Keith Dromm, associate professor of philosophy in the Louisiana Scholars’ College, has a chapter in Inception and Philosophy, edited by David Kyle Johnson (Wiley-Blackwell, 2011). The chapters in this anthology explore the various philosophical issues raised by the film Inception. The title of Dromm’s chapter is “Do Our Dreams Occur While We Sleep?”

Lisa Rougeou, Department of Language and Communication and Department of Teaching and Learning, was an invited speaker at National Writing Project’s annual meeting in Chicago, Nov. 17. She was part of a national panel that shared strategies for examining the use of NWP research to promote local site work.

Dr. Michelle Fazio-Brunson, associate professor, Family and Consumer Sciences; Hailey E. Warner, early childhood education student; and Dr. Barbara

Multicultural Christmas Concert proceeds benefit local domestic violence support group

By Shane Rasmussen, director of the Louisiana Folk Life Center

The 3rd annual Natchitoches-NSU Multicultural Christmas Concert was held on Tuesday, Nov. 29 at Treen Auditorium at the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts. The event was a benefit concert for D.O.V.E.S. (Domestic Violence Education and Support) Inc. Donations of food, paper products and personal items as well as cash donations were accepted for the local nonprofit organization. The event was sponsored by The Louisiana Folklife Center, the Northwestern State University Office of Cultural Diversity and the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts.

Many people contributed to making the event a success. The Louisiana Folklife Center staff, comprised of students Kayla Hardy, Christina Lake, Chelsea Taylor, Alexandria Leger and administrative assistant Sharon Sweeters, planned and promoted the event. Diane Jones, assistant director of student activities and cultural diversity, invited several of the participants to perform in the event. Students Alex Cook and Alison Roberts designed the concert poster, while Kayla Hardy created the concert program. John Shore, residential life coordinator for the LSMSA, served as the liaison between the Folklife Center and LSMSA, and was also the stage manager for the concert.

The concert featured an array of both secular and sacred Christmas performances. The LSMSA Chorale, directed by Lisa Benner, performed in the lobby.
before the concert. Dr. Pat Widhalm, executive director of the LSMSA, accompanied the Chorale on piano. Other performers included the Natchitoches Parish Detention Center Choir, soloists and group vocalists from the Natchitoches Central NCHOIR 4, solo vocal performances by Lorie Speer and Rachel Bradley, and interpretive dance by Rev. Karli D. Pidgeon. Reasonable Facsimile, a favorite at the Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival, performed last, and led the audience in a group singing of “Silent Night.”

“I am so appreciative to have had many talented groups perform for this concert. This is a great opportunity for the community to come together to celebrate the season and support a charitable cause” said Dr. Shane Rasmussen, assistant professor of English at NSU and Director of the Louisiana Folklife Center. “This is a perfect way to kick off the other festivities in the area and the Christmas season.”

SBDC director earns global business credential

Jim Kilcoyne, director of the Louisiana Small Business Development Center at Northwestern State, has received professional designation as a NASBITE Certified Global Business Professional.

Kilcoyne is one of three NASBITE Certified Global Business Professionals in Louisiana. He is able to provide specialized assistance including counseling and training to small and medium sized businesses interested in developing or expanding their export business opportunities. The designation is the only professional credential for international trade professionals in the United States and provides a benchmark for competency in global commerce.

“With this certification, I hope to be able to provide better consulting services to small businesses who are looking to move into export markets,” said Kilcoyne. “The certification assures clients that I have undergone formal training. This should open some doors to small businesses in the state and in the region because they have someone here who can work with them.”

By earning the designation, Kilcoyne demonstrated the ability to conduct global business including global business management, global marketing, supply chain management and trade finance.

“In working with businesses, I will talk with them about establishing supply chains and distribution channels in foreign countries,” he said. “The best way to do that is to find a partner in the country.”

Kilcoyne says there are great opportunities available for Louisiana companies in foreign markets.

“Anything associated with Louisiana is in great demand, especially in China,” said Kilcoyne.

For more information, contact Kilcoyne at (318) 357-5611 or at kilcoynej@nsula.edu.

Dr. Fazio Brunson, director of graduate programs in Early Childhood Education, FACS, will be awarded the 2012 Helen Harley Memorial Scholarship at the Southern Early Childhood Conference in San Antonio in February. Three scholarships are presented annually to individuals from designated states to assist professionals to attend the SECA conference. The scholarship consists of a stipend and complimentary conference registration. The reward is rotated among the SECA states.

The Helen Harley Memorial Scholarship was created to honor Helen B. Harley, SACUS business manager from 1971-74.

Dr. J. Mark Thompson, professor of music, presented a clinic entitled “Introduction to the New Bass Trombone Audition Materials,” at the Louisiana Music Educators Association State Music Conference on Nov. 21. In addition, Dr. Thompson and Galindo Rodriguez, associate professor of music, both participated in the Louisiana Association of Jazz Educators Big Band Reading Session on Nov. 20. Rodriguez was also featured prominently in the Jazz Combo on November 19 at the LMEA Social. See related story on Page 8.

The collection of essays co-edited by Dr. Holly Stave with Justine Tally, who teaches at the University of La Laguna, in Tenerife, has been published. The book is entitled Toni Morrison’s A Mercy: Critical Approaches and it includes Stave’s essay “Across Distances Without Recognition: Misrecognition in Toni Morrison’s A Mercy.” It was published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing in England.

Northwestern State Faculty Senate President Jack Atherton will be a guest on Spotlight, a local Natchitoches radio program. Atherton will offer “faculty perspective on changes at Northwestern State due to budget cuts, presenting our faculty as warriors who are going above and beyond for the success of the university,” he said.

The program will air Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 7:15 a.m. on 1450 KNOC AM and at 8:15 a.m. on Talk 106.5 FM. Atherton is assistant professor of criminal justice and administrator of the Unified Public Safety Administration program.

Dr. Paul Nagel, College of Education and Human Development, will attend and present at the 91st annual National Council for the Social Studies conference in Washington, D.C., Dec. 1-4. Dr. Nagel will present a clinic on Thurs., Dec. 1 entitled “Hidden Treasures of Washington, D.C.,” a hands on workshop for K-12 teachers to learn about GPS and geocaching. Dr. Nagel will also present two lessons: “The World Around Us: Learning through Children’s Literature,” a lesson for elementary teachers to incorporate geography in the classroom and “Death Defying: Archaeology, Culture and Environmental Studies of Northern Peru,” a lesson for middle and high school teachers to learn about the culture, geography and history of Peru.

Sympathy

Funeral services for Ernest J. Granger, 84, father of Dr. Greg Granger, professor of history, were held at Ardoin’s Funeral Home in Mamou on Monday, Nov. 7. Mr. Granger died at Lafayette General Hospital after a brief illness. The NSU Floral Fund sent a plant to the services.

A floral basket was sent to the funeral service for James “Jim” Sarpy, father of Leonard Sarpy, University Police.

The Floral Fund also sent a plant to the funeral service for Louise Chevalier, mother of David Chevalier, Print Shop, master pressman.
The Department of Language and Communication presented a Dia de los Muertos themed Fall Read to a full and enthusiastic crowd on Nov. 2. Beautifully decorated memorial altars created by Spanish students from Jim Crawford and Christine Ferrell's classes provided a wonderful atmosphere in the Thomas-D’Amato Reading Room of Watson Library.

Several readers, including Julie Kane, Andy Crank, and Lisa Abney, presented original poetry and fiction. Others read pieces by authors including Elizabeth Massie, Frederico Garcia Lorca and Anne Sexton. For the first time, in addition to readings by faculty of the Language and Communication Department, faculty from other departments and undergraduate students also participated. Thanks to Davey Antilley, the Read was filmed and aired multiple times on NSU 22. This marked the third year creators and organizers Michelle Pichon, Lori LeBlanc, and Oona Zbitkovskis have presented this event.

Look for Spring Read to be held in Spring 2012.

Dr. Thomas W. Reynolds, Jr., Language and Communication, delivered his paper “(Re)Reading Our (Re) Writing of Wiki Technology” on Saturday, Nov. at the 2011 National Council of Teachers of English’s Annual Convention in Chicago. The NCTE annual convention draws thousands of K-12 teachers, college faculty, administrators and other educational professionals from around the world.

A poem titled “Used Book” by Dr. Julie Kane, professor of English and Louisiana Poet Laureate, will be featured The Writer’s Almanac with Garrison Keillor on Dec. 6. (See full story on Page 8.) Kane was the Gordon Kelley Lecturer on Public Literacy at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith in October.

She also flew to New Hampshire to take part in a national conference of state poets laureate, reading poems at various locations around the state including the Concord Public Library and giving a talk on Poetry in Education. Kane conducted a poetry writing workshop and participated in three panel presentations at the Louisiana Festival of the Book in Baton Rouge.

Kane read poetry and discussed her books with the Red River Pulpwood Queens book club in Shreveport on Nov. 29. Two of Kane’s poems appear in the new anthology Improbable Worlds: An Anthology of Texas and Louisiana Poets, edited by Martha Serpas (Mutabilis Press).


Kane will also be featured in the November-December issue of Louisiana Life Magazine, as well as the Winter 2011-2012 issue of “Louisiana Cultural Vistas.”

The CD “Snow White Turns Sixty: Hollis Sings Trumbore,” released this fall by Dissonant-Gorgeous Productions, includes a musical setting of Kane’s poem “The Mermaid Story,” composed by Dale Trumbore and sung by soprano Gillian Hollis.

Rodriguez performs with LMEA ensembles

Galindo Rodriguez, associate professor of music, attended the Louisiana Music Educator’s Association conference in Baton Rouge Nov. 18-20. As one of a number of Northwestern State representatives from the School of Creative and Performing Arts he coached the trumpet section of the All State Jazz Ensemble on Sat., Nov. 19.

On the evening of the Nov. 19, Rodriguez participated as one of the featured jazz soloists for the LMEA Social Jazz Performance. He was joined by Andy Pizzo, president of the Louisiana Association for Jazz Education; Troy Breaux, professor of percussion at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette; Patrick Sheng, professor of applied saxophone at McNeese State University; Oscar Rossignoli, jazz pianist, of Venezuela and Robert Nash, a bassist from Baton Rouge.

As past president and current treasurer for the Louisiana Association for Jazz Education, Rodriguez also performed in the Reading Session of the LAJE Jazz Big Band. This is the annual event during the convention in which university professors and guest artists perform new literature in recent publication.
Northwestern State University presented Excellence in Teaching Awards to five faculty members in recognition of their commitment and service to NSU students. From left are Northwestern State President Dr. Randall J. Webb, Dr. Holly Stave, Louisiana Scholars’ College; Dr. Deborah Clark, College of Nursing and Allied Health; John Byrd, College of Science, Technology and Business, Dr. Greg Handel, College of Arts, Letters, Research and Graduate Studies; Dr. Sanghoon Park, College of Education and Human Development, accompanied by his son Daniel, and Dr. Vickie Gentry, dean of the College of Education and Human Development.

Excellence in Teaching honorees recognized

Nursing students rally to support classmate’s brother

Northwestern State’s graduate family nurse practitioner students organized a benefit for the brother of a fellow student. The students will hold a 5K race called Miracles for Josh in Shreveport Saturday, Dec. 3. Proceeds will benefit Josh Lesniewski, brother of student Leah Reed.

The race will be held at Stoner Boat Launch in Shreveport. A half-mile fun run will begin at 8 a.m. and a 5K run/walk at 8:15 a.m. Registration is $20 and can be made through midnight Dec. 2 by visiting getmeregistered.com and clicking on the Miracles for Josh link. The website lists information on packet pick up, awards, age group divisions and a post-race party. Participants can also register at Sportspectrum, 6970 Fern Ave., in Shreveport.

Lesniewski is in his late 20s with a wife and baby daughter. Earlier this year, Lesniewski fell 20 feet from a ladder and suffered a severe brain and spine injury.

“The spectacular part of this is that my Family Nurse Practitioner class of 2012, Leah’s classmates, have come together with donations to sponsor this race. I am extremely proud of this class,” said Dr. Connie Mott, Northwestern State’s Family Nurse Practitioner coordinator and assistant professor of graduate studies. “There is a Facebook page dedicated to him called Miracles for Josh. Our class kept our sponsorship from Leah, our student, until we got it all together. I posted it on Josh’s Facebook page as a surprise for her. She was extremely grateful. The students have really rallied around their classmate in support of her and her family’s needs.”

Anyone interested in making a donation to Miracles for Josh can contact Mott at ropolloc@nsula.edu. For more information, visit Facebook.com/miraclesforjosh or caringbridge.org/visit/miraclesforjosh.
Northwestern State University Grounds Horticulturist Gary Nolley talked to about 70 members of the NSU Elementary Lab School running club about trees on the Northwestern State campus. Northwestern State has been a member of Tree Campus USA for several years. Sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, this program encourages schools to be actively involved in preservation, protection and education about trees on college campuses. The youngsters joined Nolley in planting and mulching the tree, a purple-blooming vitex, near the campus walking trail.
News from the Cammie G. Henry Research Center

University Archivist Mary Linn Wernet attended the Northwestern State Department of Criminal Justice, History and Social Sciences’ Lincoln and Douglas Debates held in the Library Reading Room on the second floor of Watson Library on Nov. 10.

Wernet, president of the North Louisiana Historical Association, attended the association’s meeting on Nov. 12 at the Taylortown Store on Hwy. 71 in south Bossier. The owner, Jim Mercer, presented the program on the history of the store and the Mercer family plantation.

As part of the advisory committee of the fifth annual Military Celebration and Symposium to mark the 69th anniversary of the founding of the 101st Airborne in Alexandria, Wernet attended the event held at LSU-A on Friday, Nov. 18 and provided a traveling exhibit of World War II home front photographs of Alexandria from the Myrtle Huie and Joe Dellmon Collection.

The CGHRC hosted the Phi Alpha Theta Pi Chapter induction ceremony Thursday, Nov. 30.

In early November Wernet was a member of a team of consultants made up of teachers, scholars, librarians and archivists from across Louisiana who prioritized more than 182 19th century and early 20th century Louisiana newspapers for LSU’s Special Collections National Endowment for the Humanities and Library of Congress National Digital Newspaper program.

As a consultant, Wernet rated Louisiana newspapers dating from the 1860s-1922 based on her personal knowledge of the titles as well as summary information provided by the grant staff. The LSU grant staff compiled the resulted and will begin to digitize the rated newspapers from top to bottom.

Gruesbeck to edit portion of service learning journal

Steven Gruesbeck, director of service learning and instructor of psychology at Northwestern State University, has been named a section editor of the new Journal of Service Learning in Higher Education (JSLHE), which has been started by the University of Louisiana System.

The subscription-free online publication is designed to encourage academic research about service learning. This international, peer-reviewed journal, which can be accessed at ulsystem.edu/JSLHE, is asking scholars to submit manuscripts for the Spring 2012 debut issue.

The journal is an outgrowth of collaboration between all universities in the University of Louisiana System and managed by the UL System’s Service-Learning Council which Gruesbeck chairs.

“Northwestern, and the other University of Louisiana System schools, has been a leader in innovative and effective service-learning projects,” said Gruesbeck. “This peer-reviewed journal was developed to highlight original research regarding effective institutional-community service partnerships. The editorial board and peer-reviewers anticipate submissions of manuscripts from practitioners/researchers from around the country as well as from a variety of disciplines.”

The online journal is being housed by Simon Fraser University through the Public Knowledge Project’s Open Journal Systems. Publishing a journal online allows for a quicker submission, review, and publishing process with sustainability.
A new recording featuring Paul Christopher, assistant professor of low strings, has been released. “The Poetics of Silence, The Necessity of Form: KAFKAMUSIK : A Duo-drama in Two Books” by Dr. Mark Prince Lee, music department chair, Columbia (Tenn.) College, is a setting of texts by the great existential author Franz Kafka for two speakers and cello, accompanied by violin, classical guitar, soprano and clarinet/oboe. This two CD set was recorded at First Avenue Sound Studio in Franklin, Tenn., by Grammy award winning engineer David Hall. Copies and sound samples are available at Dr. Lee’s website: www.markprincelee.com. From left are Hall, Christopher and Lee.

Kane poem to be featured on Writer’s Almanac

A poem by Northwestern State University Professor of English Julie Kane, Used Book, will be read on NPR’s The Writer’s Almanac Tuesday, Dec. 6. This is the second time Kane’s work has been featured on the NPR show. Particle Physics from Kane’s book Jazz Funeral was read on the program in 2009.

The Writer’s Almanac is hosted by Garrison Keillor, who is also host of A Prairie Home Companion, and is broadcast in northwest and central Louisiana on Red River Radio stations KDAQ-FM (89.9) in Shreveport and KLSA-FM in Alexandria (90.7) at 9 a.m.

Used Book is a sonnet Kane wrote about finding a signed copy of a book of her poetry in a used bookstore.

“It’s a cheerful sonnet until the last two lines,” said Kane. “I pick it up, look at the dedication page and see who has sold the book back.”

Used Book was a winner of the Open Poetry Sonnet Competition, a competition sponsored by the United Kingdom-based Open Poetry Ltd.

Kane is serving a two-year term as Louisiana poet laureate. She won the Donald Justice Poetry Prize for “Jazz Funeral.” A former Fulbright Scholar, Kane was a winner of the National Poetry Series Open Competition for her book “Rhythm & Booze.” She was a finalist for one of the major prizes in American poetry, The Poets’ Prize for the Best Collection of American Poetry, and a judge for the 2005 National Book Award in Poetry. Northwestern honored her with the 2004 Mildred Hart Bailey Research Award.

The Writer’s Almanac is a daily radio program in which Keillor presents a list of cultural events and anniversaries, many associated with literary figures, then ends with the poetry reading. The program is broadcast to nearly 400 public radio stations around the country. The program audio is also streamed and podcast from and archived at writersalmanac.publicradio.org and may be streamed or archived on station websites.
Dr. Marcus Jones, professor of business and vice president for University Affairs, and Dr. Lisa Abney, vice president for Academic and Student Affairs, traveled with a group of senior level business students to Cartagena, Colombia, where the students debated the pros and cons of the U.S./Colombia free trade agreement during the Thanksgiving break.

The journey was the culmination of a semester’s study in international commerce in which Northwestern State students researched the trade agreement and prepared to discuss its pros and cons with counterparts at the Universitaria Tecnologico Comfenalco, Cartagena. The Colombia students have studied the topic throughout their college careers.

During the debate, the groups discussed trade aspects of two Colombian exports, passion fruit and plastics, with the help of a mediator. The debates were held in English, though there were two fluent Spanish speakers in the American group and most of the Colombian students spoke conversational English.

While in Cartagena, Jones and Abney signed an agreement on behalf of Northwestern State to offer dual enrollment opportunities for the Colombian students and develop exchange opportunities for students at both universities. They also met with officials at Universidad Libre, Sede Cartagena, to begin finalizing a second such agreement.

The trip also provided an opportunity to visit Cartagena high schools in recruiting initiatives. The delegation visited a lab school affiliated with Comfenalco and were treated to an impressive student symphony performance, raising the possibility of recruiting students with a music background to attend Northwestern State.

“The highlight for me was seeing my students interact with the Colombian students,” said Jones, who raised the majority of funding for the trip through external sources. Jones would like to offer the advanced business course every fall and explore the possibility of hosting a delegation of Colombian students for a similar debate in the spring.

The trip was covered by the Shreveport Times, which provided a blog in which the students shared their daily experiences as they explored Cartagena.
“New Mexico Interpretations,” a collection of paintings by Northwestern State Professor of Art Clyde Downs, will be on exhibit upstairs at Northwestern State’s Hanchey Gallery through Jan. 20, 2012. Works in the exhibition are the culmination of several years of travel to New Mexico, including this past summer’s three-week session visiting Santa Fe, Ghost Ranch and Bandelier National Monument.

“The paintings represent my attempt to amplify and portray to the viewer, not only the look of New Mexico, but the feel of New Mexico, the clarity of color, the intensity, the mood, the atmosphere and the spirit,” Downs explained.

“Works in this exhibit range from representational to abstract. The more abstract images deal with a response during my last trip to the textures of rock and the spiritual essence of the markings made by the Native Americans who inhabited this mystical landscape. Whatever their nature, representational or abstract, they deal with my response to the art, culture and landscape of New Mexico.”

Student and faculty explored galleries and museums of Santa Fe and Taos, painted and photographed the landscape at Ghost Ranch and experienced the changing environment of rain, cold, mist, sun and snow, Downs said.

“For many of the students, it was a life changing experience,” Downs said.

The exhibition opening coincided with Northwestern State’s annual Christmas Gala, During the reception Downs, Coordinator of Art Matt DeFord and student Hannah Koslosky performed a song inspired by the trip.

Faculty and students in Northwestern State’s Department of Fine and Graphic Art are planning a fund raiser tentatively scheduled for March 2012 with proceeds to help defray the cost of a 2012 summer trip to New Mexico.