Penrod appears on Jeopardy

Charlie Penrod doesn’t have to keep his big secret any more. Penrod, an associate professor of business, appeared on two episodes of Jeopardy which aired Nov. 29-30.

The taping was done in August, but Penrod could not reveal the results of his appearance before the shows aired. He won Monday’s episode and finished second on Tuesday taking home $19,000.

“My goal was to win one time and I did that, so I consider it a smashing success,” said Penrod. “I have heard from so many people the last couple of days who have called or sent messages on Facebook to congratulate me. That has been so meaningful.”

Penrod watched both episodes with a group of NSU students and colleagues in the Ora G. Williams Television Studio in Kyser Hall.

“There was a lot of whooping and hollering when I won. It was a great time,” he said. “It was great to have that kind of support.

“It was weird watching the show because I was there for it but I didn’t remember some of the things that happened. A couple of times I wondered ‘How did I get that right?’ It was different to watch with no pressure on me. I wasn’t calm the whole time I was in Los Angeles. Each episode was the fastest 22 minutes of my life.”

Penrod said getting on the show and being a champion puts him in select company.

“The odds of getting on the show are pretty low,” said Penrod. “Then less than 40 percent of those who are on win. Being a Jeopardy champion is something I can claim forever.”

Lighting of the Union Dec. 6

Faculty and staff are invited to join students for the return of a great tradition, the Lighting of the Union and holiday open house, from 4:30-6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 6 in the Student Union lobby. Recognized Student Organizations and university departments are invited to bring an ornament to decorate the Christmas tree. The event will also include holiday music, and photos with Santa as well as hot chocolate bars, apple cider and punch.

There will also be a collection site for those who wish to donate a new toy to benefit the Toys for Tots program.
**People...Continued from Page 1**

Louisiana Children at the Sai Convention Center, Alexandria.

**Dr. Barbara A. Duchardt**, professor, College of Education and Human Development; **Dr. Michelle Fazio-Brunson**, associate professor, Family and Consumer Sciences; and Eun-ji Cho, Early Intervention Specialist candidate, College of Education and Human Development, presented “Inclusion Resources for Early Childhood Professionals.”

Dr. Fazio-Brunson, Dr. Duchardt, Mary Beth Van Sickle, Ph.D. candidate, and Ashley Boudreaux, M.Ed. candidate presented “Environmental Chemicals and Implications for Children’s Development.”

Boudreaux, Fazio-Brunson and Van Sickle presented “Curriculum Alignment using the Louisiana Comprehensive Curriculum.”


Dr. Fazio Brunson was also awarded a $500 grant from the Louisiana Early Childhood Association to create a Family Literacy program at the Marie Shaw Dunn Child Development Center.

**Tracey Colson** and **Sheila Richmond**, Creole Heritage Center, participated at the 2010 Louisiana Council for Social Studies Conference in Shreveport Oct. 21-22 with a presentation entitled “Teacher Resources at the Creole Heritage Center.” The Creole Heritage Center also provided an exhibit of information and items for teachers to use in their classrooms.

**Perry Morgan**, assistant professor of Theatre and Dance and NSU director of Musical Theatre Studies, and **Barry Stoneking**, assistant professor of Theatre and Dance and director of the NSU dance program, performed together at the 2010 New Orleans Fringe Festival in November. Their newest collaboration, Father Forgive Me, a performance/dance duet, was part of the Route/UnRoute program: An Abstract Urban Contemporary Cabaret.

Stoneking and Morgan will be collaborating on the NSU Theatre and Dance Department’s spring musical production, *The Threepenny Opera*, in April.


**Dr. Julie H. Ernstein**, assistant professor of anthropology and coordinator of the undergraduate program in Heritage Resources, completed an essay on space debris which will appear in *The Encyclopedia of Consumption and Waste*. Edited by William Rathje, founder of the Tucson Garbage Project (a pivotal modern material culture study), the volume is written by archaeologists who explore a particular example of “waste” from a multidisciplinary perspective and explore what can be learned from the scrutiny of that particular class of object.

Dr. Ernstein’s essay juxtaposes the perspectives of “space archaeology” and the celebration of space heritage and that of physicists, select environmentalists and legal scholars for whom such items are, first and foremost, potential collision risks, orbital litter, and/or national security threats. This essay proposes bridging the gap by adopting a multi-disciplinary approach to thoughtfully

*Continued on page 3*
Grant will fund campaigns to increase recycling visibility, awareness around campus

Director of Service-Learning Steve Gruesbeck has been awarded a $5,000 grant from Keep Louisiana Beautiful. The funds will allow NSU to conduct a green service-learning project in which graphic design students will develop buttons, posters, t-shirts and other items that promote recycling and participation in the April 30, 2011, Natchitoches clean-up day.

In addition, NSU’s art honor fraternity, Kappa Pi, has been awarded a $2,500 grant from Keep Louisiana Beautiful that will provide supplies for art students from NSU and the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts to make existing recycle bins more readily identifiable.

According to Kappa Pi chapter advisor Leslie Gruesbeck, the artwork will call attention to the bins appointed purpose in a fun, educational, and interesting way. The recycle bins will be used at large events such as tailgating, ball games, and will be unveiled and used for the first time at the Natchitoches/Northwestern City Wide Clean Up next spring. The original designs will highlight the impact that recycling has had on the Natchitoches area and on the benefits and regulations of recycling in this area.

People…Continued from Page 2

managing, mitigating, and devising means for assessing and designating the most outstanding vestiges of technological innovation in service to Cold-War era defense and several nations’ space programs while simultaneously minimizing risks to manned spacecrafts, satellites, and people on the ground.

Dr. J. Mark Thompson, professor of music, completed a 10-day mission trip to Israel while performing bass trombone with the Metro Big Band, one of several musical missions groups associated with the Global Missions Projects.

Seven concerts were performed in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Tiberius (Sea of Galilee) Nov. 11-20. The band was led by Camp Kirkland, who is recognized as the pioneer in established instrumental music as a viable medium in the life of a church music program.

Thomas Reynolds, Language and Communication, delivered his paper “Assessing Online Teaching in Language and Communication Departments” at the 67th annual meeting of the South Central Modern Languages Association in Fort Worth, Texas, on Oct. 30. At the conference, Reynolds was also elected 2011 Chair of the Computer Applications in English and Foreign Languages panel.

Dr. James A. Crank, Language and Communication, presented the paper “Southern Fried Melodrama: (Mis) Representations of Flannery O’Connor in Contemporary Southern Film” at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association in Atlanta, Ga., on Nov. 5.
Archivist reports on active semester

Mary Linn Wernet, archivist, had a full slate of activities for the fall semester. Wernet participated in the Louisiana State Documents Superseded List and the Louisiana State Documents Core List committee meetings in August.

In September, Wernet attended a meeting of the NPS-Creole Heritage Park and the Southeast Archaeological Center with the Cane River Heritage Commission, the Louisiana Creole Center, and Dr. Hiram Gregory in the NCPTT conference room. The meeting concerned a NPS interpretative painting encompassing Oakland and Magnolia Plantations and the Cane River Region.

After the meeting, artist Matthew Pate and NPS Park Ranger Dustin Fugua researched several scrapbooks and books from the CGHRC. Also in September, Wernet presented a paper “Film and Documentary Collections in the Cammie G. Henry Research Center” during the 2nd Annual Louisiana Studies Conference at NSU.

Wernet volunteered as a docent at the African House on the grounds of Melrose Plantation during the APHN Fall Tour of Homes. Along with other volunteers, she gave tours of the upstairs Clementine Hunter murals in the African House.

As a part of the Archive Training Collaborative which includes Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association meeting at LSU Hill Memorial Library in Baton Rouge, where presentations included “Rummaging Through Primary Source Materials: A Guide to Genealogy in Parish Records” by Keith Fontenot, “Update on the ATC: Getting and Giving Workshops” by Elizabeth Dow, “Archival Angst: What I Learned in 30 Years” by Robert Schaadt, “Feeding the Tiger to the Publisher: The Hurdles of Creating Historic Photos of LSU Football” by Mark Martin and Barry Cowan and the LAMA business meeting.

On Nov. 20 Wernet attended the St. Denis Chapter of the Louisiana Society Daughters of the American Revolution luncheon recognizing National American Indian Heritage Month.

The program was led by Rufus Davis, Chief, Adai Indian Nation. During the luncheon, Wernet was introduced by Regent Dr. Colleen Lancaster and invited all in attendance to visit the CGHRC’s exhibit on Native American Collections.

As part of the planning committee for the 68th Anniversary Celebration of the 101st Airborne Division, Wernet created and mounted a traveling exhibit for the 68th anniversary celebration of the 101 Airborne in Alexandria last month in which approximately 36 photographs were mounted and described.

The photographs were from the Myrtle Huie and Joe Dellmon Collection. They reflected the WWII home front era of central Louisiana. She attended the event and listened to the program by Tom Czekanski, Collections Manager of the National WWII Museum. He spoke on the History of the 101st Airborne Division. The event was held at the Alexandria Museum of Art.

As president of the North Louisiana Historical Association, Wernet organized and attended the NLHA meeting at the Norton Art Gallery in Shreveport last month. The speaker was William Lane Callaway, Historian for Barksdale Air Force Base talk on Barksdale: The Beginning.
Fred Taulbee, an instructor of English literature and screenwriting at NSU’s Leesville/Fort Polk campus, is currently involved in a film project being shot on location in Leesville. Taulbee is utilizing his skills doing camerawork for the film “Zydeco,” a horror film with a Cajun flavor.

“Zydeco” was written by David Noble, a Major in the U.S. Army currently posted in Leesville, with his wife Sunny as producer. The story centers around two friends travelling together who become the prey of a serial killer named Zydeco. Most of the actors, crew and musicians are native to central Louisiana, Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

After filming, the movie will be submitted to film festivals and the Nobles are looking into the possibility of streaming it on-line.

Earlier this year, Taulbee worked on a series of shorts focusing on the Paradise Bar in Leesville. NSU faculty and staff may also remember a short film he created in response to budget cuts, which was shown during last year’s faculty/staff luncheon. More of his work can be found by searching Fred Taulbee on youtube.com.

Tyler elected to ASWB nominating committee

Wade Tyler of Pineville has been elected to the nominating committee of the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB). The election was held at the association’s annual meeting in New Orleans in November.

Tyler is a professor of social work at NSU. He currently serves on the Louisiana State Board of Social Worker Examiners and has held multiple volunteer roles for ASWB, including service on the association’s Practice Analysis Task Force and Program and Education Committee.

As a member of the ASWB nominating committee, Tyler will be creating the slate of candidates for elected leadership positions in the association.

ASWB is the organization of the boards in 49 U.S. states, Washington, D.C., the Virgin Islands and 10 Canadian provinces that license and regulate social workers. Its purpose is to provide support and information toward the goal of protection of the public which uses social services. Its current president is Amanda Duffey Randall of Nebraska.
Congratulations

Ms. Leslie Gruesbeck, Department of Fine and Graphic Arts, College of Liberal Arts, received notification of a $2,500 award from Keep Louisiana Beautiful for “Keep Louisiana Beautiful: NSU’s Kappa Pi Gamma Mu Chapter and LSMSA’s Art Club Repaint the Recycle Bins to Raise Awareness and Use.”

Mr. Steven Gruesbeck, Office of Service-Learning, received notification of a $5,000 award from Keep Louisiana Beautiful for “Keep Louisiana Beautiful: A NSU’s ‘Green’ Service-Learning Project to Support Recycling and Litter Abatement in Natchitoches, LA.” Mr. Jim Hurley is collaborator.

Current Activities

Dr. Paul Withey, Department of Mathematics and Physical Sciences, College of Science, Technology, and Business, submitted a continuation proposal to the Air Force/Clarkson Aerospace for “Investigations into Alignment of Carbon Nanotubes in Nanocomposites Using Fluorescence Spectroscopy.”

Dr. Juliette Delabbio, Aquaculture Research Center, College of Graduate Studies and Research, submitted a proposal to the Louisiana Board of Regents Support Fund for “Understanding the Physiological Limitations of an Imperiled Species - Atractosteus spatula.”

Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

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

Sympathy

Funeral services for Mrs. Edelene Shirley, mother-in-law of DeAnna Shirley, External Affairs, were held at Calvary Baptist Church in Natchitoches Nov. 12. Mrs. Shirley passed away Nov. 9.

Funeral Services for Louis Bradley Jr., brother of Marlene Carter, administrative assistant, College of Nursing, were held at Greenville Baptist Church in Clarence on Nov. 20. A plant was sent to the service from the NSU Floral Fund.

The NSU Floral Fund wired a plant to the funeral service of Mrs. Nagel, mother of Dr. Paul Nagel, assistant professor, Teacher Education Center.

The Floral Fund also made a donation to St. Mary’s Library in memory of Mrs. Virginia Olivares, mother of Veronica (Roni) Biscoe, director of University Planning, Assessment and EEO.
IP grant will fund bridge between NSU Tutors, Gresham Bird Trail

Northwestern has received a $12,300 grant from International Paper to fund “Linking Literacy and Environmental Education: A Collaboration Between NSU Tutors and the Gresham Bird Trail.”

According to co-principal investigator of the grant Dr. Michael Cundall, the project brings together NSU Tutors’ literacy program with the environmental education focus of the Grits and Mary Ryan Gresham Bird Trail. Cundall said the trail provides direction for NSU Tutors’ literacy efforts, which produces interpretive materials for the trail. The trail will reach more students as an educational destination, according to Cundall.

“The primary objectives facilitate learning throughout the community,” said Cundall, assistant director of the Louisiana Scholars’ College and an assistant professor of philosophy. “NSU Tutors will foster literacy skills in students through environmental awareness. The trail will create an outdoor classroom where students can focus on native flora and fauna, making the site more accessible during warmer months. Students with strong literacy and science reasoning will be successful in school and become positive influences in our community.”

Professor of Ecology and Mathematics Dr. Margaret Cochran and Professor of Biology Dr. Steven Gabrey are co-investigators. Cochran and Gabrey were instrumental in establishing the Gresham Bird Trail near Watson Library.

The project will begin with the construction of an outdoor classroom, including a shade structure for a meadow on the bird trail, two message centers for posting interpretive materials and arboretum labels for existing native plantings. The classroom will be named the International Paper Environmental Education Pavilion.

Weekend events for students involving the bird trail will be planned. Students will be asked to reflect and write about environmental topics relative to the bird trail and display their ideas in brochures and posters for the message centers and outdoor classroom.

The outdoor classroom and teachers’ guides will be publicized to local schools, classes, and organizations as a community resource available for use in spring 2011 after the dedication of the outdoor classroom. Several community partners have expressed interest in using the trail and tutoring.

“The International Paper Environmental Education Pavilion will be open to the general public 365 days of the year. It is hoped that in addition to increasing the environmental literacy of young people, the project will also serve to increase the environmental awareness of their teachers, family and friends and provide a venue for children to share their excitement and new-found knowledge about nature and the local environment with others,” said Cundall.
By Matthew Bonnette
NSU Associate SID

Northwestern State Demon basketball team visited St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital prior to tipping off against nationally-ranked Memphis in hoops action.

Arranged by assistant coach Mark Slessinger and coordinated by Steele Ford, the Senior Director of Sports Marketing for St. Jude, players and staff were treated to a tour of the facility and capped off with a meet and greet autograph session between the players and children.

To say it was one of the most touching moments in a person’s lifetime would be an understatement. “This is something we did about 10 years ago and it really helps put life into perspective,” said Demon head coach Mike McConathy. “When we scheduled this game with Memphis, we knew we had to come back here for a visit.”

“It was a great day for everyone,” said Ford in an email to Slessinger. “For our kids, our parents, and our staff. Y’all made our day and we were so impressed with your team and staff. Thank you so much for all you did to lift the spirits here at St. Jude. We’re all now Demon fans.”

To walk through the hallways and see all the children, some balding because of the cancer treatment, and some wearing masks to avoid contact with germs, it was amazing to see that all, not a few or some, but ALL, had smiles on their faces and living the dream of being a kid.

“It really was a surreal experience,” said sophomore forward James Hulbin. “To be able to put a smile on a kid’s face knowing what they’re going through, I’m just glad I was able to experience it.”

“Here’s the thing,” said junior guard Louis Ellis, “we came here to help lift their spirits yet I think they lifted ours more.”

When arriving at the

Continued on page 10
$3 tickets for all NSU basketball games in December!!

Show your 2010 Christmas Festival armband or wear your 2010 Christmas Festival t-shirt and receive $3 admission to all NSU basketball games in December.

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hospital, the travel party was split into two groups and was treated to a guided tour of the facility. They learned everything from how it got started by founder Danny Thomas, and to how not one penny is collected from the patients and families. And since it is a research hospital, over $1 million needs to be generated every day to be able to operate.

“We’ve gotten a ton of support from corporations like Chili’s and of course, the Memphis Grizzlies,” said Ford during the tour. “But we also get a lot of help from schools like Northwestern State.”

Last year, NSU students helped raise over $30,000 for St. Jude.

“It’s very touching to know that our student body is pulling together to help out these kids,” said McConathy. “And after you visit here, it only makes you want to do more.”

As great as the tour was, the highlight of the day came when the players got to interact with the children and families during an autograph session.

The Demons gave all the kids signed mini basketballs and T-shirts.

Of course, there was some good ‘ol playground ribbing too… from the kids.

“I can take you,” said one kid to 6-9 center O.J. Evans. Or, “You may look 10-feet tall, but I can still score on you,” one child was overheard saying. And then there was a remarkable encounter with a patient and senior guard Dominic Knight, who has a cast on his left hand due to a broken bone. The child was peppering him up and trying to lift his spirits.

That’s the magic of St. Jude. Sure, it’s a hospital, but it allows kids to be kids. For example, the tour made way into a play room where several kids were coloring, doing arts and crafts, playing on computers. One girl, probably 6-7 years old, dressed up like a princess with her long gown and princess shoes.

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The Louisiana Folklife Center and the Office of Cultural Diversity sponsored the second annual Natchitoches-NSU Multicultural Christmas Concert Nov. 30. The concert was hosted by the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts.

This concert featured groups from the Natchitoches area. Each of the performances featured Christmas songs, both secular and sacred. Kelsie Parker and Nathan Middleton sang “Mary, Did You Know?”

The Natchitoches Detention Center Choir with director Nancy Drawhorn performed “Jesus! What A Wonderful Child!” NSU alumnus Brandol King was accompanied on piano by Carl Willis sang “Merry Christmas to You.” NSU Lifted Voices sang “Done Made a Vow.” The LSMSA Chorale with director Lisa Benner sang “Caroling, Caroling” as well as four other songs. The LSMSA Saxophone Quartet played “Go Tell It On the Mountain.” Hardrick Rivers with family and friends played “Jingle Bells” and a few other melodies. Thefestivities closed with all singing “Silent Night” lead by Rivers, King and the Natchitoches Detention Center Choir.

While a free concert, the Louisiana Folklife Center collected canned goods to benefit DOVES, Inc. Carolyn Abreu, program coordinator for DOVES, spoke briefly about the importance of the program and its mission.

The coordinator of the event, Dr. Shane Rasmussen, director of the Louisiana Folklife Center, and Diane Jones, director of the Office of Cultural Diversity, were assisted by Louisiana Folklife Center workers, Eugene Edwards, Ashley Briggs, Chelsi Martin, Robbie Gore, Jr., Joe Waller and administrative assistant Sharon Sweeters.