Joyce Barnes displays an array of colorful quilts.

Joyce Barnes’ quilts warm the heart

Joyce Barnes is a quilter.
“I’ve been quilting since I was a little bitty girl,” she said. “My mother taught me to quilt.”

Barnes is also a giver. Co-workers, friends, relatives, several generations of brides and new babies and a number of perfect strangers claim ownership of a Joyce Barnes quilt.
“I love people and I like to make them happy and you should see the looks on their faces when you give them a quilt,” she said.

Earlier this year, Barnes, who works as the nursing advisor Northwestern State’s Leesville/Fort Polk campus, made a king size quilt that students raffled to benefit the Wounded Warriors Unit at Fort Polk. The raffle for the Flower Garden quilt fetched $855.
“The idea just popped in my head one day that we might could sell raffle tickets for a quilt and raise a few dollars,” she said. “I put an amount of at least $200, and if it did not raise that much I would refund everyone’s money. I was stunned

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at how fast the tickets sold and how much money we made for the Wounded Warrior Unit. I had the $200 in just a couple of days.”

“I was very excited! It is a beautiful quilt,” said Assistant Nursing Professor Linda Nichols, winner of the raffled quilt. “Miss Joyce is so talented. And it looks wonderful in my room.”

As a symbol of warmth, security and hope, few things can be as comforting as a homemade quilt, especially for those who are ill. That prompted Barnes to make 50 twin-size quilts she donated to St. Jude’s Children’s Research Hospital, sewn with supplies donated by the late Dr. Larry Monk, former director of Northwestern State’s Leesville/Fort Polk campus. Patients at St. Jude’s were invited to select a quilt when they left the hospital and Barnes’ liaison on the hospital snapped a picture of each patient with their quilt to send her. She remembers one patient, a 17-year-old girl whose mother’s favorite doll was a Raggedy Ann, so the patient chose a Raggedy Ann quilt.

“They were made on a quilting machine and I used only fabric themes from children’s stories and Disney characters,” she explained. “I can make a quilt in 45 minutes with the machine, but with those I give for a raffle, every stitch is by hand.”

Her two favorite patterns are Flower Garden and Double Wedding Ring. She makes “men” quilts and “women” quilts. Barnes made her coworker Tommy Tilley, user support specialist at the Leesville campus, and his family several quilts, including a “man” quilt and quilts for Tommy’s son, one with trucks, another with baseballs and footballs.

“If I make a quilt especially for a man I try to find out what his hobbies are,” she said. “Most men like to hunt and fish and there is lots of fabric for those hobbies. There is also fabric for racecars, tractors and things I call men’s toys. Women like the Flower Garden and the Double Wedding Ring and bright flowery material. The quilt I made for Tommy is called the Improved Nine Patch. There are no flowers on it and it is made of blue, brown and green materials, no girly colors.”

Tilley’s daughter, who is a cancer survivor, also has a Barnes quilt. She was three years old when diagnosed.

“Tommy’s daughter’s first quilt was from the movie, ‘Sleeping Beauty.’ She wore a pink gown and had long blonde hair,” she said. “It was because of her that I got involved with St. Jude’s. There are quite a few princess materials. Every little girl has her own favorite. Some like the kittens and puppies as well.”

Barnes, too, is a cancer survivor and on the horizon is a quilt project for patients at M.D. Anderson in Houston. Not only does she donate quilts to raffle for charities and groups at her church, she also raises funds through meals she prepares.

“I cook lunch every Wednesday and I charge $5 for a plate lunch. It is usually the same bunch of teachers and staff members who eat with me. All the money is donated to some charity,” she said. “The first time I did this I raised $3,500 for Relay for Life, the second time was $5,000 for St. Jude’s Hospital, and so far this year I have raised $3,000 for the Wounded Warriors at Fort Polk. I do the cooking and my ‘Lunch Bunch’ does the eating. My donation is the cost for the food. I don’t reimburse myself for what I buy to cook. The teachers and staff have been so great to support me in everything I want to do to raise money to help others.

“I quilt all the time, year round. I first make the top and I sew it all by hand. Then I quilt it by hand,” she said. “I use the quilting machine to make twin size quilts or love wraps, as I call them. They are the size of the fabric. There is no cutting and hand sewing for them. They are usually 42 inches wide by 72 inches long. I sell the twin size for $45 and the money is donated to whatever charity I am working with at the time.”

Barnes recently completed another quilt to be raffled for the Wounded Warrior Fund at Fort Polk, a queen size Double Wedding Ring quilt with scalloped edges. The raffle will be open during the fall semester, August through November. Tickets are $5.

“I just enjoy helping others,” Barnes said. “God has blessed me so much and I enjoy doing what I can for others, especially children. As the saying goes, ‘Pass it forward.’”

For more information on the Wounded Warrior Fund raffle or to purchase a raffle ticket, contact Barnes at (337) 392-3114 or e-mail barnesj@nsula.edu.
Volunteers needed for Folk Festival

The Louisiana Folklife Center needs many volunteers to help with the Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival being held in Prather Coliseum on Friday, July 20 and Saturday, July 21. The hours are 4 -11 p.m. July 20 and 8 a.m. -11 p.m. on July 21.

In return for five or more hours of volunteer work, you will receive a Festival t-shirt and free admission to all events, according to Dr. Shane Rasmussen, director.

For more information, visit louisianafolklife.nsula.edu. To volunteer, please complete a Volunteer Agreement form and return it to the Louisiana Folklife Center in Room 213 Kyser Hall.

Rasmussen can by contacted by e-mailing rasmussens@nsula.edu or by calling extention 4332.

Middle Lab offers thanks to faculty, staff, volunteers

Several faculty, staff and volunteers from NSU Middle Lab were recognized during an end of year awards ceremony in May. More than 300 academic, attendance, leadership, character and content specific awards were presented to students for outstanding accomplishments.

Mrs. Gina Hubachek and Mrs. Jennifer Burleson were recognized and presented plaques of appreciation for superior leadership with the “NSUM Parent Action Club” and “NSUM Media Moms.”

Dr. Drew Moore and Dr. Paul Nagel were recognized and presented plaques of appreciation titled “Friends of NSU Middle Lab School.” Dr. Moore served the school as an advisor during the preparation of an accreditation report and visit that resulted in NSU Middle Lab School being named as a fully accredited AdvancED School.

Dr. Nagel served as an instructional coach for NSU Elementary Lab School and NSU Middle Lab School in a three year effort to improve the daily application of Kagan Cooperative Learning Strategies in the classrooms of both schools.

The ceremony concluded with the NSU Middle Lab staff providing hugs and encouragement to departing eighth grade students.

delegate from north Louisiana to attend the June American Nurses Association (ANA) meeting in which the organization took action to update and streamline governance of the association to more quickly address pressing issues and better meet the needs of nurses. Shelton serves as the Louisiana State Nurses Association treasurer.

The House of Delegates sessions were held on June 15-16 in National Harbor, Md., with about 450 voting delegates from ANA’s constituent and state nurses associations (C/ SNAs) and Individual Member Division (IMD). Louisiana had seven delegates at the house. The transformational changes approved by the House demonstrated the strong commitment of a broad coalition of leaders who came together with unity of purpose and a focus on serving members and the profession.

The changes are aimed at creating a preferred future for ANA and charting a new course that will make ANA a stronger advocate for registered nurses and create an organization that is relevant and responsive to members.

Shelton also presented at the 11th annual International Nursing Simulation/Learning Resource Center Conference. She was part of a team that presented the State of the Science on the Teacher Construct of the National League for Nursing-Jeffries Simulation Framework. From this presentation, a manuscript that will be submitted to the journal Clinical Simulation in Nursing.

The conference was held in San Antonio, Texas, June 20-23. The conference is held annually and is a leading forum for nurse educators, researchers, nurse managers, and staff development professionals and provides the ideal environment to disseminate and gain current knowledge in the area of skills/simulation lab management and simulation enhanced education. Nurses and other healthcare professionals had the opportunity to network with colleagues and exhibitors and to discuss best practice research, safety-related outcomes, competencies, and challenges.
Two wood sculpture pieces by Northwestern State University Professor of Art Michael Yankowski have been accepted into an international competition. Works included in the 31st Annual Design in Wood International Woodworking Competition were judged on design integrity, understanding and use of materials, use of form and color and overall craftsmanship. There were over 300 entries.

“My realistic trompe l’oeil sculpture ‘Popcorn Bag Box’ is made of carved mahogany and painted basswood. ‘Bread Box’ is constructed of cypress and black walnut. Both sculptures reveal hidden boxes and each received Honorable Mention from the judges,” Yankowski said.

The exhibition of fine woodworking is organized by the San Diego Fine Woodworkers Association, an organization with over 1,600 members. Works will be on display at the San Diego County Fair Grounds in Del Mar, Calif., from June 8-July 4. Underwriters for the exhibit include American Woodworker Magazine, Fine Woodworking Magazine and Wood Magazine.

Yankowski’s two sculptures have been on display during the annual Faculty Exhibition at the Northwestern State’s Orville Hanchey Gallery and at River Oaks Gallery in Alexandria. Several pieces of this series have been in other international competitions.

Another wooden sculpture by Yankowski was accepted into the ninth annual Art Melt juried competition, the largest multi-media juried exhibit in Louisiana. Yankowski’s oak and mixed media sculpture entitled “Spiritus” deals with life, death and the eternity of the spirit. Yankowski incorporated carved, fabricated and found objects as well as oil paint in this work. Doors swing open and hidden compartments reveal symbolic objects and images.

Art Melt will take place in downtown Baton Rouge from 5-10 p.m. Saturday, July 14. All artwork accepted to the competition will hang in the Shaw Center for the Arts, and remain up and open to the public for four weeks following the event. The Art Melt Marketplace will take place outside the show gallery in downtown Baton Rouge.

Yankoswki draws regional, international attention
Science professor creates eBook on astronomy

A Northwestern State University professor of physics and astronomy has produced an eBook that provides a visual introduction to some basic astronomy concepts, such as explaining the phases of the moon and earth-based evidence of the heliocentric model. “Basic Astronomy Concepts Everyone Should Know” is the latest book by Dr. Chris McMullen that trails a long list of titles that explore several branches of science and mathematics as well as McMullen’s hobbies that include puzzles, word scrambles, golf and chess.

“Basic Astronomy Concepts Everyone Should Know” includes large images of the sun and each planet with a brief table of basic information about each, such as size relative to earth, orbital radius relative to earth, mass relative to earth, density, surface temperature and number of moons. The book provides an overview of the solar system and explains lunar phases, solar and lunar eclipses, the seasons, Ptolemy’s geocentric model and retrograde motion.

The book is not a comprehensive introduction to all astronomy concepts but educators may find the material useful in the classroom, McMullen said.

Producing books is not unusual in the McMullen family. McMullen’s wife Reema, who is also a science instructor at Northwestern State, authored a book on how to write the Hindi alphabet. McMullen has collaborated with his mother and his daughter to produce puzzle and word scramble books, as well as math flashcards for the Kindle. He has also published several physics books, including “An Advanced Introduction to Calculus-Based Physics,” “A Guide to Thermal Physics,” “A Research-Oriented Laboratory Manual for First-Year Physics” and some books of creative physics problems. Workbooks in his Math Fluency series offer practice in arithmetic, fractions, algebra, calculus and trigonometry and are appropriate for students learning or reviewing those skills.

McMullen noticed while teaching physics that some of his students lacked fluency in math.

“I looked at workbooks that were available and thought I could create a better one,” he said. His books often present subject matter using monkey illustrations and rhyming problems to make topics more accessible.

“Physics is hard and intimidating. This makes it a little less evil,” he said.

McMullen is a California native who earned his Ph.D. in physics at Oklahoma State University in phenomenological high-energy physics (particle physics). His doctoral dissertation was on the collider phenomenology of superstring-inspired large extra dimensions, a field in which he has coauthored several papers. He taught at the Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts for several years before joining the faculty at Northwestern State. His books are available through Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

Yankowski...Continued from Page 4

The Forum 35 Art Melt strives to promote professional artists throughout Louisiana, while providing an opportunity for the public to experience the best of local fine art, music, performing arts and culinary creation. The competition is open to all Louisiana artists.

There were 632 entries submitted by 235 artists with only 65 pieces accepted.

The panel of three professional jurors who selected the exhibit were Franklin Sirmans from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Ron Platt, Birmingham Museum of Art and Thomas Neff of Louisiana State University. All pieces submitted were presented blindly and independently to each juror. Submissions were ranked on a scale of 1-7 by each juror and then cumulatively ranked based upon overall ranking by all jurors.

To view more of Yankowski’s work, visit MichaelYankowski.com
Reserve tickets now for Summer Dinner Theatre

Northwestern State University’s Summer Dinner Theatre will stage “The Taffetas: A Musical Journey through the Fabulous Fifties” July 25-28 and Aug. 1-4. The show was conceived by Rick Lewis. Andrew Lewis is director and choreographer. Michael Rorex is musical director.

The dinner menu for “The Taffetas” includes a choice of homestyle pot roast with gravy, mash potatoes and buttered peas and carrots or a second choice of vegetarian manicotti with roasted vegetables with olive oil and herbs. Both entrees come with chicken noodle soup, wedge salad with ranch dressing, home style rolls, apple pie a la mode, tea, water and coffee.

Adult beverages for both shows include a selection of red and white wines and domestic and import beers.

_Doors for Summer Dinner Theatre productions will open at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6 p.m. Shows will begin at 7 p.m. The cost for the dinner theatre is $25. Reservations are mandatory for all shows. Menus are to be announced._

For more information or to make reservations, contact Jane Norman at (318) 357-4483 or e-mail normanj@nsula.edu.

Birth Announcement

Kathy Shaw, administrative assistant, Office of Teacher Certification, Department of Teaching and Learning, welcomed a new grandchild. Ryan Andrew Shaw was born on May 22, 2012. He weighed 8 lbs. 11 ounces and was 21 inches long. His parents are Chris and Virginia Shaw. Chris is an alumnus of NSU and teaches at BPCC.
Rec Complex offering variety of July swim classes

Northwestern State University’s Robert Wilson Recreation Complex will host Mommy (or Daddy) and Me swim classes for parents with children aged six months to three years. The program is intended to develop in young children a comfort level in and around the water, as well as a readiness for learning to swim. It provides the accompanying parent with the necessary knowledge and skills to orient their child to the water and to safely supervise water activities.

The July class will take place over the course of two weekends from 1-1:30 p.m. July 14-15 and July 21-22. The fee for the course is $40.

NSU is also accepting registration for the American Red Cross GuardStart program, to be held at the Robert Wilson Recreation Complex. The program is designed for youth 11 years old or who have completed the fifth grade through 14 years old.

Participants must be able to swim the front crawl for 25 yards continuously while breathing to the front or side, tread water for one minute using arms and legs and submerge and swim a distance of 10 feet underwater.

“This program is designed to give youth a foundation of knowledge, attitudes and skills for future lifeguards, but does not necessarily give participants certification in First Aid, CPR or AED as a lifeguard,” said Cindy Davis, aquatics director. The program involves a significant amount of physical activity and touches on prevention, fitness, response, leadership and professionalism.

The class will be held from 9-11 a.m. Monday through Thursday for three weeks July 9-12, July 16-19 and July 23-26. The cost is $60 per participants. ARC Lifeguard Instructor Katie Yandell will be the instructor.

For more information or to register, email to Davis at cindyd@nsula.edu (preferred) or yandellk@nsula.edu or call NSU Rec Complex Pool at (318) 357-6301.

Sympathy

Services for Lillian Birge Teniny Pennington, mother of Nancy P. Alexander, executive director of NSU Child and Family Network, were held June 4 at Centuries Memorial Chapel in Shreveport. Mrs. Pennington passed away on May 31. The family requests in recognition of the Penningtons’ support of the local Shriners’ Hospital, that memorials be considered in lieu of flowers. You may share your prayers and condolences to the family by visiting the online register at www.centuriesmemorialfh.com.

Services for Mary Young Waters, mother-in-law of Janine Waters of the Graduate School, were held Thursday, June 14 at Blanchard-St. Denis with burial at Fern Park Cemetery. Mrs. Waters passed away Sunday, June 10.

A memorial mass was held June 14 at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Natchitoches for Leon B. Loustaunau, father of Shaun Wheat, adjunct instructor in the College of Nursing and Allied Health.
2012 CRD SPECIALIST TRAINING PROGRAM
INDIAN RIVER STATE COLLEGE
FORT PIERCE, FLORIDA

Carla Howell, interim director, attended and completed the 2012 Resource Development Specialist Training Program offered by the Council for Resource Development at Indian River State College in Fort Pierce, Florida. This training is an intensive introduction to all facets of resource development in the community and state college setting. Many of the nations’ most successful college development and alumni professionals have participated. This experiential learning environment, case-based classes, and invaluable networking provides the essential elements common to private fundraising, public grant seeking, and best practice office operations.

CONGRATULATIONS

Ms. Lisa Rougeou, Language and Communication, College of Arts, Letters, Graduate Studies and Research, submitted a proposal to the University of California – Berkeley for “Teacher Leadership Development Grants for Local NWP Sites.”

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Dr. Shane Rasmussen, LA Folklife Center, College of Arts, Letters, Graduate Studies and Research, submitted a proposal to the Shreveport Regional Arts Council entitled “2013 Natchitoches – NSU Folk Festival.”


Ms. Nancy Alexander, Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, College of Science, Technology and Business, submitted a proposal to Louisiana Department of Children and Families for “Statewide Child Care Career Development System.” Ms. Diane Alliet is collaborator.

Ms. Lisa Rougeou, Department of Language and Communication, College of Arts, Letters, Graduate Studies and Research, submitted a proposal to the University of California – Berkeley for “Professional Development in a High-Need School.”

Mr. James Kilcoyne, Small Business Development Center, College of Science, Technology and Business, submitted a proposal to the Louisiana Small Business Development Center for “Small Business Development Center 2012-2013.”

For more information regarding funding opportunities, visit ORSP’s website at www.nsula.edu/orsp.
NSU to offer ESL add-on certification for teachers

Northwestern State University’s College of Education and Human Development received approval to offer a post-baccalaureate certificate in English as a second language (ESL).

The add-on program is an endorsement to a Louisiana teaching certificate and will consist of 15 credit hours of graduate coursework restricted to individuals who have attained an initial teacher education credential.

Program completers will be awarded a post-baccalaureate certificate and certified by the Louisiana Department of Education.

“Louisiana is host to a growing number of English language learners,” said Dr. Vickie Gentry, dean of the College of Education and Human Development. “We regularly receive requests from certified teachers who are placed in English as a second language classrooms without adequate preparation. In response to the growing number of limited English speaking students who are subject to Louisiana’s accountability system, we developed courses that will prepare teachers to work with these underserved students.”

The Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System approved the proposal last week.

Faculty from Northwestern State’s College of Education and Department of Language and Communication worked with ESL certified teachers in Rapides Parish to develop coursework for the program, which will be offered online, Gentry said.

Teachers who complete this program will be provided effective instructional and assessment strategies that will support English language learners.

“Students can complete the program without visiting the campus for face-to-face classes, a convenient option for teachers employed full-time and working in all parts of the state,” Gentry said. “The instructional design format for all courses promotes faculty-student interaction, student-content interaction and student-student interaction via the Internet. Distance learning technologies, such as podcasting and video, will be embedded in the courses.”

For more information on the English as a second language certification program, contact Gentry at (318) 357-6288 or e-mail gentryv@nsula.edu.

Summer Theatre Camp puts spotlight on young talent

Northwestern State University’s Department of Theatre and Dance will host a Summer Theatre Camp to include acting, singing and dancing July 25-Aug. 1 for children ages 8-13. Participants will audition, rehearse and perform an original musical called “The Time Team.”

Classes will be held from 1 – 4:30 p.m. with no classes on Sunday, July 29. Performances open to the public will be Aug. 2-4, for $3 per ticket.

Fees for the camp are $150 per student, secured with a $25 deposit paid by July 11. Full payment is due the first day of camp.

For more information, contact Jane Norman at (318) 357-4483 or e-mail normanj@nsula.edu.

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.