with proceeds benefitting the Lady Demon basketball team.

Tee times are 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. for four-person teams. The first 18 team entries will be accepted for each tee time. The event will include prizes and competition in low gross and low net handicap division. An entry of $85 per player includes a cap, chicken lunch, green fees, cart and a shot at the Foy Motors Shootout.

For more information, or to register, call Coach Jennifer Graf at 357-5891, David Stamey at 357-1262 or Doug Ireland at 357-6567.