‘Ashes to Ashes and Dust to Dust’

12 years after exhuming a Civil War era grave,
Hailey speaks at museum exhibit opening

A Northwestern State University archaeologist was a featured speaker at the opening of an exhibition entitled “Dressed for Eternity: Mid-Nineteenth Century Burial Dress in Louisiana” at the LSU Textile and Costume Museum in Baton Rouge on Sept. 25. Associate Professor of Anthropology/Cultural Resource Office Director Dr. Tommy Hailey presented the lecture “‘Ashes to Ashes and Dust to Dust’: The Final Transfer of Col. Lewis G. DeRussy.”

Hailey’s involvement with DeRussy goes back to 1999 when he supervised the exhumation of DeRussy’s remains from a neglected cemetery near the Red River. “Col. DeRussy, for whom Fort DeRussy in Marksville was named, was an officer in the U.S. Army in the War of 1812 and the Mexican-American War and a Confederate officer in the Civil War, as well as being, at various times over the course of his life, a major general in the Louisiana militia, a state representative, a state senator, the Natchitoches Parish tax assessor, a civil engineer and a planter, in addition to operating the ferry at Grand Ecore,” Hailey explained.

In 1999, the Friends of Fort DeRussy sought to have Col. DeRussy’s remains transferred from the abandoned Russell Cemetery in Grand Ecore to Fort DeRussy for reburial. “I led a team of archaeologists from the NSU Cultural Resource Office and a group of volunteers in the excavation of Col. DeRussy’s grave at Grand Ecore, during which we recovered, in addition to Col. DeRussy’s remains, the remains of...
his coffin and clothing, all of which was fragmentary,” Hailey said. “The clothing fragments consisted primarily of buttons, but there were also small pieces of textiles in association with a few buttons sufficient to determine that he had been buried wearing a white waistcoat with red designs and porcelain and gold buttons when he was buried, which is why I was invited to make a presentation for the opening of the exhibition.”

The DeRussy disinterment was unusual for several reasons, Hailey said, among them limited time to plan the project, conduct background research and put together a fieldwork plan.

“For this project, we learned that the Friends of Fort DeRussy had obtained permission from DeRussy’s dependents and a court order to have a funeral home exhume the remains only about two weeks before the exhumation was to take place,” Hailey said. “The Friends group had the high hopes that DeRussy had been buried in a sealed cast-iron coffin, and that he would be well preserved in his Confederate dress uniform, clutching his sword across his chest. While that was within the realm of possibility, I doubted it that was likely and, fearing that a funeral home crew would not have the ability to recover what would likely be very delicate and fragmentary materials, I contacted Steve Mayeaux, president of the Friends of Fort DeRussy, and volunteered our services.”

With only a few days to conduct archival research, Hailey and his team found a letter in the Cammie G. Henry Research Center at NSU’s Watson Library claiming that DeRussy’s remains had been disinterred years ago, moved to the Alexandria National Cemetery and reburied beside the grave of his first wife. Two days before the exhumation was to take place, Hailey’s team visited the National Cemetery and located the grave of DeRussy’s wife, but discovered that the graves around her were from the World War II, Korea and Viet Nam war eras with no indication DeRussy was buried there in any cemetery records.

“We went out to the Russell cemetery bright and early not only not knowing what we’d find, we weren’t even certain he’d be there,” Hailey said. After two days of careful excavation Aug. 7-8, 1999, in temperatures that exceeded 100 degrees, the team reached the bottom of the grave shaft and encountered a layer containing a diffuse white powdery substance, coffin nails, bits of wood, tiny fragments of lining and tacks from the coffin, small bone fragments, and buttons and small scraps of fabric from DeRussy’s vest.

“The diffuse white powdery and the bone fragments were all that was left of his body after being buried in acidic soil for 135 years, and nothing else was in very good shape, either,” Hailey said. “We recovered everything from the bottom of the grave shaft – dirt and all – recognizing that this was all that was left of him, and from that point forward we tried to gain as much information as possible about his burial in the short time we had before his scheduled reinterment on Sept. 26.

Hailey consulted with Mark Gibson of the Louisiana Tech School of Forestry, Mary Manhein, a forensic anthropologist with the Department of Anthropology at LSU, and Jenna Kutruff, an expert on historic clothing in the LSU School of Human Ecology.

On Sept. 26, 1999, DeRussy was reburied with full military honors at Fort DeRussy. DeRussy descendants, some dressed in historical clothing, attended, as well as a crowd of spectators. Pallbearers were reenactors representing the wars in which DeRussy served – two from the War of 1812, two from the Mexican War, and two Confederate. The Pershing Rifles from LSU fired volleys in salute to his War of 1812 and Mexican War military service, and the Sons of Confederate Veterans fired a volley in salute to his Confederate service.

“It was a fitting end to what Hailey...Continued from Page 1
Christopher’s “Fast Music for Solo Violoncello” by Don Freund has been released. Christopher is assistant professor of low strings and music theory.

Those interested can listen to the work accompanied by scrolling score at www.youtube.com or at donfreund.com. Copies can be obtained by contacting Dr. Freund through his website.

Christopher performed the Tchaikovsky Piano Trio on Sept. 20 with violinist Unkyoung Kim and NSU piano student MinJeong Kim at First Methodist Church in Baton Rouge as part of the Rotary Club’s 2011 Peace One Day concert. While in Baton Rouge Paul and Minjeong also performed for the Alzheimer’s patients at St. James Retirement Center. (See related photos on Page 11.)

University Archivist Mary Linn Wernet was busy during September.

Wernet presented “Visiting Louisiana Writers of Cammie G. Henry’s Melrose Plantation” during a session entitled The Writers of Melrose Plantation with LSMSA Professors Dr. Art Williams and Dr. Clayton Delery at the NSU’s 3rd Annual Louisiana Studies Conference on Sept. 24.

Wernet was also appointed to the Louisiana Historical Association Archives and Records Committee, the Newcomb College Institute, Newcomb Archives Louisiana Women’s History Collective Initiative, and the 5th Annual Military Celebration and Symposium Advisory Committee to mark the 69th anniversary of the founding of the 101st Airborne in Alexandria. The event will be held on Nov. 18 in Alexandria. Wernet will provide a traveling exhibit for the celebration.

A number of NSU faculty and staff members including Richard Rose, Dr. Hiram Gregory, Dr. Susan Dollar, Dr. Shane Rasmussem, Janet Colson and Mary Linn Wernet are currently working with Natchitoches City leaders and concerned citizens on a Louisiana Statehood Bicentennial Committee to plan events commemorating the Bicentennial of Louisiana’s 1812 statehood celebration.

Dr. Gerra Perkins, College of Education and Human Development, presented at the Louisiana Counseling Association Conference held in Baton Rouge, Sept. 18-20. Dr. Perkins presented a three-hour workshop with Dr. Laura Choate, Louisiana State University, titled Ethical and Legal Issues in Counseling: A Board Update, presented at the LPC Board Update with fellow LPC board members, and Moving Beyond the Tears: A New Look at Grief Counseling with Dr. Kristy Brumfield, Xavier University of Louisiana, and NSU alumna Noel Collins.

Dr. Perkins has been appointed as chair of the Rules Committee for the Licensed Professional Counselor Board of Examiners (LPC Board). This committee will be writing the permanent rules for Act 320 as well as updating existing rules.

Instructor Pamela J. Francis, Language and Communications, has organized and will chair a panel at the 40th Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900 in February. The panel will celebrate the centenary of British writer Lawrence Durrell (1912-1990), and will cover numerous facets of his life and work.


Hailey...Continued from Page 2

was a most unusual project,” Hailey said.

The “Dressed for Eternity” exhibition, which will run through May 31, explores how the deceased were dressed for burial in the mid-19th century and includes examples of dress recovered from cast iron coffin burials in south Louisiana as well as replication garments based on archaeological evidence. American post-mortem photographs along with historical documents and information on the culture, funerary industry and burial practices common in the southern United States in the mid-19th century augment artifacts and remains of coffins, burial-specific textiles and burial garments.

The LSU Textile and Costume Museum is located in the Human Ecology Building within the LSU School of Human Ecology. For more information, call (225) 578-5992 or e-mail textile@lsu.edu.
Eighteen faculty holding endowed professorships in Northwestern State University’s College of Science, Technology and Business were honored at a reception in the Natchitoches Room of Russell Hall. Seated from left are Dr. Mark Schaub, Dr. Nat Briscoe, Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne, Dr. Begoña Perez-Mira, Dr. Leigh Ann Myers, Dr. Richard DeVault and Dr. Michelle Brunson. On the back row are Dr. Mark Swanstrom, Charlie Penrod, Dr. Larry Short, Dr. Julie McDonald, Marcus Jones, Dr. Brenda Hanson, John Williams, Dr. Jack Russell, Dr. Glen Cooley, Dr. Sam Marshall and Dr. Mark Thompson.

Faculty holding endowed professorships recognized

The College of Science, Technology and Business at Northwestern State University held a reception for the holders of 18 endowed professorships in the Natchitoches Room in Russell Hall. Dr. Austin Temple, dean of the College of Science, Technology and Business, presented each faculty member with a certificate in recognition of their achievement.

The College of Science, Technology and Business has 12 professorships in the School of Business, two in computer information systems, two in mathematics, one in family and consumer sciences and one in biological sciences.

Each professorship represents an endowment of $100,000 created by a donation of $60,000 with a $40,000 match from the Board of Regents Support Fund. Interest generated by the endowment funds faculty research including travel and development along with needed equipment.

Those honored from the School of Business were: John Williams, Bryant and Heloise Lewis Endowed Professorship; Marcus Jones, Ben D. Johnson Sr. Endowed Professorship; Dr. Mark Swanstrom, Kilpatrick Life Insurance Endowed Professorship; Dr. Julie McDonald, Barry Smiley Endowed Professorship; Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne, Noble Morrison Endowed Professorship, and Dr. Nat Briscoe, Poindexter Foundation Endowed Professorship.

Also receiving endowed professorships in the School of Business were: Dr. Glen Cooley, Poindexter Foundation Endowed Professorship; Dr. Mark Schaub, Capital One Bank Endowed Professorship; Charlie Penrod, Hooper-Curry Endowed Professorship; Dr. Larry Short, Karl and Linda Moore Endowed Professorship; Dr. Begoña Perez-Mira, David D. Morgan Endowed Professorship, and Dr. Brenda Hanson, Business Leaders Endowed Professorship.

Receiving recognition from the Department of Mathematics were Dr. Leigh Ann Myers, Jackie Adair Endowed Professorship, and Dr. Richard DeVault, Juanita and Ellis Coutee Endowed Professorship. Dr. Sam Marshall of the Department of Biological Sciences was given the John S. McIlhenny (Coypu) Endowed Professorship in Biological Sciences. Dr. Michelle Brunson of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences was awarded the Family and Consumer Sciences Endowed Professorship.

Receiving endowed professorships from the Department of Engineering, Technology and Computer Information Systems was Mark Thompson, Roy O. Martin Sr. Endowed Professorship, and Dr. Jack Russell, BellSouth Endowed Professorship.
Jenson shares expertise on terrorism at international conference

Richard Jensen, professor of history in the Louisiana Scholars’ College spoke at an international conference that addressed terrorism from a historical perspective by looking at its evolution, regional experiences with terrorism and counterterrorism, case studies and reactions of the international community.

The conference, entitled “Terrorism and International Politics: Past, Present and Future,” was held Sept. 29-30 at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland, and drew together several historians and political scientists to share their research in terrorism from the turn of the 20th century to the present day. The event was organized in cooperation with the Foundation Pierre du Bois, whose purpose is to stimulate and support research in modern history. Organizers funded Jensen’s expenses to attend the conference.

Jensen, whose expertise includes police history and studies of law and order from a historical perspective, opened the conference during a session that examined terrorism prior to World War II. His presentation was entitled “The 1905-12 global wave of anarchist terrorism and international efforts to combat it.”

The conference was planned as a commemoration of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States, Jensen said.

Jensen recently completed a manuscript, “The International Campaign Against Anarchist Terrorism, 1878-1934,” which he is currently sending to publishers.

Professorship established in honor of former faculty member

The School of Business at Northwestern State University held a fundraiser for an endowed professorship in honor of Professor Emeritus of Business Dr. Tommy Johnson.

Endowed professorships are created with a $60,000 gift, which is matched with $40,000 from the Board of Regents Support Fund. The interest generated by the $100,000 endowment funds faculty research and development along with needed equipment. Donations of any size can be used toward the professorship.

The School of Business has eight endowed professorships and a $1 million endowed chair.

Johnston taught in Northwestern’s Department of Business-Distributive Education and Office Administration from 1967 until 1986. He was department head for 15 years and was coordinator of the Center for Computer Literacy from 1983 until 1986. He was inducted into the School of Business Hall of Distinction in 2001.

A native of Otis, Johnson was a 1958 graduate of Northwestern. He taught at Mer Rouge and Glenmora before joining NSU’s faculty. Johnson earned a Ph.D. in business education from Arizona State University.

While at Northwestern, Johnson was named Outstanding Young Educator of Natchitoches Parish, Outstanding Vocational Teacher of Louisiana and Outstanding Business Educator of Louisiana.

In 1981, Johnson was the program chair for the National Business Education Conference in New Orleans and in 1983 he served on the Commission for High Technology Education. He was instrumental in developing the East/West Corridor Commission now an officially known as the El Camino East/West Corridor.

For more information on the Dr. Tommy Johnson Endowed Professorship, contact Chief Development Officer Tony Hernandez at (318) 357-4243 or at hernandeza@nsula.edu.
NSU hosts 3rd annual Louisiana Studies Conference

The 3rd annual Louisiana Studies Conference was held on Sept. 23-24 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 **Dr. James J. Mischler** and **Dr. Thomas W. Reynolds, Jr.**, both of the Department of Language and Communication. Drs. Mischler and Reynolds also served as conference programmers. **Matt DeFord**, associate professor of art and coordinator of Art, designed the conference poster and program. **Dr. Davina McClain**, director of the Louisiana Scholars’ College, served as conference host. The staff of the Louisiana Folklife Center, administrative assistant **Sharon Sweeters**, graduate intern Christina Lake, and students Kayla Hardy, Alexandria Leger, and Chelsea Taylor, and volunteer Corey Cudd and **Curtis Desselles**, kept the conference running smoothly. Desselles, National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, also served as a volunteer. **Lisa Rougeou**, instructor in the College of Education and the Department of Language and Communication and director of the NSU Writing Project, served as a liaison between NSU and the Louisiana Department of Education, which advertised the conference to high schools throughout Louisiana. The conference was sponsored by a generous grant from the Cane River National Heritage Area. Drs. Abney and Rasmussen served as co-principal investigators for the grant.

This year’s conference theme was “Louisiana Fictions.” The conference included three keynote speakers, all acclaimed Louisiana poets: **Dr. Julie Kane**, Language and Communication, professor of English and Louisiana’s new

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**C R O N G R AT U L A T I O N S**

**Ms. Claudia Triche**, Department of Social Work, College of Arts, Letters, Graduate Studies and Research, received notification of a $55,000 award from the Casey Family Programs for “Supervisory Mentoring Program for the Office of Community Services, Department of Social Services, State of Louisiana.”

**Mr. Joe Morris**, Department of Criminal Justice, History, and Social Sciences, College of Arts, Letters, Graduate Studies and Research, received notification of a $500,000 award from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance for “Interstate Corridors Project I-10.” **Ms. Daphne Levenson** and **Ms. Polly Snell** are collaborators.

**Dr. Lisa Abney**, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and **Mr. Kirk Cordell**, National Center for Preservation, Technology and Training, received notification of a $470,811.44 from the National Park Service for “NCPTT Programmatic Support.” **Dr. Steve Horton** is collaborator.

**Dr. Lisa Abney**, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and **Mr. Kirk Cordell**, National Center for Preservation, Technology and Training, received notification of a $94,920.62 from the National Park Service for “NPS Learning Academy Web Development.” **Dr. Steve Horton** is collaborator.

**C U R R E N T A C T I V I T I E S**

**Mr. Joseph D. Biscoe**, Department of Psychology, College of Arts, Letters, Graduate Studies and Research, submitted a continuation proposal to the University of Texas-Austin for “Continuing of Efforts for the LATTC at NSU.”

**Dr. William Housel**, Department of Criminal Justice, History, and Social Sciences, College of Arts, Letters, Graduate Studies and Research, submitted a proposal to the National Endowment for Humanities entitled “Virtual Southern Writers Museum.” **Dr. Andrew Crank** is collaborator.

For more information regarding funding opportunities, visit ORSP’s website at [www.nsula.edu/orsp](http://www.nsula.edu/orsp).
poet laureate; Dr. Catharine Savage Brosman, professor emerita of French at Tulane University, and Dr. David Middleton, professor emeritus at Nicholls State University. Drs. Brosman and Middleton gave a poetry reading on Friday evening. Brosman and Middleton were introduced by Dr. Shane Rasmussen. Dr. Julie Kane was the Saturday morning keynote speaker. Dr. Kane’s address was titled “Highlights of Louisiana Poetry, Colonial Days to the Present.”

“The two-day conference was a great success, with 41 scholars and creative writers participating in 14 separate panels,” Rasmussen said. “Conference participants came from throughout Louisiana, as well as Iowa, New York, Oklahoma, Texas and Barcelona, Spain. Many of the presenters were NSU faculty and graduate students.”

In addition to the keynote addresses, the Conference included panels composed of both scholarly and creative presentations about a variety of topics relating to Louisiana history, biography, geography, culture, art, folklife, literature, and current social trends, as well as many readings of creative non-fiction, fiction, and poetry related to Louisiana. Each of the presentation sessions was chaired by a moderator. Session chairs included Dr. Lisa Abney, Language and Communication; Steven C. Gruesbeck, Psychology and director of Service Learning; Lori L. LeBlanc, Language and Communication; W. Charlene LeBrun, Language and Communication; Dr. James J. Mischler, Language and Communication; Dr. Paul Nagel, College of Education; Michelle Pichon, Language and Communication; Dr. Shane Rasmussen, Language and Communication; Dr. Thomas W. Reynolds, Jr., Language and Communication; Dr. Shirley A. Snyder, Criminal Justice; Dr. Holly Stave, Louisiana Scholars’ College, and Mary-Linn Wernet, Cammie G. Henry Research Center.

Several NSU scholars organized and chaired roundtable discussions. Steven Gruesbeck organized and moderated the roundtable discussion “Mentoring Psychology and Addiction Studies Majors at Northwestern State University of Louisiana.” Roundtable participants included NSU Department of Psychology members Dr. Susan Thorson-Barnett and Joseph (Jody) Biscoe. Dr. Charles Pellegrin, Criminal Justice, History, and Social Science, organized and moderated the roundtable discussion “The Bennett Store and Central Louisiana in Historical Perspective.” Roundtable participants included Dr. Jerry P. Sanson, Louisiana State University – Alexandria, and Dr. Christopher Stacey, Louisiana State University – Alexandria.

The following individuals made scholarly and creative presentations at the Conference:

- Dr. Lisa Abney, Language and Communication, presented his paper “Two Louisiana Stories.”
- Dr. Clayton Delery, Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts, presented his paper “Teaching Children of Strangers.”
- Christina Lake, graduate student, Language and Communication, presented her paper “Newcomb Pottery: A Revolutionary Craft.”
- Dr. Paul Nagel, College of Education, presented his paper “‘You’re from Where?’ Assessing Eighth Graders Understanding of the Regions of Louisiana.”
- Michelle Pichon, Language and Communication, presented her creative non-fiction piece “Turtle Guts.”
- Dr. Thomas W. Reynolds, Jr., Language and Communication, presented his paper “‘Gaines’ and Losses: The Costs of Success in Ernest Gaines’s Bloodlines.”
- Dr. Shirley A. Snyder, Criminal Justice, History, and Social Science, presented four poems under the group title “How Far for Freedom?”
- Dr. Holly Stave, Louisiana Scholars’ College, presented her paper “Gumbo Ya-Ya: Motherhood in The Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood.”
- Mary-Linn Wernet, Cammie G. Henry Research Center, presented her paper “Visiting Louisiana Writers of Cammie G. Henry’s Melrose Plantation.”
- Oona Zbitkovskis, Bossier Parish Community College and Language and Communication, presented several poems under the group title “Southern Inspired Poetry.”

The Conference Proceedings will be published in both print and online versions in early 2012, and will be available through the Louisiana Folklife Center’s website at louisianafolklife.nsula.edu.
Louisiana High School Essay Contest winners awarded

An awards ceremony for the winners of the 2011 NSU Louisiana High School Essay Contest was held on Sept. 24 at NSU as part of the third annual Louisiana Studies Conference. The co-chairs of the Essay Contest, 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, presented the awards. Dr. Rasmussen served as the Contest Selection Committee chair, along with Dr. Hardy Jones, of Cameron University, and Dr. Julie Kane of Language and Communication at NSU. The contest was sponsored by Cane River National Heritage Area Commission, the Folklife Society of Louisiana, the Louisiana Folklife Center, the NSU Office of the Provost, the NSU Writing Project, and the College of Arts, Letters, Graduate Studies and Research.

The 2011 Essay Contest theme was “Creative Visions of Louisiana.” One of the contest winners attended the awards ceremony to read her essay to the conference attendees. Shelby Elise Paine from Captain Shreve High School in Shreveport read her first place essay in the Creative Non-Fiction category, “Visions of Home, Louisiana, as Seen From My Childhood.” Several contest winners were unable to attend the ceremony. First place in the poetry category was Josh Farr of St. Paul’s School in Mandeville for his poems “Crawfish” and “Gumbo.” First place in the short fiction category was Michael Burke, also of St. Paul’s School in Mandeville, for his short story “The Rumble.” Honorable Mention in the poetry category was Meredith McManus of Atlanta High School in Atlanta for her poem “Marie Laveau.”

The essay contest was open to all Louisiana students in grades nine -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 award winning work 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. Paine, Farr, and Burke are each offered a $200 per semester scholarship to Northwestern with a value up to $1,600 for four years. The essay contest serves as a recruitment effort for NSU.

‘Day of the Dead’ Fall Read is Nov. 2

Submissions from faculty, staff and students will be accepted through Oct. 7

The Department of Language and Communication will host Fall Read Wednesday, Nov. 2 and invite submissions from faculty, staff, graduate and undergraduate students. Submissions are due Oct. 7. Readers will be notified of their selection by Oct. 21.

“This has been a delightful event in the past, and we hope that folks will come share an interesting evening of community and literature,” said Michelle Pichon, instructor in the Department of Language and Communications and an organizer of Fall Read. “Dia de los Muertos altar projects created by some of the Spanish classes will create the atmosphere for the Read, and we are looking for readings that relate to this theme – Day of the Dead, All Soul’s/Saints’ Day, Halloween. Interpretation of that theme is, of course, subjective.”

Anyone interested in participating should contact Pichon (pichonm@nsula.edu) or Lori LeBlanc (leblanc@nsula.edu) with Fall Read as the subject line.
Artist’s reception draw families to portrait exhibit

Portraits of four past Hall of Master Folk Artists were featuring during a reception for artist Michael Graham, instructor at Louisiana State University-Shreveport. The portraits of folk artists Lair LaCour, Allen Metoyer, Overton Owens and Cliff Carnahan were commissioned through a grant from the Cane River National Heritage Area and are on exhibit in Gallery II in the Creative and Performing Arts building through Oct. 9.

Many relatives and friends of the honored Hall of Master Folk Artists attended the reception, including Edith Owens, wife of Overton Owens, and her family; Anastasia Christophe, Lair LaCour’s daughter, and her two brothers and their families; Rhonda Sers, Al Metoyer’s daughter, and her family; and Judy Carnahan, Cliff Carnahan’s daughter, and her family.

Co-principal investigators of the grant were 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.

Graham also participated in the third annual Louisiana Studies Conference Sept. 23 by providing a presentation entitled “Cane River Narratives in 2Dimensions,” in which he discussed the importance of preserving family historical documents.

Viewing hours are Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. and 8 a.m.-noon Friday. The portraits will be housed on the NSU campus.
Theatre season to include
The Wiz, Earnest & Christmas Gala

NSU Theatre announces the dates for fall productions, “The Wiz,” “The Importance of Being Earnest” and the annual Christmas Gala.

“The Wiz” will be staged Oct. 19-22 in the A.A. Fredericks Auditorium. Doors will open at 7 p.m. with the show beginning at 7:30 p.m. Admission is $15 for adults, $12 for senior citizens over 65 and free for NSU students with current stickers on their ID cards.

“The Importance of Being Earnest” will be staged Nov. 3-5 and Nov. 9-12 in Theatre West. Doors will open at 7 p.m. with the show beginning at 7:30 p.m. Admission is $15 for adults, $12 for senior citizens over 65 and free for NSU students with current stickers on their ID cards. Reservations are required for this production.

The annual Christmas Gala will be presented at 7 p.m. Nov. 30, Dec. 2 and Dec. 3. Admission is $10 per person.

Children’s shows will be at 9:30 a.m. and noon Nov. 30 and Dec. 2. Admission is $3. Schools must make reservations in advance.

For more information, contact Jane Norman at normanj@nsula.edu or call Ext. 4483. You can also visit the Department’s website at theatre.nsula.edu/current-shows-at-northwestern-theatre-and-dance.
Christopher performs at Rotary concert and for Alzheimer’s patients

NSU piano student MinJeong Kim, violinist Unkyoung Kim and Paul Christopher, assistant professor of low strings and music theory, smiled during the post-concert reception for the Peace One Day Concert, held at First United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge on Sept. 20. The NSU musicians performed the Tchaikovsky Piano Trio as part of the concert, which was sponsored by the Rotary Club.

NSU piano student Minjeong Kim and Paul Christopher performed for the Alzheimer’s patients at St. James Retirement Home in Baton Rouge. While participating in the Rotary Club’s Peace One Day concert, the musicians were housed as guests at the Center. “One of the Rotarians lives at the retirement center and asked if we would be willing to perform for the residents while there and, of course, we were honored to do so,” Christopher said. “I am interested in music therapy as my wife worked in the medical field. I also think it is important for the students to go out and perform for those who are less fortunate and who would otherwise not be able to attend our concerts. At the end of every semester I pick a few of my students to perform at assisted living facilities in the area.”

The NSU Floral Fund made a donation to 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, Natchitoches, in memory of James K. Lee, retired Chief of Police at NSU. Lee was responsible for organizing the campus police in 1955 and served as chief until his retirement in 1986.

The Floral Fund sent a spray to services for Dr. Loneta Graves, best remembered for her 34-year career at Northwestern. Dr. Graves began work in the auditor’s office and retired as the first female vice president of a public college or university in the state of Louisiana. She served Northwestern as vice president of Financial and Administrative Affairs, as well as EEO Officer and appointing authority for Civil Services. In 1987 she was awarded the status of Vice President Emeritus from NSU, to be followed up by an honorary doctorate of humanities in 1992 and acknowledged as a Golden Jubilee Alumnus in 2005. She was also enshrined in the Graduate N Club for distinguished service in 2008.

The Floral Fund sent a plant to services for Mrs. Robbie Scroggins, retired from the College of Education.

NSU Floral Fund sent a plant to the funeral service for Edward Hernandez, father of Lynda Hernandez, asset manager, Facilities Services Complex.
“One week will change your life forever,” said photographer/videographer Cole Gentry, who applies his talents not only in service to Northwestern State University, but also in spiritual and humanitarian endeavors. A media development specialist at NSU, Gentry participated in a mission trip to Honduras earlier this year where he recorded his impressions of the experience in still photography and a documentary film. One of his photos has been named a finalist in the Colors of Life international photo contest highlighting child poverty.

Gentry joined the Sabine Parish team of Baptist Medical and Dental Missions International travelling to Quebrada Larga, Honduras, where he filmed physicians, pharmacists, veterinarians and other volunteers doing mission work among the Honduran people.

“Going to Honduras was a huge eye-opener. Third world countries are something you just have to witness for yourself. I see pictures in magazines such as Time and National Geographic, but actually being there in person really makes a difference,” Gentry said. “I have seen poverty like no other and I have seen blessings like no other as well. I’m so blessed that God sent me to Honduras and I thank Him everyday that He gave me the opportunity.”

Gentry was initially hesitant to join the trip, but felt a call to shoot the documentary film on lives being changed in Honduras. Shot on location in Quebrada Larga, the film depicts everyday life in Honduras and shows how the Baptist Medical and Dental Mission International volunteers minister and evangelize to the poor.

“I have done one other short documentary, but nothing on the level of spending seven days in the middle of nowhere with heavy equipment and a lone generator to recharge my batteries, not to mention only five memory cards and the closest Best Buy is literally 1,000 miles away. Not a lot of room for error,” he said. “I didn’t have a problem and I returned to the United States with all of my equipment fully accounted for.”

While shooting the documentary, he noticed a young child riding a bicycle and herding cattle about 50 years away.

“I quickly composed the shot, capturing the raw emotion of everyday life in Honduras,” he explained. Out of nearly 700 submissions, “Cattle Boy” was named one of 29 finalists and will be on display at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, D.C., followed by Capital One Corporate Galleries in Virginia and Texas and possibly the United National headquarters in New York, pending approval.

“I was really shocked to be named a finalist. I knew this was a blessing from above. I

Continued on Page 13
“Tsunami of Learning” is headed to NSU Lab schools

Students at Northwestern State University’s Elementary Lab and Middle Lab Schools will experience the depths and marvel at the features of the earth’s largest ocean by exploring a giant map of the Pacific Ocean Oct. 24-Nov. 3. The giant travelling map will expose the students to “a tsunami of learning about geography,” according to Dr. Paul Nagel, associate professor at Northwestern State University’s College of Education and Human Development.

“The vast blue depths of the Pacific Ocean await students’ inquiring minds and adventurous spirits,” said Nagel, who is coordinator for the Louisiana Geography Education Alliance. “This new Giant Traveling Map will introduce students to the marvels of the planet’s largest ocean, which occupies over one third of Earth’s surface. Students will learn how the Pacific has been both a barrier and a highway throughout human history. They will explore the deepest place on earth – the Mariana Trench – as well as the world’s tallest mountain measured from the seabed, Hawai’i’s Mauna Kea. Most of all, students will experience the Pacific as a living thing with active volcanoes giving birth to new islands, deep-sea vents supporting unique life forms, phytoplankton blooms providing over half of the planet’s fresh air, and the Great Barrier Reef – the largest living structure in the world.”

The Louisiana Geography Education Alliance will borrow the giant map through funding provided by the National Geographic Society. The map measures approximately 26 feet by 35 feet.

Activities and props for teachers to lead students in kindergarten through eighth grade in enrichment exercises will accompany the map “whether they are tracking a whale migration, acting out the movement of El Niño, tracing the routes of Polynesian seafarers, or circling the ‘Ring of Fire,’” Nagel said.

For more information about the Giant Map of the Pacific, contact Angela Spann at (318) 357-6973 or Nagel at nagelp@nsula.edu.

Cole Gentry...Continued from Page 1

g went to Honduras to shoot a documentary, and had no intention of using still photography. All of sudden, the week after I return from Honduras, an international photo contest comes to my e-mail inbox with the theme of ‘Child Poverty.’ This was not a coincidence, this was not luck; this is a blessing from God, especially when ‘Cattle Boy’ was voted Top 30.”

The winning picture will be announced Nov. 10.

“I have been doing photography for quite some time now but I just started in filmmaking. I am a one-person job, so it does take quite some time. A lot goes into filmmaking, such as camera operation, focusing, angles, sound engineering, storylines, scripting, post-production and special effects,” he said.

Gentry would like to establish a filmmaking team and create short and independent films.

“I firmly believe in independent films, because it shows the true nature of filmmakers around the world,” he said. “They pour their heart and soul into creating beautiful works of art all on an extremely low budget. They simply cannot just purchase anything they want. They do the best with what they have and create storylines that captivate audiences. There is no rules or regulations or influence from outside entities, only meaningful films.”

Gentry’s Honduras film can be viewed online at http://vimeo.com/27988422. For more information on Gentry’s work as a photographer, film maker, graphic designer, videographer and website designer, visit colegentry.com.
Get Moving at the WRAC

Group Exercise Schedule Fall 2011

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<td>8-8:50 a.m.</td>
<td>High Voltage Circuit Training</td>
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<td>Step &amp; Tone</td>
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<td>9-9:50 a.m.</td>
<td>Pilates</td>
<td>Spin</td>
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<td>Noon-12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Yoga: Video</td>
<td>Abs: Video</td>
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<td>5:30-6:20 p.m.</td>
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<td>6:30-7 p.m.</td>
<td>Triple Threat</td>
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WRAC will offer fitness October Boot Camp, health workshop

Get ready for WRAC Boot Camp!
The NSU WRAC will hold Book Camp Oct. 17-Nov. 18. Sessions begin at 5:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays. This session of Boot Camp is $50 for members and $95 for non-members, which includes 14 Boot Camp sessions and a free 30-minute massage for those who complete all 14 sessions.

Childcare for age two and up is available for the evening Boot Camp sessions.

Participants can register at the front desk of the WRAC. For more information, call Carmel Bourg at (318) 357-5331.
The WRAC will offer a new group exercise class, Essentrics, which will be offered at 9 a.m. every Wednesday. Essentrics is a body-sculpting/strengthening program that tones muscles in lengthened positions. Essentrics uses techniques from Tai Chi, yoga and modern dance to lengthen and strengthen muscles. These techniques include exercises to elongate the legs, hips and arms, improve posture and slenderize love handles and underarm flab.

Also in October, the WRAC will also offer a health presentation, “Body Comps with Mark,” to be presented by Mark Springer at noon Wednesday, Oct. 19 in the WRAC classroom. The class is open to everyone.

For more information, call Audra Callendar at (318) 357-5428.
Anna McDonald, manager of the Leesville branch library, hosted a Coke Rewards party Sept. 27 to thank faculty, staff and students for their support of the Coke Rewards program. “Through the program we have earned enough Coke points to acquire 12 popular magazines. This has saved the library money and allowed them to put it towards other purchases,” McDonald said.

One hundred fifteen students, faculty and staff participated.

“Joyce Barnes, nursing advisor, was able to get 20 pizzas donated by Dominos, Fox’s Pizza Den and Papa John’s for the party. Ice was donated by West Louisiana Ice Company,” McDonald said.

“Big thanks to Joyce who also donated cupcakes and cokes to the party.”

Other donors were Wendy Bartlett, security guard, cupcakes, and Catherine Merchant, Administrative Assistant III, green tea drinks.

Door prizes were provided by the NSU Alumni Association, Coca-Cola Bottling Company, NSU-Leesville/Ft. Polk director’s office and Fox’s Pizza Den.

NSU Leesville Executive Director Joe Pope, left, and Fred Taulbee, Language and Communication, right, participated in the Coke Rewards party that the NSU-Leesville library branch hosted.

October Non-Credit Courses

Northwestern State University’s Office of Electronic and Continuing Education is offering courses in floral design, the florist prep exam, digital photos, retirement planning and more in October.

Basic Floral Design will be presented on Oct. 1, 8 and 15 from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the Master’s Bouquet at 108 South Drive in Natchitoches. The fee is $200 plus a $100 supply fee.

A Louisiana Retail Florist Exam Prep will begin Oct. 1. The classroom portion is on Oact. 1 and 8 from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and Oct. 3-7 and 10-14 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. The class will be taught at at the Master’s Bouquet at 108 South Drive in Natchitoches. The fee is $1,638 for textbook and materials plus a $889 material fee paid to the instructor prior to the start of class.

Fun with Photos will be held Thursday, Oct. 6, from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. in Room 132-B of Dodd Hall. The fee is $25.

Financial Strategies for Successful Retirement is on Oct. 6, 13 and 20 from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the Learning Center for Rapides Parish at 1410 Neel Kearby Blvd. in Alexandria. The fee is $55.

Coupon Class – Start Smart Saving will be taught on Saturday, Oct. 8 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in Room 132-B of Dodd Hall. The fee is $29.

Scrapbooking Your Vacations will be taught on Saturday, Oct. 22 and 29 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. in Room 132-B of Dodd Hall. The fee is $40 plus supplies. The Office of Electronic and Continuing Education can provide a supply list.

For more information on non-credit classes at NSU, call (318) 357-5682, (800) 376-2422, e-mail bedgoodm@nsula.edu or go to ece.nsula.edu/non-credit.
Northwestern State University has named Bill Brent, director of the Mrs. H.D. Dear and Alice E. Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts and director of bands at Northwestern, an honorary alumnus.

Northwestern State President Dr. Randall J. Webb made the announcement at a concert concluding the Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band’s 100th anniversary.

“Bill Brent has done so much for Northwestern and cares so deeply for this university and its people. I know he bleeds purple,” said Webb. “He has built the Spirit of Northwestern into one of the top bands in the country, brought the School of Creative and Performing Arts national prominence and been a positive impact on hundreds of students.”

Brent has been at Northwestern for 28 years. In that time, he has built one of the best marching band programs in the nation, increasing the number of members from 48 to more than 300. He has also served as conductor of the NSU Wind Symphony which has been chosen to perform at the College Band Directors National Association Southern Regional Conference.

The band was a finalist for the 2011 Sudler Trophy, an award to identify and recognize collegiate marching bands of particular excellence that have made outstanding contributions to the American way of life. NSU’s band started 2011 by participating in the New Year’s Day Parade and Festival in London.

Northwestern’s band was named one of the top eight in the country by the Web site collegeotr.com in 2008. That year, Brent received the Outstanding Bandmaster Award for the state of Louisiana from the Epsilon Chapter of Phi Beta Mu, International Bandmasters Fraternity.

In 2007, he was inducted into the Louisiana Music Educators Association Hall of Fame. Brent received the President’s Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his work at Northwestern in 2002.