Northwestern to launch Blackboard’s New Learning Platform Spring 2010

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Blayne Henson, Northwestern’s e-Learning support Specialist, is excited about the change but noted there will be some education required for users.

“The release introduces a range of capabilities from social learning tools to Web 2.0 innovations,” he said. There are also newly integrated components that enable more meaningful assessment.

Some of the new capabilities are a completely redesigned, customizable Web 2.0 user interface and new notification dashboards highlighting time sensitive information and alerts. There are social learning applications including blogs, journals, and enhanced group tools. Henson stated that ECE recently added a blog to the NSU Blackboard Faculty Support page to provide faculty members key information.

““There are several improvements which will be welcomed by faculty,” Henson noted. “There is an improved grade book which is more user friendly and retains a history of grade changes. The number of ‘clicks’ or steps to accomplish most Blackboard tasks has been reduced from an average five clicks to as few as two or three. Another feature
Northwestern was well represented at the Louisiana Board of Regents meeting in September. Attending were, from left, Dr. Darlene Williams, vice president for Technology Research and Economic Development; Christina Broussard, NSU CALL graduate; Dr. Lisa Abney, interim provost and vice president for Academic and Student Affairs; Dr. Vickie Gentry, dean of the College of Education; NSU First Lady Brenda Webb, Gil Gilson, assistant for Support Services; Charles Bourg, director for the Physical Plant; State Rep. Rick Nowlin, Winfred Sibille, vice chair for the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors; Jimmy Long Sr., University of Louisiana System board member, and NSU President Dr. Randall Webb. On the back row are Paul Bourgeois, Region 4 College and Career Transitions Coordinator; Chris Brumley, eLearning systems support specialist, and Tracy Brown, assistant director for Technical Services.

**Blackboard...Continued from Page 1**

permits an instructor to view student material and make changes with a simple click of the edit button.”

Blackboard 9.0 integrates with the Facebook platform enabling access to course information, updates, rosters and alerts, and social learning opportunities. The new version also includes web services for plagiarism prevention and may be looked at in the future as a replacement for Turnitin©.

Hedy Pinkerton, director of Electronic and Continuing Education (ECE), commented that in preparation for the upgrade, ECE is making a full fledged effort to support university personnel. “We are offering Blackboard 9 workshops several times each week until the end of the semester.”

There is also a self-paced online course which faculty are encouraged to take advantage of. “This is especially beneficial after completing the face to face workshop but the course may be taken without attending the workshop,” Pinkerton said. To date, 96 faculty are enrolled in the online course. To permit faculty a practice environment for using the new applications, there is a designated site available for those in the self-paced course.

Beginning November 2, 2009, the spring course shells will be available on a site separate from the Production site for instructors to begin upgrading courses, [http://bboardtest.nsula.edu](http://bboardtest.nsula.edu).

“I recommend instructors export their materials for the spring semester to this site to begin revisions, if possible, well prior to the Christmas break,” Henson said. “Although not required, this will provide valuable experience with the new Blackboard 9 interface.”

Spring courses should not be exported to the current Production Blackboard site until after December 23, 2009. From Dec. 21–23, the Production Blackboard site will not be available. Instructors will be able to export their materials back to the Production Blackboard as needed after Dec. 23.

For more information or to sign up for an online course, please contact Henson at 6355 or hensonr@nsula.edu. To sign up for a workshop, call the ECE main office at 6355.
Strings Competition. Fellow CAPA faculty member Elena Kuroda served as accompanist for all three performances.

In addition Christopher’s cello studio class gave a performance of ensemble music at the LMTA convention under the direction of junior cello student Brett Andrews.

Dr. Gillian E.A. Rudd and Dr. Walter Flomer, associate professors of chemistry, attended Sci-Port on Friday Oct. 23 to commemorate Mole Day. The professors helped organize and do the demonstrations for outreach, with faculty and students from Centenary College. Mole Day was the culmination of activities to celebrate the end of National Chemistry Week. For over three hours, schoolchildren in groups of 20-25 and ranging from fourth to seventh grade in the Shreveport area, attended the hands-on experiments. This year’s theme for National Chemistry Week was, “Chemistry- It’s Elemental,” and the hands-on experiments performed at Sci-Port, ranged from testing food samples for the presence of starch, to testing for metals/non-metals and being able to state which penny coin is pre-1983 by weighing it’s mass.

David King, Aviation Science, has been selected by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as consulting editor for a manuscript to be published by the FAA’s International Journal of Applied Aviation Studies (IJAAS). The publication, Aviation in developing countries: The role of the collegiate aviation community, addresses the development of a framework to guide national participation in addressing global aviation education issues. It posits that there is an unmet responsibility within the academy to assist in meeting global aviation needs and to recognize and engage the broader potential to impact the economic development of emerging countries.

Dr. Paul Nagel, College of Education, was honored on Saturday, Oct. 31 in Dallas Texas at the 57th Annual Texas Council for the Social Studies Conference. Dr. Nagel was presented a Distinguished Service Award by the Texas Alliance for Geographic Education, which recognizes his work in promoting geography education in Texas and Louisiana. Originally trained as a teacher consultant for the Texas Alliance to improve geography education, Dr. Nagel has presented numerous times about the importance of geography education in Texas, Louisiana and across the nation. Additionally, Dr. Nagel has annually served as a judge for the geography bee since becoming a TC.

Samuel S. Lewis presented a session at the 43rd annual conference of the Louisiana Council for Social Studies in Baton Rouge on Oct. 16. The title of his session was “Online Sociological Explorations of Louisiana.” The session specifically discussed reliable online resources that allow students to sociologically explore Louisiana’s cultural diversity, changing demographics, crime statistics, and major social institutions.

Lewis represented both NSU and the LVS/NSU Early Start Program, in which he teaches the “Principles of Sociology” dual enrollment course.

University Archivist Mary Linn Wernet and Library Specialist 1 Shelia Thompson attended the annual meeting of the Louisiana Archives and Manuscripts Association in Alexandria, on Friday, Oct. 23. Archivists and curators from all across Louisiana met and attended a number of sessions concerning recent Louisiana public records legislation, Louisiana initiated Archival Training Collaborative program, and genealogical research methodology. Wernet also attended the Daughter of American Revolution St. Denis Chapter luncheon honoring Natchitoches former mayor and local historian Robert DeBlieux for his achievements in preserving the history of Natchitoches. The meeting was held Saturday, Oct. 24.

Wernet also announced that in celebration of NSU’s 125th anniversary, the Cammie G. Henry Research Center at Watson Library is presenting an exhibit on “Student Life and Sports,” through March 15, 2010.
As part of a scientific collaboration between Dr. Andrei Ludu, Department of Chemistry and Physics, and Dr. Francois Peeters and Dr. Misko Milosevici of the Condensed Matter Theory Group at Antwerp University, Antwerp, Belgium, a research paper was submitted for publication at Physical Review B: Solid State Physics with the title “Analytic Treatment of Vortex States in Cylindrical Superconductors in Axial Magnetic Field.” This manuscript represents a continuation of the research performed by Ludu at Antwerp University in 2008 during his sabbatical year. Ludu also collaborates with Dr. Christian Cibert of Laboratoires des Proteines, Universite Paris 6, on two manuscripts that were finalized this fall: one paper has already been published in International Journal of Mathematics and Comp. Simulations (Volume 80, Issue 1, September 2009, p.223-230) title “Elastic Axonemal Model: Solitary Wave Shapes.” The article can be seen at http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/03784754 by searching the name of authors. Another manuscript accepted for publication in Journal of Theoretical Biology is titled “Is The Curvature of The Flagellum Involved in The Apparent Cooperativity of The Dynein Arms along The 9+2 Axoneme?”

This work is a continuation of the research performed in the IDEAS program at NSU co-founded by Dr. Ludu in 2003. Collaborative efforts between senior mathematics major Jacob Matherne, Richard Devault, Department of Mathematics, and Ludu obtained new exact solutions for a relativistic Diophantine equation modeling in an unifying way the problem of elementary particle masses in universe.

The results are condensed into a paper to be submitted to Int. J. Math. Comp. Simulations this November and presented in the NSU JOVE seminar in December and elsewhere.

Radiologic Science faculty share department news

Ben Wood, assistant professor in the Radiologic Science program published “Turnover among healthcare professionals” in the September issue of Radiology Management.


Becky Britt, assistant professor, published, “What Type of Leader Are You?” in the July/August issue of Radiologic Technology. Becky also presented in November in Denton, Texas, at Presbyterian Hospital on “Law and Ethics in Imaging,” “Diagnostic Imaging of Child Abuse” and “Burnout in Service Related Careers.”

Curtis also published, “Educational Program Emergency Planning” in the July/August issue of Radiologic Technology. She received a professional advancement scholarship from the American Society of Radiologic Technologists Education and Research Foundation for use towards her PhD studies. In addition, she published, “Literature review: Pathology pearls” in Radiologic Technology and presented “Contrast Media Precautions in Radiology” at Louisiana Osteopathic Medical Association in New Orleans and “Overview of CT Physics and Instrumentation” at Willis Knighton Health Systems in Shreveport.

Laura Aaron, program director and graduate coordinator, co-authored “If you use it, cite it.” in the September/October issue of Radiologic Technology. In June, she presented: “Radiologic sciences program directors and leadership skills: An American perspective” at the United Kingdom Radiological Congress in Manchester, United Kingdom.

The Radiologic Sciences program was very proud to accept its first class into the Master of Science in Radiologic Sciences (MSRS) program this fall. The program has enrolled twice as many students as projected for the first year. This program is only the fourth of its kind in the nation.
NSU Leesville Assistant Professors Deborah Hickman, MSN, RN, CNE, and Linda Nichols, MSN, RN, CNE, attended the annual education summit of the National League for Nursing (NLN), in Philadelphia Sept. 23-26.

“As nurse educators, we recognize the importance of attending annual conferences to stay abreast of the continual changes that occur in healthcare and technology,” Hickman said.

During the conference the two assistant professors attended sessions about connecting classroom and clinical learning, developing reflective clinical judgment, implementing evidence-based nursing in Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) programs, incorporating innovative teaching strategies, journaling, and maintaining Certified Nurse Educator (CNE) designation, all presented by internationally renowned speakers. Additionally, Assistant Professors Hickman and Nichols attended the annual faculty meeting and the CNE Recognition Reception, by invitation only, for certified nurse educators.

Hickman and Nichols are two of only 38 Certified Nurse Educators in Louisiana, a number that has grown substantially from only seven when they earned certification two years ago. According to Hickman, “National certification designates one as a professional as well as providing recognition of expertise in an area of practice. For nurse educators, certification also establishes nursing education as a specialty and creates a way for nursing faculty to demonstrate their expertise. It communicates to students, colleagues, and the academic and health-care communities that the highest standards of excellence are being met. By earning designation as a Certified Nurse Educator, one serves as a leader and role model.”

When asked about additional benefits of having attended the Education Summit in Philadelphia, Nichols said, “There were about 1,800 nurse educators in attendance from across the nation. Participating enabled us to network with these nurse educators from around the country. My experience has been that not only do I learn from notable speakers, I also pick up relevant ideas from my colleagues.”
The first annual Louisiana Studies Conference was held Sept. 26 at NSU. The co-founders of the conference, Dr. Lisa Abney, acting Provost and Vice President for Student and Academic Affairs and professor of English, and Dr. Shane Rasmussen, director of the Louisiana Folklife Center and assistant professor of English, served as conference co-chairs, and also co-chaired the conference selection committee. Also serving on the selection committee was Matt DeFord, coordinator of the NSU Art Department, and NSU graduate students James Callahan and Stephanie Schultz. Dr. Julie Ernstine of Heritage Resources served as conference scheduler.

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Rasmussen also served as the organizer and discussant for a roundtable discussion titled “Shaking out the Clothes for Spiders: Folklife Traditions along Louisiana’s Cane River Lake,” held as part of the conference. Members of the roundtable interview and discussion were Margie Armstrong, Henry Edwards, Bobbie Jackson and Lillie Mae Wilson.

The conference was sponsored by a generous grant by the Cane River National Heritage Area. Drs. Abney and Rasmussen served as co-principal investigators for the grant.

Next year’s conference theme will be “Louisiana on Film,” with Louisiana film director Glenn Pitre as the keynote speaker.

### Williams elected to WCET steering committee

**Dr. Darlene Williams** was recently elected to the WCET Steering Committee. WCET was founded in 1989 by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) as the Western Cooperative for Educational Telecommunications. WCET is a cooperative network of member institutions and organizations that provides a leading source of critical thinking and expertise on the evolving role of technology in higher education. Membership includes many of the top technology innovators from colleges, universities, non-profit organizations, and companies around the country—and the world. In the realm of higher education, a cross-section of leaders, administrators and faculty add to the diversity that distinguishes the richness of WCET’s work.

Among WCET’s goals is an obligation to meet the growing need for higher education institutions to integrate distance learning and educational technology into academic services. Members work together to evaluate and advance the most effective uses of technology in higher education. They seek to narrow the dynamic gap that exists between the demand for ever-higher quality in education and provide expertise along the entire continuum and in all areas touched by educational technologies—including learning, teaching, administration, student services, accreditation, funding, and policy. WCET also serves as a leading voice in matters of policy that shape the future of technology’s role in higher education.

### NSU hosts inaugural Louisiana Studies Conference

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### With Sympathy

Johnny Williams, father of **Jamie Flanagan**, Student Support Services, died Monday, Sept. 28 in Houston after a long illness. Funeral services were Saturday, Oct. 3 in Alexandria.

Funeral services for Mrs. Mildred Moody Jones, mother-in-law of **Linda Jones**, College of Nursing, were held Oct. 10 at Winnfield Funeral Home in Natchitoches. Burial followed in St. Davis Baptist Church cemetery in Cloutierville. Mrs. Jones passed away Oct. 2.
Abbie Landry has been named director of libraries at NSU. Her appointment has been approved by the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System.

Landry has been at Northwestern as a faculty member in Watson Library since 1981. She was initially a reference librarian, coordinator of online services, and coordinator of library instruction.

In 1987, Landry was named head of reference and promoted to assistant professor. She also was interim director of libraries in 2000-2001. Landry was promoted to associate professor in 2005.

Landry earned a bachelor’s degree in history from Longwood College in Farmville, Va., and a master’s in library and information science from the University of Tennessee.

She served as chair of the Academic Section of the Louisiana Library Association from in 1989-90. Landry received the Sigma IX Scientific Society Research Award in 1991. Since 1987, Landry has been writing book reviews for Reference Books Bulletin and writes about seven reviews a year.

Landry is a member of the American Library Association, Louisiana Library Association, the Louisiana Chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries, Phi Kappa Phi and Beta Phi Mu. She is also a member of the Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches and the Friends of the Old Courthouse Museum.

One of the founding members of the Louisiana Association for Academic Competition, Landry is secretary of the association and has directed the Louisiana High School State Quiz Bowl Championship since 1991.
CONGRATULATIONS

Ms. Lisa Rougeou, Department of Language and Communication, College of Liberal Arts, received notification of additional funds of $14,000 from the University of California – Berkeley for “NSU’s National Writing Project.”

Dr. Shane Rasmussen, LA Folklife Center, College of Liberal Arts, received notification of an award of $3,965.08 from the Shreveport Regional Arts Council for “2010 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival.”

Dr. Paul Withey, Department of Chemistry and Physics, College of Science and Technology, received notification of an award of $90,000 from Clarkson Aerospace Corporation for “Materials and Manufacturing Research.”

Dr. Vickie Gentry, College of Education, received notification of an award of $5,000 from the Louisiana Board of Regents for “Core Conditions and Indicators of Educational Leadership Programs.”

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Dr. Walter Flomer, Department of Chemistry and Physics, College of Science and Technology, submitted a proposal to the LA Board of Regents, Louisiana Systemic Initiatives Program, for “Green Chemistry and Unique Ways to Teach It.” Dr. April French and Dr. Jacqueline Mason are collaborators.

Dr. Andrei Ludu, Department of Chemistry and Physics, College of Science and Technology, submitted a proposal to the LA Board of Regents, Louisiana Systemic Initiatives Program, for “Understanding Waves, Optics, and Gravity through Project-Based Inquiry, Hands-On Demonstrations and Online Learning.” Dr. Weijia Zhu, Ms. Maria Ludu and Ms. Shelly Hynes are collaborators.

Dr. Daniel Withey, Department of Engineering Technology, College of Science and Technology, submitted a proposal to the LA Board of Regents Support Fund Program for “Laboratory Equipment for BMET Concentration.” Dr. Rafiqul Islam, Mr. Mohammad Baig, and Dr. Tom Hall are collaborators.

Dr. Christine Allen, School of Creative and Performing Arts/Music, College of Liberal Arts, submitted a proposal to the LA Board of Regents Support Fund Program for “Enhancing Performance Instruction in Piano through the Use of Electronic Technology.” Drs. Burt Allen, Francis Yang and Masahito Kuroda are collaborators.

Dr. J. Mark Thompson, School of Creative and Performing Arts/Music, College of Liberal Arts, submitted a proposal to the LA Board of Regents Support Fund Program for “Enhancement of Instrumental Methods Course Offerings through the Acquisition of Musical Instruments.” Dr. Masahito Kuroda, Mr. Paul Christopher, and Dr. Malena McLaren are collaborators.

Mr. Michael Yankowski, School of Creative and Performing Arts, College of Liberal Arts, submitted a proposal to the LA Board of Regents Support Fund Program for “Digital Photographic Studio and Editing Suite.” Mr. Fred Defee is collaborator.

Dr. Michael Cundall, Jr., Louisiana Scholars’ College, submitted a proposal to the LA Board of Regents Support Fund Program for “Art History and Pedagogy.”

Mr. Scott Burrell, School of Creative and Performing Arts, College of Liberal Arts, submitted a proposal to the LA Board of Regents Support Fund Program for “The Creation of a Theatre and Dance Performance Laboratory in the NSU Theatre and Dance Program.” Mr. Shawn Parr, Mr. Philip Kidd, and Mr. Robert Graham are collaborators.

continued on page 9
Tommy Hailey, associate professor of anthropology and director of the Cultural Resource Office, submitted an aerial photograph he took of Los Adaes that was just published in “Off the Beaten Path – Newly Revised & Updated:  A Travel Guide to More than 1,000 Scenic and Interesting Places Still Uncrowded and Inviting” by the editors of Readers Digest (2009). This photo was originally included on the 2005 Archaeology Week poster by the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism. (<http://www.amazon.com/Off-Beaten-Path-Scenicand-Interesting/dp/0762107944/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1256651095&sr=1-1>) The Heritage Resources program is in the process of acquiring new, high-tech equipment, including a state-of-the-art thermal camera and a 3D laser scanner.

**ORSP...Continued from Page 8**

**Dr. Brenda Woodard,** Department of Biological Sciences, College of Science and Technology, submitted a proposal to the LA Board of Regents Support Fund Program for “Moving to the Digital Age of Veterinary Radiology—Acquisition of New Technology for Educating Veterinary Technicians.”

**Dr. Zafer Hatahet,** Department of Biological Sciences, College of Science and Technology, submitted a proposal to the LA Board of Regents Support Fund Program for “DNA Barcoding of Plants in Louisiana.” **Mr. John Byrd** is collaborator.

**Dr. Garret Dancik,** Department of Biological Sciences, College of Science and Technology, submitted a proposal to the LA Board of Regents Support Fund Program for “Virtual Case Studies for Pre-Health Science Students.” **Dr. Francene Lemoine** is collaborator.

For more information regarding funding opportunities, visit ORSP’s website at [www.nsula.edu/orsp](http://www.nsula.edu/orsp).
Maggio assumes LaCUSPA presidency, Conine recognized with Seymour Award

A delegation from Northwestern State University participated in the 35th meeting of the Louisiana Association of College and University Student Personnel Administrators (LaCUSPA) in September. The theme of the conference was “Dollars and Sense: Maintaining Student Services in Trying Budget Times.”

Northwestern’s Dean of Students and Assistant Provost for Student Affairs Dr. Chris Maggio assumed the role of president of the organization for 2009-2010. Maggio is the fifth NSU staff member to head the organization. He was chair of the 2009 conference committee. Outgoing LaCUSPA president is NSU alumnus W. David Gunn.

Frances Conine, director of Student Services at NSU, was presented with the Dr. Dan Seymour Award for Outstanding Contributions to LaCUSPA. The award is presented to recognize extraordinary achievement, a particularly high quality of work, creative idea or innovation expressed in action that has an exceptional impact on LaCUSPA or its membership. The award was established in 2007 to honor Seymour, who retired from NSU in 2008, for his contributions to LaCUSPA.

Dr. Dorene Fox, executive director of Academic and Career Engagement at NSU presented on the topic “Academic and Career Engagement on a Tight Budget.” Dr. Henrietta Pichon, assistant professor, Student Personnel Services, presented on “Getting At-Risk Students Involved in Civic Engagement: The Importance of Service-Learning during Times of Economic Downturn.”

Dr. Mary Lynn Williamson, associate professor and program coordinator for NSU’s Student Personnel and School Counseling programs, presented “A Student Affairs Career: From Graduate School to the Vice Presidency and Beyond (From One Who Has Been There).”

Fred Terasa, director of the Friedman Student Union at NSU, along with Camile Currer of University of Louisiana at Monroe and Dr. Chris Thomas of McNeese State University, presented on the topic “Student Union Roundtable: Best Practices in Trying Budget Times.” Reatha Cox, director of New Student Programs at NSU, presented on “New Student Programs Roundtable: Best Practices in Trying Budget Times.” Frances Conine presented on “Judicial Affairs Roundtable.” Maggio’s presentation was “LaCUSPA Board: We Need You,” along with Marjoree Harper of Bossier Parish Community College.

Northwestern State graduate students Nicky Treadway Morris and Ashley Wilkerson addressed the conference on “GLB Community and NO-Budget Programming.”

LaCUSPA is made up of Louisiana higher education student personnel administrators of both public and private institutions. The work of its members impacts the lives of more than 200,000 students.

SPS faculty, students present research findings at LCAC

Dr. Gerra Perkins, Dr. Mary Lynn Williamson, (College of Education) and 18 school counseling and SPS counseling students attended the annual Louisiana Counseling Association Conference in Baton Rouge, Oct. 4-7.

Dr. Perkins, Dr. Williamson, Mark Byrd, Noel Collins, Deirdre Davis, Kayla Milstead, and Nicky Morris presented Cyberbullying Prevention: WH5 (Who, What, When, Where, Why) and Dr. Perkins presented The Effects of Gaming on Children and Adolescents.

Dr. Perkins also facilitated the Northwestern Graduate Student Showcase at LCA at which eight NSU students presented. The students were Mark Byrd, Noel Collins, Deirdre Davis, Brittany Dent, Will Gallien, Kayla Milstead, Nicky Morris, and Ashley Wilkerson. Other NSU students in attendance included Meagan Candiotto, Jessica Akin, Chris Harford, Kristy Taylor, Hassim Jones, Rita Martin, Kenny Gee, Melissa McManus and Franklin Thomas.

Dr. Perkins received the Louisiana School Counselor Association (LSCA) Writing/Publication Award on Oct. 5 at the annual LSCA luncheon. She was commended on her work in adding to the field’s professional literature and to the future of the school counseling profession.
NON-CREDIT SHORT COURSES for NOVEMBER 2009

PRIVATE ONE-ON-ONE PHOTOGRAPHY LESSONS
(Availability Limited/Only 2 Students per Date)

FIRST COME FIRST SERVE

Choose one of the following dates:
Nov. 3, Tues
Nov. 17, Tues
Choose one of the following times for your lesson:
10 a.m. -12 p.m. or 3- 5 p.m.
Fee: $85
Location: Dodd Hall, Rm. 132-B
Instructor: Gale Trussell

BASIC FLORAL DESIGN
Date: Nov. 7-21, Sat.
Time: 1-4 p.m.
Fee: $200 + $100 mat. fee
Location: The Master's Bouquet
Instructor: Dawn Martin

LOUISIANA RETAIL FLORIST EXAM PREP COURSE
(87 HOURS/2 WEEKS)
Date: Nov. 7 & 14, Sat (classroom)
Nov. 9-20, Mon - Fri (worktable)
Time: Sat - 5 - 8:30 p.m. (classroom)
Mon - Fri - 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
(Worktable)
Fee: $1638 (includes textbook & materials)
$889 mat. fee pd. directly to instructor prior to start of class
Location: Classroom instruction-Dodd Hall, Rm. 132-B
Worktable instruction-The Master's Bouquet, 108 South Dr., Natchitoches
Instructor: Dawn Martin (LA State Licensed Florist, member of SAF, & LSFA)

PHOTOGRAPHING FRIENDS AND FAMILY
Date: Nov. 10, Tues
Time: 6-8 p.m.
Fee: $59
Location: Dodd Hall, Rm. 132-B
Instructor: Gale Trussell

To learn more about our on-line non-credit courses visit
http://www.gatlineducation.com/nsula
& http://www.ed2go.com/nsu/

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER CALL
800-376-2422 or 318-357-6355

Birth Announcements

Stephanie and Blayne Henson, Electronic and Continuing Education, welcomed the arrival of their son, Jace Owen Henson, on Oct. 29, 2009. Jace was born at Natchitoches Regional Medical Center weighing eight pounds, six ounces and measuring 20 inches in length.

Joe (Information Systems) and Melinda (Space Science Group) Parrie announce the birth of their son, Gabriel Lawrence Parrie, who arrived at 2:08 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 29. He weighted 8 pounds 11 ounces and was 21.5 inches in length.

Janine Waters in the Graduate School celebrates the birth of her first great-grandchild, a little girl born on Oct. 23. Alixsondra Grace Hannegan, weighed 8 pounds 3 ounces and is 19 inches long. Proud parents are Chelsea Annette Ryder of Fairview Alpha and Houston Paul Hannegan of Georgetown.

Janine assures everyone (for the record) that she is too young to be a great-grandmother.
The Northwestern State University College of Education’s spring elementary methods students assisted with a recent event at Fairview Alpha Elementary. Through a service-learning grant secured by Dr. Kim McAlister and DeeDee Perot, the NSU students participated in Math, Science and Nutrition Night, which was attended by Natchitoches Parish Superintendent of Schools Dr. Derwood Duke, elementary students and parents. Nearly 200 people attended the event. On the front row from left are Robin Cooke, Denise Mabile, Melissa Danese, Haley Higginbotham and Lauren Lupo. On the middle row are Emily Silver, Magan Charrier, Brittany Pierce, McAlister, Duke, Brittany Coon, Elizabeth Pool and Megan Davis. On the back row are Victoria Crews, Kaitlin Toms, Shasta Floyd, Jessica Fobbs, Randall Dunn, Megan Salter and Kayla Dunn.

NSU hosts first Louisiana Studies Conference

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The co-founders of the conference, Dr. Lisa Abney, acting Provost and Vice President for Student and Academic Affairs and professor of English, and Dr. Shane Rasmussen, director of the Louisiana Folklife Center and assistant professor of English, served as conference co-chairs, and also co-chaired the conference selection committee.

Also serving on the selection committee was Matt DeFord, coordinator of the NSU Art Department, and NSU graduate students James Callahan and Stephanie Schulz. Dr. Julie Ernst of Heritage Resources served as conference scheduler.

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Next year’s conference theme will be “Louisiana on Film,” with Louisiana film director Glenn Pitre as the keynote speaker.
Aviation Science Dept. looking for volunteers to help with Cane River Aviation Rendezvous

In conjunction with NSU’s 125th anniversary and Aviation Science’s 40th anniversary, the Department of Aviation Science will participate in the Cane River Aviation Rendezvous, a three-day vintage aircraft event and hangar dance event to be held Nov. 13-15 at the Natchitoches Regional Airport, according to David King, head of Aviation Science. A full schedule of events can be found by visiting www.caneaviation.com.

Among the highlights will be a 1940’s style hangar dance in period clothing with Bill Causey’s 20-piece big band and female vocalist. There will also be a Kids Hangar filled with fun and educational aviation activities for kids of all ages, static WWII aircraft including an A-26 Bomber, helicopter rides, and concessions. Organizers hope to have an A-10 Warthog Jet on static display from Barksdale AFB at the NSU ramp.

Beneficiaries of this year’s event will include The Boys and Girls Club, Humane Society “Happy Tails,” and the Natchitoches Fire Department Food Drive. Aircraft arrival and Media Day along with free admission will be on Friday, Nov. 13.

The event is also seeking responsible

NSU students to participate as “Rendezvous Crew Members” in a wide variety of morning and afternoon volunteer positions from Friday through Sunday.

Faculty are asked to inform their students of this service opportunity. Volunteer positions include event security, Kid’s Hangar assistants, aircraft attendants and event staging.

In addition to taking part in an exciting aircraft event, all volunteers will receive an event T-shirt, free parking, free event admission Saturday and Sunday and a $10 discount off Hangar Dance admittance. Volunteering clubs and organizations will be recognized in the event program.

Theatre & Dance collecting coats for Kiwanis

In cooperation with the local Kiwanis Chapter, the NSU Theatre & Dance Department will be taking contributions of winter coats, jackets, boots, gloves, hats, and scarves to be distributed to area children. All sizes from infant to adult are requested so that we can help children of all ages and sizes.

Please bring your items to Room 109 of the Old Fine Arts Building or call Jacki Giesey at extension 4483 to arrange a pick-up.
Dr. Tara Gallien, Health and Human Performance, and Nadia Weber, NSU student and Fresh Campus secretary, attended the 5th national summit on Smokeless & Spit Tobacco in Madison, Wis., in late September. The summit brought together local and national coalitions, agencies and individuals committed to reducing the use of smokeless and spit tobacco products. The theme of the conference was “New Products, New Challenges and a New Generation of Advocacy.” The focus was on youth advocacy in tobacco control. Youth from around the nation participated in advocacy events, including an activism event on the steps of the capital to expose the truth about the tobacco industry’s efforts to market to youth with new, candy-flavored smokeless products. Nadia Weber was part of this activism event.

Dr. Sonia Tinsley, an assistant professor of Health and Human Performance, was awarded a grant to provide Fitnessgram training for Natchitoches Parish physical education teachers. Fitnessgram is a fitness assessment and promotional program for children that aims to start youngsters on a pathway to lifetime fitness and good health.

“We are making sure the teachers feel comfortable using Fitnessgram in their classes,” said Tinsley, who piloted the program in three Natchitoches Parish schools. “PE programs are important because they introduce kids to all kind of activities. It’s not just basketball or football. It is intended to introduce the kids to physical activity for a lifetime of good health.”

The Fitnessgram philosophy states that physical activity and fitness are available to all individuals regardless of age, gender or ability and that programs can be designed around personal needs and interests. Fitnessgram assesses, Body Mass Index, cardiovascular strength, flexibility, muscle endurance and curl ups.

NSU, along with school districts around the state, partnered with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette’s Picard Center for Child Development to implement the Coordinated School Health Initiative. Part of this initiative is the administration of a health-related physical fitness assessment.

The Fitnessgram has been chosen for this purpose. Through a donation from the Special Children’s Foundation, UL-Lafayette is partnering with other colleges and universities, including NSU, to implement Fitnessgram. NSU is providing training and assistance with Fitnessgram administration and interventions to improve the health of at-risk children.

Tinsley’s school health research is an extension of her background in elementary education. The obesity epidemic in the United States could be managed by teaching children early about the advantages of nutrition and physical activity to overall wellness, she said.

“It’s not just sports and not just about competition,” Tinsley explained. “Physical activity can be dancing, riding a bike or swimming. The goal is to promote lifelong physical activity and fitness.”

Tinsley gets grant to promote lifelong fitness to students