La. Studies Conference features screenings of Louisiana films

The second annual Louisiana Studies Conference was held on Sept. 24-25 at NSU. The co-founders of the conference, Dr. Lisa Abney, 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. Dr. Rasmussen served as chair of the Conference Selection Committee, along with James Callahan and Stephanie Masson, both of the Department of Language and Communication. Dr. James A. Crank of Language and Communications served as conference programmer. Additionally, Dr. Crank introduced the second night’s keynote speaker, Jeffrey Goodman, who presented the Natchitoches premier of his film The Last Lullaby.

The two day conference was a great success, with 76 scholars and film directors participating. Scholars made presentations in 18 separate panels. Conference participants came from throughout Louisiana, as well as New Jersey, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas.

Many of the presenters were NSU faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students. This year’s conference theme was “Louisiana on Film.” Acclaimed Louisiana film director Glenn Pitre was Friday night’s keynote speaker. Pitre also screened his film, American Creole: New Orleans Reunion, a film about the city’s cultural rebirth after the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina.

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.

In addition to 18 panels composed of academic presentations, 16 films were screened about a variety of topics relating to Louisiana history, culture, folklife, and current social trends. Each of the sixteen film screenings were followed by a question and answer period with the filmmakers. Each of these post-screening Q&A’s were led by scholarly discussants. Film discussants included Dr. Allen Bauman (Language and Communication), Patricia Clark (Social Work), Tracey Colson (Creole Heritage Center), Dr. James A. Crank (Language and Communication), Matt DeFord (CAPA), Lori LeBlanc (Languages and Communication), Dr. Sarah E. McFarland (Language and Communication), Dr. Hiram “Pete” Gregory (Criminal Justice, History, and Social Science), Ramey Prince (Language and Communication), Dr. Shane Rasmussen (Languages and Communication), and Thomas Reynolds (Language and Communication).

Each of the presentation sessions was
ACS student chapter earns commendation

Faculty sponsors Dr. Gillian Rudd and Dr. April French announce that the NSU chapter of the American Chemical Society Student Members (ChemClub) received word this month that they were awarded a Commendable Student Chapter Award for their work during the 2009-2010 academic year. Awards given by ACS’s Society Committee on Education come after the evaluation of hundreds of applications from universities across the U.S.

“To receive the Commendable this past year is an honor, given the tragedy that the group has faced with the loss of our chapter president Becky Sullivan last November,” French said. “These wonderful students were able to persevere and continue this award winning work in the NSU and Natchitoches community through outreach.”

According to a report from the Society Committee on Education, each report was reviewed by three faculty advisors, who provided feedback to consider when planning future activities. The 2009-10 award winning chapters will be recognized in the November/December issue of “in Chemistry” magazine and at the ACS Student Chapter Award Ceremony that will be held at the 241st ACS National Meeting in Anaheim, Calif.

The chapter was recognized for having made good use of current media connectivity such as Facebook and Twitter, and earned high marks for community service with outreach to area elementary and middle schools and National Chemistry Week/Mole Day/Earth Day fundraisers. The club was also praised for its attendance at scientific meetings, its advances in networking and representation at Research Day.

Radiologic Sciences students win annual competition

Students from the Radiologic Sciences department won first place in the Student Quiz Bowl competition held last summer in Baton Rouge. The competition was held during the annual Louisiana Society of Radiologic Technologists’ conference. Eleven radiology programs across the state were represented at this year’s conference. The students were awarded $300, a trophy, and plaques. Northwestern’s team included student members Jenny Irle, Sarah Johnson and William Fox; Coach Ben Wood and Program Director Laura Aaron.
SPS students attend counseling workshop

Dr. Gerra Perkins, School Counseling coordinator/assistant professor, and six school counseling and Student Personnel Services students attended the Louisiana Counseling Association’s annual conference in New Orleans Sept. 19-22. The students were Megan Candiotto, J.P. Guerineau, Lacie Hughes, Sherry Perkins, Christy Taylor, and Maggie Welch. Perkins and second-year students Candiotto, Perkins, Taylor, and Welch presented two poster sessions. Dr. Perkins also presented with Dr. Kristy Brumfield, Xavier University of New Orleans, on “The Effectiveness of Family Play Therapy” and presented with fellow LPC board members at the “LPC/LMFT Board Updates” session. From left are Hughes, Candiotto, Dr. Perkins, Welch, Guerineau, Sherry Perkins and Taylor.

Vet Tech Club sets two October Bathe a Dog Days

Faculty and staff who would like their pups looking clean and healthy for fall are invited to make an appointment with the NSU Veterinary Technology Club as they offer two Bathe a Dog Days in October.

Bathe a Dog Days will be held from noon-4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 7 and from noon-4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 8 in Room 102 of Bienvenu Hall. These appointments are for baths only, not veterinary services. There is also limited cage space so the dogs will need to be picked up as soon as their baths are done. Please call Miss Sarah Moody at 357-6019 from 1pm-5pm M-F or email Jessica at hudspethj@nsula.edu. Space is limited.

Prices are:
Under 25 lbs. - $12
26-50 lbs. - $17
51-75 lbs. - $22
Over 75 lbs. - $30
*Included in this price: bath, nail trimming, ear cleaning, and anal gland expression.
*Please no matted dogs. We do not have grooming facilities.
Health Services has new staff, new look for facility

Health Services Director Stephanie Campbell announces the addition of two nurses to her staff, Eva Harrell, RN, and Ashley Jordan, RN.

In addition, the Health Services staff has brightened up the building, one of the oldest on campus, with fresh paint and original artwork that Ashley created especially for the space.

The medical-inspired artwork cleverly incorporates a Northwestern theme into one composition – three humerus bones painted as NSU’s symbolic three columns.

Since the new paintings were up, Stephanie has fielded inquiries from students about displaying original artwork in the Health Services lobby.

Ashley is a Natchitoches native and 2000 graduate of NSU’s School of Nursing. After traveling the country with her husband’s job, she and her husband returned to Natchitoches in 2004 to be close to family and start a family of their own. The couple has two boys. She began painting fairly recently as a hobby.

“All the paintings you see in the lobby were painted recently and intended only for display at Health Services. I do have a few other pieces in my exam room as well as my office but these are not medically-inspired pieces,” she said.
Northwestern Theatre and Dance will present ‘CHICAGO’ and ‘The Lion in Winter’

Northwestern Theatre and Dance will present “Chicago” Oct. 13-16 at 7:30 p.m. in the A.A. Fredericks Auditorium.

Tickets are $15 for adults and free for NSU, Louisiana School for Math, Science and the Arts and BPCC@NSU students with a current I.D. Tickets for all other students and senior citizens are $12. A five-ticket package that can be used for one show, all shows or any combination is available for $50.

For more information, call (318) 357-4483.

In the roaring twenties Chicago, Roxie Hart murders a faithless lover and convinces her hapless husband Amos to take the rap until he finds out he has been duped and turns on Roxie.

Convicted and sent to death row, Roxie and another “Merry Murderesses” Velma Kelly vie for the spotlight and the headlines, ultimately joining forces in search of the “American Dream:” fame, fortune and acquittal. Pia Wyatt is the director. Lyrics are by Fred Ebb with music by John Kander, book by Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse.

“Chicago the Musical’ is a slinky, sophisticated, jazzed-up show stopper of a musical,” said Wyatt. “‘Chicago’ presents us with musical numbers that you will be humming as you leave the theatre and although the tale is set in 1920s Illinois, it translates just as easily to the issues of our modern times.”

On tap for November...

Better than daytime television. One king. One queen. One large kingdom. Three sons. Each prince knows he deserves to be named the heir. Daddy has his choice. Mommy has her choice. But, who will come out the victor? Add to it, one promise to a neighboring country, unfulfilled.

The Lion in Winter, by James Goldman comes to Theatre West Nov. 3-6 and again November 10-13. Staged by Wm. Perry Morgan, assistant professor of theatre and dance.

Designed and performed by students in the NSU Theatre and Dance program, with original music composed by NSU Music Major Corey Joachim.

For ticket reservations please call 357-4483

Essay...Continued from Page 4

Natchitoches Central High School read his third place winning essay “Louisiana: My Inspiration,” and Michael Sitarz of St. Paul’s School in Covington read his essay, “Environmental Inspiration,” which won Honorable Mention. Contest winners that were unable to attend the ceremony include first prize winner Morgan Bollich of St. Edmund Catholic School in Eunice, and Honorable Mention winners Lyle Manion of St. Paul’s School and Laramie Williams of Natchitoches Central High School.

Entrants wrote on the subject “How Does Louisiana Inspire You?” The essay contest was open to all Louisiana students in grades 9 – 12 regardless of type of school institution, including students in all types of private educational environments, as well as home schooled students.

Contest winners will have their essays published in the Louisiana Folklife Center’s academic journal, Louisiana Folklife which is edited by Dr. Rasmussen. All of the winners received a cash prize in honor of their accomplishment. Bollich, Bridges, and Kim each received a $200 per semester scholarship to NSU with a value up to $1,600 for four years. The contest serves as a recruitment effort for NSU.

People...Continued from Page 1

The paper addresses important issues related to the drive to eat or even overeat, that is, what have been called the hedonic values of food intake. Specifically, Phifer and his colleagues demonstrated that the incentive value of a food reward and the positive affect that accompanies ingestion of a preferred food are suppressed by a drug that blocks opioid signaling in the brain. Importantly, the effect is not due to permanent brain changes as the effect is reversible. Insights gained from these experiments are particularly relevant to our understanding of overeating and obesity.
CONGRATULATIONS
Dr. Chris Maggio, Dean of Students, received notification of an award of $21,325 from the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission for “NSU Alcohol Education and Prevention Program.” Mrs. Frances Conine and Ms. Kristi Simms are collaborators.

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

CURRENT ACTIVITIES
Joseph D. (Jody) Biscoe, LATTC, submitted a proposal to University of Texas - Austin for “Gulf Coast Addiction Technology Transfer Center - Amendment #9.”

Dr. Lisa Abney and Mr. Kirk Cordell submitted a proposal to the National Park Service for “NSU-NCPTT Multiple Projects.” Dr. Steve Horton is collaborator.

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

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs held an Open House Retirement Party for Ms. Amanda Vaughn on Friday, September 17, 2010.

We would like to extend a special thanks to all of the faculty and staff members who joined us in celebrating her 31 years of service and dedication to Northwestern State University.

ECE announces continuing education classes

Northwestern ’s Office of Electronic and Continuing Education announces its roster of non-credit classes for October.

Fun with Photos will show participants how to use programs to turn digital photos into projects to share with family and friends. Participants will learn how to edit, organize and create projects with Picasa and use Smilebox to create cards, digital scrapbooks, slideshows, recipes, calendars, newsletters and more.

The class will be from 5-8 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 5, Oct. 12 and Oct. 19 in Room 132-B of Dodd Hall at a cost of $59. Terrie McCallister will be the instructor.

A class in Silk Floral Design will teach participants how to own long-lasting artificial flower arrangements for home or office. The class will be from 4-6 p.m. Saturdays Oct. 9, Oct. 16 and Oct. 23 at The Master’s Bouquet Flower and Gift Shop, 102 South Dr., Natchitoches. The location is subject to change, depending on class size. The fee is $100. Dawn Martin, Louisiana State Licensed Florist, will be the instructor.

Basic Floral Design will show beginning floral designers the basics of how to make a bow, wiring techniques for flowers, how to design a centerpiece and more. The class will be from 1-4 p.m. Saturdays Oct. 9, Oct. 16 and Oct. 23 at The Master’s Bouquet. The cost is $200 plus a $100 supply fee.

Beginning Digital Photography will teach participants how to take better photos with digital cameras. Two sessions will be offered from 6-8 p.m. Oct. 12 and Nov. 9 in Russell Hall, Room 203. The cost is $59. Gale Trussell will be the instructor.

Financial Strategies for Successful Retirement will equip participants with the facts needed to prepare for a financially secure retirement. Participants will learn to seek maximization of income and get more from investments. The seminar will present a conservative approach to wise money management and will identify lifestyle issues facing retirees. The class will be held from 6-9 p.m. on Thursdays Oct. 28, Nov. 4, Nov. 11 and Nov. 18 at the Learning Center for Rapides Parish, 1410 Neel Kearby Blvd., Alexandria. Robert L. Harger Jr. will be the instructor. The fee is $55.

For more information or to register for classes, call NSU’s Office of Electronic and Continuing Education at (318) 357-6355 or (800) 376-2422.
Dr. James A. Crank received a contract from the University of South Carolina Press to produce the monograph Understanding Sam Shepard, a volume aimed at students, scholars, directors, actors, and dramaturges who study the contemporary American playwright.

In addition to explication and scholarly analysis, the book will provide an historical overview of each major play as well as useful descriptions of how the plays have been staged and imagined in the past.

In late September, Dr. Crank’s reviews of Tim Ryan’s Call and Repsones: The American Novel of Slavery Since Gone With the Wind, Lovalerie King’s Race, Theft, and Ethics: Property Matters in African American Literature, and Peter Schmidt’s Sitting in Darkness: New South Fiction, Education, and the Rise of Jim Crow Colonialism, 1865-1920 will appear in the Fall issue of The Southern Literary Journal.

Dr. Julie Kane was appointed the 2010 Leo Luke Marcello Poet at McNeese State University in Lake Charles on the weekend of Sept. 25. This involved holding individual conferences on a sampling of their poems with each of the nine poetry MFA students, then giving a public poetry reading at the Burton Conference Center on Saturday night.

There was a party in her honor on Friday night and a reception after the reading on Saturday night. Dr. Kane also has a creative nonfiction essay in New Orleans: What Can’t Be Lost (University of Louisiana Lafayette Press, 2010), edited by Lee Barclay with photographs by Christopher West. It is a book of essays by writers including Robert Olen Butler, Rick Bragg, Andrei Codrescu, and Richard Ford who explain what makes New Orleans unique in their eyes.

Dr. Kane attended the book launch celebration at “d.b.a.” Cafè in New Orleans on August 22, and read her essay at a reading/signing event for the book at Garden District Books in New Orleans on the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, Aug. 29. She will also be appearing at a book signing event for the collection in Natchitoches at the Book Merchant Book Shop from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13.

Dr. John Foster received the gavel as president at the Louisiana Communication Association (LCA) Conference in New Orleans, Sept. 25. As president-elect during 2009-2010, Dr. Foster processed the paperwork necessary to incorporate LCA as a non-profit corporation under the Louisiana Secretary of State’s Office. In addition, he proposed and negotiated placing the Louisiana Communication Journal under contract with EBSCO to provide international exposure to the journal.

In his term as president, he will work to make changes to the association bylaws to enhance the editorial process, will seek to move the association website to a private service provider and is looking to add an on-line journal.

Retiree Pearlie Claiborne passed away Friday, Aug. 27. Funeral services were held Saturday Sept. 4 at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church with burial at church cemetery. The NSU Floral Fund sent a spray of flowers to the funeral service.

A memorial gift was also sent to the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff’s Department in memory of Boyd Durr, father of Malcolm Durr, Utilities, plumber foreman. The Floral Fund wired a plant to the funeral service of Tom Atherton, father of Jack Atherton, assistant professor Criminal Justice, History and Social Science and coordinator for Unified Public Safety Administration.
 chaired by a moderator. Panel chairs included Dr. Lisa Abney (Language and Communication), Jason Church (National Center for Preservation and Technology), Dr. James A. Crank (Language and Communication), Dr. Clayton Delery (Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts), Curtis Desselles National Center for Preservation and Technology), Dr. Keith Dromm (Louisiana Scholars’ College), Dr. Greg Granger (Criminal Justice, History, and Social Science), Lori LeBlanc (Language and Communication), Cynthia R. Lindsey (Psychology), Dr. Sarah E. McFarland (Language and Communication), Dr. Jim Mischler (Language and Communication), and Thomas Reynolds (Language and Communication).

Several NSU scholars organized and chaired roundtable discussions. Dr. Susan Thorson-Barnett (Psychology) organized and moderated the roundtable discussion “Through the Eyes of Psychology: Positive Effects of Films.” Roundtable participants included NSU Department of Psychology members Neeru Deep, Dr. Kathryn Kelly, and Dr. Patrice Moutlon.

Pat Clark (Social Work) organized and moderated the roundtable discussion “The Brain Drain and NSU Graduates.” Roundtable participants included Charlie Penrod (Institutional Research), Dr. James Picht (Louisiana Scholars’ College), Dr. Jack Russell (College of Business), Dr. Donald Stewart (Criminal Justice, History, and Social Science), as well as Dr. John Sutherlin (University of Louisiana at Monroe).

Dr. Hiram “Pete” Gregory (Criminal Justice, History, and Social Science) organized and moderated the roundtable discussion “People on the Camino Real: Past and Present.” Roundtable participants included NSU graduate student Robert Caldwell and Dr. George Avery (Stephen S. Austin University).

Dr. Charles Pellegrin (Criminal Justice, History, and Social Science) organized and moderated the roundtable discussion “Race, Violence, and Politics: Depictions of Louisiana in Film.” Roundtable participants included Dr. David M. Anderson (Louisiana Tech University), Kevin Fontenot (Tulane University), and Steve Tucker (Brother Martin High School).

Dr. Shane Rasmussen (Language and Communication) organized and moderated the roundtable discussion “Getting the Folk on Film: The Current State of Documentary Film as Public Folklore in Louisiana.” Roundtable participants included Louisiana filmmakers Conni Castille (University of Louisiana at Lafayette), James Catano (Louisiana State University), Kevin McCaffrey (film director), Glen Pitre (film director), Dr. Carolyn Ware (Louisiana State University), and Zack Godshall (Louisiana State University).

The following individuals made scholarly presentations at the Conference:

Dr. Allen Bauman (Language and Communication) presented his paper “Louisiana and Universal Horror: The Mummy’s Curse.”

James Callahan (Language and Communication) presented his paper “Myth Perceptions: Scooby Doo on Zombie Island.”

Jason Church (National Center for Preservation and Technology) presented his film Bousillage: Louisiana’s Vanishing Building Technique, accompanied by a presentation on the film.

Dr. Michael K. Kundall, Jr. (Louisiana Scholars’ College) presented his paper “Why No Creole Jokes?”

Dr. Clayton Delery (Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts) presented his paper “Digging in Swamp Mud: Investigating the Fire at the Up Stairs Lounge.”

Dr. Keith Dromm (Louisiana Scholars’ College) presented his paper “Oil and Bullshit: Flaherty’s Louisiana Story.”

Heather Salter Dromm (Language and Communications) presented her paper “The Awakening as Fairytale?”

Alexandra Gatti (NSU undergraduate) presented her paper “The Depiction of Louisiana in Disney’s The Princess and the Frog.”

Trever L. Holland (graduate student, Language and Communications) presented his paper “Shadow Faces, Other Trees: The Face of the Other in The Grandissimes.”

Dr. Cynthia Lindsey and Joy Linn Moser of the Department of Psychology presented their paper “Parental Attachment Effects on the Relationship Satisfaction of Louisiana University Women.”

Dr. Cynthia Lindsey and Michelle L. Robichaux of the Department of Psychology presented their paper “Contributing Factors of Academic Motivation in Louisiana University Students.”

Dr. Sarah E. McFarland (Language and Communications) presented her paper “Swamp-Dwelling Critters in Disney’s The Princess and the Frog.”

Dr. Paul Nagel (Education) presented his paper “Misrepresenting Louisiana: A Tale of Two Films used in Geography.”

Thomas Reynolds (Language and Communications) presented his paper “Matriarchy and the Instruction of African-American Manhood in Gaines’s Bloodline.”

Mary-Linn Wernet (Cammie G. Henry Research Center) presented her paper “Film and Documentary Collections and Research in the Cammie G. Henry Research Center.”

Oona Zbitkovskis (Bossier Parish Community College and Languages and Communication alumni) presented her paper “The Southern Soul.”

The Conference Proceedings will be published in both print and online versions in early 2011, and will be available through the Louisiana Folklife Center’s website at louisianafolklife.nsula.edu.