

LIBERAL ARTS NEWS

MACO HOSTS SOUTHEAST JOURNALISM CONFERENCE



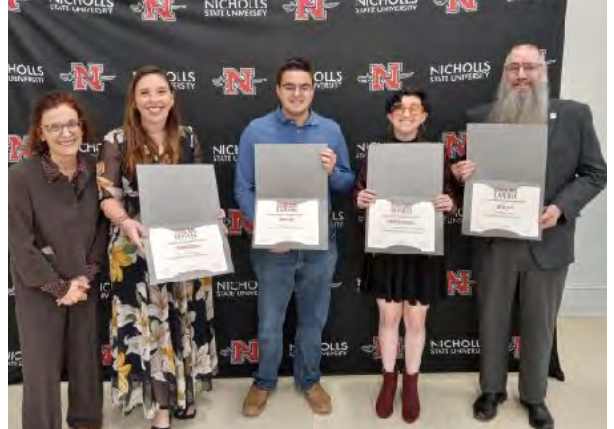
DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION – Nicholls State University’s Department of Mass Communication, in collaboration with Southeastern University, hosted the Southeast Journalism Conference (SEJC) for the first time. In addition to outside guest speakers brought in to present various topics in journalism, three Nicholls MACO professors (Assistant Professor **Nicki Boudreaux**, Assistant Professor **Lance Arnold**, and Assistant Professor **Laure Kasovich**) held sessions on special topics such as student media leadership, using drone footage in the news industry, and why multimedia stories are important. Nicholls students were also able to compete in on-site competitions to show off their skills and knowledge, where KNSU-TV brought home the 8th best award for Best TV Newscast and KNSU 91.5 FM won 3rd best radio station and 7th best audio program.

The SEJC keynote speaker, **Greg Gruenig**, is a Nicholls 2013 graduate turned KLFY news anchor and social media star of his segment titled “Acadiana Eats”, where he highlights Acadiana restaurants. Mass Communication Dept. Head Dr. **James Stewart** said, “Having Gerald as the keynote speaker gave the students an opportunity to hear from someone who is engaged in social media as well as traditional journalism,” and that he was excited Nicholls could host the conference because it was, “an opportunity to showcase our facilities while being able to get our name out there.” (Courtesy of The Nicholls Worth, photo credit to Graci McGehee.)



EMLCS HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, MODERN LANGUAGES, & CULTURAL STUDIES – The 2023 Humanities Symposium at Scholars Expeaux took place on March 27-29. It featured students from across the College of Liberal Arts, including Nicholls Online students. The symposium is focused on any aspect of the humanities / liberal arts. Students submitted their papers to the Humanities Symposium committee for judging and presented their papers at the event. The award winners were as follows: Dr. David and Fran Middleton Award (first place) - **Gabby Blanchard**, “The Coens and Existentialism: The Bleak Worlds of Inside Llewyn Davis and A Serious Man.” Second Place - **Mark Hue**, “Poor Norma: An Exploration into Depictions of Feminine Trauma in Andrew Dominik’s Blonde.” Third Place - **Diego Lazo**, “Historicity of the New Testament.” Honorable Mention - Tabatha Daigle, “Propaganda in the Oldest of Places.” Associate Professor, Dr. **Scott Banville** chairs the committee, directs, and organizes the event.





DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY – Dr. **Shae Smith Cox**, Assistant Professor of History, was a guest lecturer at the Civil War Roundtable of Central Louisiana. Her lecture, "The Methods of Memory Machines: Remembering the Civil War Through Objects,"

was well attended. Dr. Cox took material from her teaching collection as examples of post-Civil War memorial culture.



DEPARTMENT OF ART – Assistant Professor **Lisa Gostev**, was accepted for exhibition into the Surreal Salon. This is an annual exhibition that celebrates the pop-surrealist/lowbrow movement. Held at the Baton Rouge Gallery for Contemporary Art in partnership with the LSU School of Art and curated by Marco Mazzoni, the exhibition featured the work of more than 60 artists representing 21 states and nine different nations.

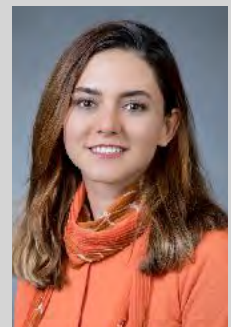


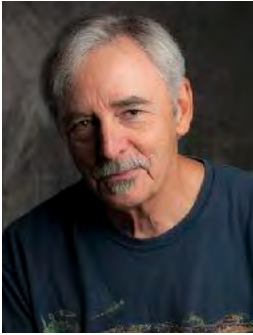
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC – The Department of Music hosted the Bayouland Sight Reading Clinic, an annual event occurring over the past twenty years. An ensemble was created from 88 local high school students, nominated by their band directors. They performed 34 pieces of recently published music, provided by JW Pepper. Dr. **Jason S. Ladd** and Dr. **Ben Robichaux** conducted the group, and there was a performance by the Nicholls Jazz Ensemble before the afternoon session.



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, MODERN LANGUAGES, & CULTURAL STUDIES – Associate Professor **Robin White** attended the historic speech by the French president Emmanuel Macron at the New Orleans Museum of Art. Emmanuel Macron spoke of the importance of Louisiana's French language. This was the first French president to visit Louisiana in 50 years.

DEPARTMENT OF ART – **Marjan Khatibi**, Assistant Professor of Art, hosted a Zoom event on Virtual Reality (VR) opportunities with guest speaker, "Thomas Winkley", a Technical Marketing Advocate - Education from Unity. He discussed several key topics related to VR, including: how we build VR apps, what jobs are available in the world of VR, and how we can use VR to drive cool stories/experiences. The one-hour event was open to all faculty and students interested in learning more about VR and opportunities in research and education from an industry expert.





DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION - The writing duo of family members, **Ken Wells** and **Hillary Wells**, who are both Nicholls alumni, launched their new book "Swamped!" in Mary and Al Danos Theater in March. The book is the first collaboration between Ken Wells and Hillary Wells. Released by Koehler Books in January, the book is an adventure tale of two wildly different teens flung together amid dire circumstances.

Ken, a Bayou Black native, was a Pulitzer Prize finalist as a reporter and served as editor on two Pulitzer-Prize winning projects for The Wall Street Journal. He has also written six novels and two books of narrative nonfiction. One, "The Good Pirates of the Forgotten Bayous,"

focusing on post-Katrina South Louisiana, received the Harry Chapin book award.

Hillary, a 2012 Mass Communication graduate from Nicholls and Ken's niece, is a writer, comedian, and producer. Hillary said she was drawn to the project working with her uncle by the opportunity to help him develop a strong female character.

A CELEBRATION OF THE NEGRO SPIRITUALS

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC – Dr. **Valerie Francis**, Associate Professor of Music, gathered some of the most talented, brilliant vocalists and musicians across campus and state lines for the 13th annual "A Celebration of the Negro Spirituals." The event held in the Mary M. Danos Theater was "an amazing experience of Spirit and Soul." Farren Clark shared this quote by Langston Hughes: "Spirituals sing of woe triumphantly, knowing well that all rivers will be crossed and the Promised Land is just beyond the stream. The Spirituals ask no pity, for their words ride on the strongest melodies, the melody of faith. That is why there is joy in their singing, peace in their music and strength in their soul."



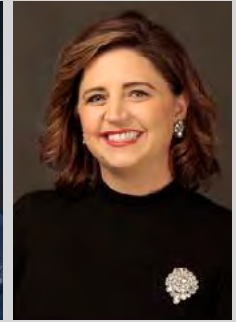
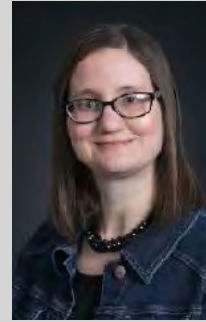
AWARD WINNING BLUES ARTIST PERFORMS AT NICHOLLS

DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION – Grammy-winning blues artist **Chris Thomas King** presented "Rhythm of Resistance" in the Mary and Al Danos Theater as part of the university's Black History Month activities. King, a Baton Rouge native, has sold more than 10 million records in the United States and appeared as guitar legend Tommy Johnson in the 2000 film "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" He discussed his book "The Blues: The Authentic Narrative of my Music and Culture," which tells the story of how the blues began as a cosmopolitan art form in New Orleans in the late 19th century before spreading globally. The event was sponsored by the university's speech faculty, in association with the Department of Mass Communication, the Nicholls Players, and the Nicholls Black History Month Committee.



ART PROFESSORS MAKE PRESENTATIONS ON DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC FRESHMAN ORIENTATION & MENTOR PROGRAMS

DEPARTMENT OF ART – Dr. **Ashley Busby**, Assistant Professor of Art History, and **Trisha Rabalais**, Professor of Art, provided a conference presentation entitled “Building a Community of Table People: Creating Internal and External Connections for Students” at the fifth annual Sparking Success Faculty Development Conference sponsored by CELT (Center for Engaged Learning and Teaching) at Tulane University. They noted their work, “has included the development of a department specific freshman orientation program (Fresh Start), designed and led by upper-level students; the creation of a freshman mentor program, known as Co-Arts; and the creation of a digital tool, the Life RAFT, which helps students navigate university and departmental policies and requirements and creates a space for virtual community building.”

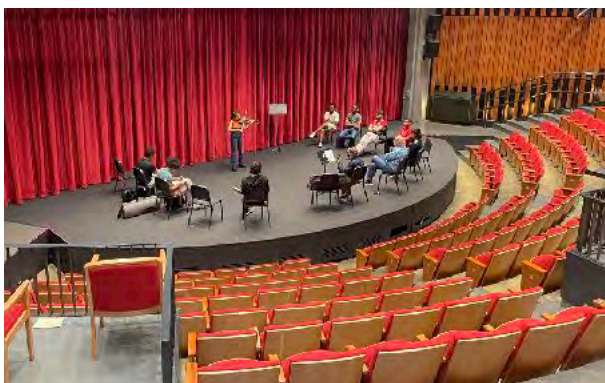


Additionally, before going to Tulane, Dr. Busby and Ms. Rabalais delivered a related talk entitled “Life Rafts: Building a Resource for Student Success” at GIFTS (Great Ideas for Teaching Students) sponsored by the Nicholls Center for Teaching Excellence. Of the experiences, they reported enjoying the opportunities, “to share art department initiatives and strategies with various campus and regional audiences and discuss ways that we can better meet the needs of our students and create a sense of inclusive, departmental community.”



SOCIAL WORK WEEK

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES – Nicholls University’s sociology department hosted a social work panel in March for Social Work Month. The panel was held in the Bollinger Suites and featured social workers from around the region to discuss the field of social work. The panel was moderated by Nicholls sociology instructor **Rebecca Picou**. They discussed topics such as current trends in the social work field and what fields are demonstrating the greatest need.



CHARLES CASTLEMAN MASTERCLASS

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC - **James Alexander** and the string students welcomed world-renowned violinist, **Charles Castleman**, to Danos Theater for a masterclass. Mr. Castleman is currently on faculty at the University of Miami, and perhaps the world’s most active performer/pedagogue on the violin. He has been soloist with the orchestras of Philadelphia, Boston, Brisbane, Chicago, Hong Kong, Moscow, Mexico City, New York, San Francisco, Seoul, and Shanghai.

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC – Assistant Professor, Dr. **Jason S. Ladd** performed a recital in Danos Theater that included the premier of his composition “Frigid Sky.” He collaborated with current Music faculty Assistant Professor, Dr. **Yian-Shan Su** on piano and Assistant Professor, Dr. **Gustavo Miranda** on timpani as well as former Nicholls adjunct Ms. **Casie Forbes** on tuba. The music included works spanning from the 1700s until today.



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, MODERN LANGUAGES, & CULTURAL STUDIES – Nicholls Film Studies students and the Nicholls Film Society joined Assistant Professor Melissa Remark at the international Overlook Film Festival for a Service Learning Day in April. Students volunteered as photographers, box office scanners, and other important positions at the film festival in downtown New Orleans. In the evening, the student group enjoyed a private screening of *It Lives Inside*, a debut demon-creature feature film by Bishal Dutta, who also met with students for a Q & A session about filmmaking. The service learning event was such a success that The Overlook has asked Nicholls film studies students to return next year.



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY – Dr. **Paul Wilson**, Department Head and Professor of History, has been appointed to the BOR (Board of Regents) Transfer Pathways Committee to develop a state-wide history curriculum with 60 hours of coursework that can be successfully transferred into every institution’s existing curricula.



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, MODERN LANGUAGES, & CULTURAL STUDIES – Dr. **Todd Kennedy**, Associate Professor of English, participated in an online event with top Sofia Coppola scholars marking the release of the Bloomsbury Handbook to Sofia Coppola. The international group of scholars and industry professionals explored the distinctive convergence of art, photography, fashion, design, music, and fame in the celebrated director’s work—in cinema and beyond.

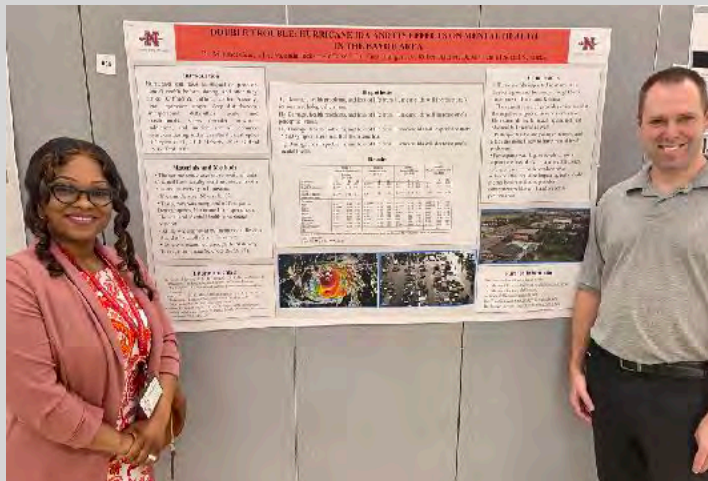
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, MODERN LANGUAGES, & CULTURAL STUDIES – **Michael S. Martin**, Associate Professor of English, has been asked to join the Editorial Board for the peer reviewed, MLA-indexed academic journal *Studies in American Culture*.



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY – Dr. **Kurt Stiegler** and Ms. **Laurie Kraus-Landry** served as judges for Louisiana History Day. The New Orleans Regional competition was held at the World War II Museum on Saturday, March 25. Students created exhibits, websites, and papers based on the annual theme of frontiers.



DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION – Dr. **Andrew Simoncelli**, Associate Professor in Mass Communication, was a guest lecturer at Leonardo de Vinci University in Paris as part of their International Week from March 27th to March 31st. The University brought in 26 professors from 19 different countries, including five from the United States. Simoncelli lectured during the week to two different classes on the topic of Social Responsibility in Education. This was Simoncelli's fourth time teaching at Leonardo de Vinci for their International Week.



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES – Drs. **Mehmet Celebi**, **Melinda Jackson-Jefferson**, **Tina Granger**, and **Robert Archer** from the Department of Social Sciences presented their research “Double Trouble: Hurricane Ida and Its Effects On Mental Health In The Bayou Area,” at the Scholar’s Expeaux 2023. They then presented it in Fort Worth, Texas at the Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Meeting (SSSA) which is the oldest interdisciplinary social-science association in the United States and brings together professionals and students across the country.

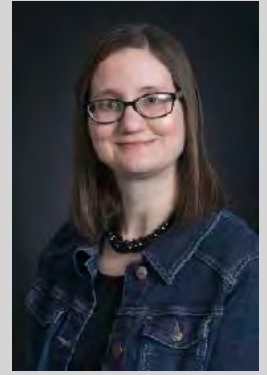


DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC – Dr. **Michael Bartnik**, Associate Professor and Dept. Head, gave a clarinet masterclass at the University of Southern Mississippi in March. He also gave feedback to three USM clarinet majors as they are working towards their degree recitals.



DEPARTMENT OF ART – Professor of Art, **Deborah Lillie** has had her work accepted for exhibition at the Kavanagh Gallery in St. Charles, IL as part of a juried exhibition featuring artists from around the country. The exhibition, “Environments”, will run March 30 - May 12, 2023. Lillie’s photograph, Wetlands 16, is from her series, “Feral Landscapes”. The work takes a non-traditional approach to landscape photography by combining the image of a tiny, microcosm-like view with satellite imagery and hand-written location, date, and time data. More information on the exhibition may be found at <http://www.fineline.org>

DEPARTMENT OF ART – Dr. **Ashley Busby**, Assistant Professor of Art History, published an article, "Going Her Own Way" on the art of Dorothy Fratt in the December/January 2022/23 issue of Art and Antiques magazine. The six-page article with color reproductions was published to coincide with the exhibition opening of Dorothy Fratt: Paint the Town Red at Pazo Fine Art in Kensington, Maryland. Fratt has received a great deal of recent attention with recent national and international exhibitions of her work, sales at Christie's auction house, and general attention from critics and collectors. The publication of "Going Her Own Way" helps further cement the artist's posthumous recognition as a "reemerging" artist in the field of abstraction. Dr. Busby has stated she is "excited to continue to contribute to the critical and art historical appraisal of Fratt and her work. Her essay for Art and Antiques helps introduce the artist to a wider range of scholars, collectors, and art lovers." A reprint of the article is available online at <https://www.pazofineart.com/press/12-going-her-own-way/>



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, MODERN LANGUAGES, & CULTURAL STUDIES - On Wednesday, March 27, EMLCS welcomed three winners from the inaugural High School Writing Contest to campus. These talented young writers, **Kayden Martin, Maleik Lewis, and Julia Lion**, shared their creative works as part of the Humanities Symposium @ Scholars Expeaux, and each received a cash award and certificate. Dr. **Scott Banville** and Dr. **Michael Martin**, H.S. Writing Contest committee members, announced the winners at the event.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY – The Department of History and Geography is sponsoring a guest lecture by Dr. **Jason Theriot** examining coastal Louisiana, its history and future, on April 20, at 6:00 p.m. in Le Bijou. Dr. Theriot is an author, historian, and consultant who holds a doctorate in history from the University of Houston and a degree in journalism from Louisiana State University. Additionally, he is a former Energy Policy Fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. As a professional historian, Dr. Theriot has authored numerous publications, including American Energy, Imperiled Coast: Oil and Gas Development in Louisiana's Wetlands and Great Game Paradise: A History of Vermilion Corporation and a history of Cenac Towing Company. This lecture is free and open to the public.



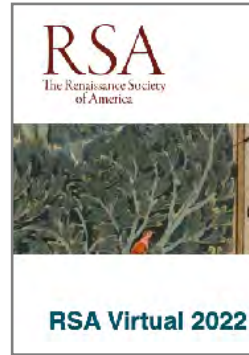
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC - Dr. **Luciana Soares**, Gloria B. Callais Endowed Professor of Music was the principal investigator of a fully funded grant from the Board of Regents in the amount of \$17,073. This grant will fund a replacement of the current projector in the Piano Lab with a 86" interactive TV and control keypad. This will allow instructors to utilize keyboard and music staff visualization programs to keep piano classes running efficiently, benefitting all students in the music program.

THE *lost* BAYOU YOUTH CULTURE

DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION – Assistant Professor **Laure Chamberlain Kasovich's** senior capstone students are covering lost youth culture in the Bayou Region for this spring's issue of *Garde Voir* magazine. The coverage is part of The Lost Bayou series documenting South Louisiana's disappearing communities. Check out the coverage at <https://gardevoirci.nicholls.edu/spring2023/>



DEPARTMENT OF ART – Assistant Professor, **Joseph Holsapple** had a painting titled "Table" accepted to an exhibition at Manifest Gallery in Cincinnati, OH. The exhibition is part of a series of five interrelated shows. From the gallery website: "Manifest has created a very special set of exhibitions for the fourth annual Five Themes Project—offering five concurrent interrelated shows. This iteration of the project explores the spectrum of intimate places and spaces through which we experience the passage of life."



DEPARTMENT OF ART – Dr. **Deborah Cibelli**, Professor of Art, presented an art history paper at the Renaissance Society of America's Virtual Conference, hosted by Fordham Univ. in

New York City. The scholarship focused on Francesco Salviati's use of river gods as emblems in a fresco painted in the 1540s when the Palazzo Vecchio of Florence was being transformed into a ducal residence. The editors of *Iconocrazia*, an international online journal published by the University of Bari in Italy, have accepted the paper for publication in 2023. Dr. Cibelli noted, "the research for this project has allowed me to consider the relationship between art and literature. I appreciated the opportunity to present the material in a session with a speaker from Italy and to have the presentation available to RSA members through January 2023."



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY – Dr. **Spencer McBride** from the Joseph Smith Papers was a special guest for Dr. **Stuart Tully's** HIST 490: History of Christianity in the United States.

Students learned about early LDS history and the current work of the Papers in documenting Smith's life. Dr. McBride also took questions from the students regarding historical research, as well as Mormon history and culture.



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES – Assistant Professor, Dr. **Mehmet Celebi** co-authored an article entitled "Examining Participation Disparities in Cancer Clinical Trials" in the "Oncology Nursing Forum" Journal in January 2023. The article examined factors that account for disparities in cancer clinical trial participation.

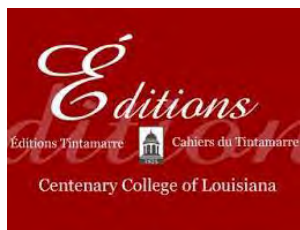




DEPARTMENT OF ART – **Ross Jahnke**, Department Head and Professor of Art, had artwork accepted for two national juried exhibitions. The print *Vance* was accepted for the online exhibition "2023 Figures and Faces" at the Laguna Art Gallery in Laguna Beach, California, and the prints *Vance* and *Wednesday* were accepted for the "April 2023 Group Exhibition" by the Jones Gallery in Kansas City, Missouri.



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, MODERN LANGUAGES, & CULTURAL STUDIES – Three students, (**Amber Robichaux**, **Annelle Fletcher**, and **Katherine Dean**) in Associate Professor **Robin White's** French 201 class wrote fairy tales in French based on Louisiana folklore and took advantage of the Hub, where **Jeremiah Johnson** guided them through the process of Japanese bookbinding. Their work was then entered into a state competition for Louisiana-based fairy tales run by the Consulat and Centenary College. All three were asked to publish their fairy tales in a collection produced by Les Éditions Tintamarre in Shreveport, the United States' only French language press.

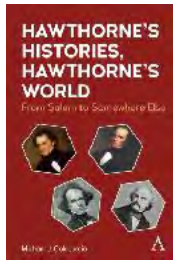


DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, MODERN LANGUAGES, & CULTURAL STUDIES – Dr. **Robert Allen Alexander**, Department Head and Professor of English, presented "Science as Narrative: Deconstructing the Strawman" at the 97th Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Academy of Sciences in March at LSU-Alexandria.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES – Assistant Professor, Dr. **Melinda Jefferson**, Assistant Professor Dr. **Robert Archer**, and the Criminal Justice club hosted an event titled "A Fight for Racial Justice" for Black History Month. The panel addressed racial unfairness in our society, efforts to reform our criminal justice system, the violence experienced in urban and rural areas, and networking opportunities. Panel Members - Yoselin Enriquez, Braden Andrews, Melodie Bridgewater; Ross Brennan; Chief Alex Barnes; Dr. Arlanda Williams; and Anjeinay Johnson.



DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC – In February, the Nicholls Music Department held a band concert, which included the Nicholls Symphonic Band, conducted by **Ben Robichaux** and the Nicholls Wind Ensemble conducted by **Jason Ladd**. It featured guest conductor Dr. **Justin Mertz**, Associate Director of Bands at the University of Northern Iowa, leading the wind ensemble's performance of Concord by Clare Grundman. Dr. Mertz also presented to the MUS 243 Wind Literature class earlier that day on "off the radar" repertoire for middle school and high school band.



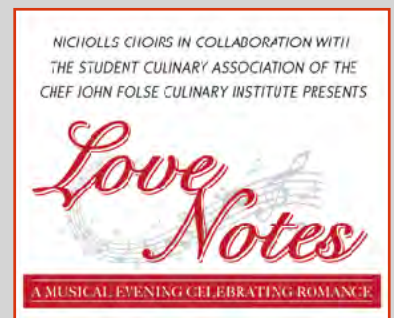
ENGLISH PROFESSOR HAS TWO RECENT PUBLICATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, MODERN LANGUAGES, & CULTURAL STUDIES – Dr. **Michael S. Martin**, Associate Professor of English, wrote an essay, “Little Porcelain Shepherds and Shepherdesses’: The Female Pastoral Archetype and Versions of the Pastoral,” that has just been published in the collection Appalachian Ecocriticism and the Paradox of Place, produced by the University of Georgia Press. Additionally, Dr. Martin’s review of Michael Colacurcio’s book, Hawthorne’s Histories, Hawthorne’s World: From Salem to Somewhere Else, just appeared in the newest issue of The Nathaniel Hawthorne Review published by Penn State University Press. The scholarly publication collective publishes submitted essays and other literary pieces related to Hawthorne’s life and works.



PENN STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC – Nicholls Choirs, in collaboration with the Student Culinary Association of the Chef John Folse Culinary Institute, presented Love Notes in the Nicholls Cotillion Ballroom. Attendees enjoyed “a musical evening celebrating romance” which included an exquisite 4-course sit-down dinner with live music by a jazz trio and the Nicholls State University Tour Choir. This event helped raise funds for choir members to sing abroad in Ireland in May of 2023. Dr. **John St. Marie** will be traveling with the group.



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY – On March 17th Ms. **Ashlyn Sutton**, Assistant Professor Dr. **Shae Cox**, and Assistant Professor Dr. **Kevin McQueeney** presented their research over Smith Ridge at the Louisiana Historical Association Conference. Their roundtable discussed the history and critical needs of a historically Black community in Terrebonne Parish. They are continuing their research with the assistance of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Grant.



DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION –The Nicholls Players presented "The Memo," by Václav Havel, directed by Assistant Professor Dr. **Anna Broussard**, in the Danos Theater on March 23rd - 26th. The play is an absurdist comedy originally written in what was then Czechoslovakia in 1965, that parodies bureaucracy and conformity.



DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC – Assistant Professor, Dr. Taylor Assad and her saxophone quartet, Quartetto Obrigado, along with grammy award-winning saxophonist Branford Marsalis premiered new works during a recital on March 31, 2023 at the Biennial North American Saxophone Alliance Conference, held at The University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg. This international conference is held every two years and features the world's leading experts on saxophone research, performance, and pedagogy.



DEPARTMENT OF ART – Dr. **Deborah Cibelli**, Professor of Art, chaired a virtual session of art history presentations on Symbolist art at the 111th Annual CAA Conference held online and in New York City. The session entitled “The Symbolist Imagination” explored the relationship between the visual arts and theater. Liesbeth Grotenhuis, a teacher, curator, and scholar affiliated with Minerva, School of Arts and Design in the Netherlands, discussed art by and about the actress Sarah Bernhardt. Dr. Rosina Neginsky from the University of Illinois examined the role of theater in the career of the Russian artist Mikhail Vrubel. “Working with these scholars,” Dr. Cibelli notes, “has been a way in which to explore the imaginative use of multimedia for expression.”



FULBRIGHT Scholar Program

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, MODERN LANGUAGES, & CULTURAL STUDIES – Professor **Richmond Eustis** received recognition from the director of the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program on behalf of the



Institute of International Education, for his expertise and service on their peer review committee for the 2023-2024 competition. The Fulbright Scholar Program is hosted by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). The candidates recommended by the peer review committee are then considered for awards to over 140 different countries, and forwarded for review and selection by the Fulbright Commissions or U.S. Embassies, the U.S. Department of State, and the presidentially appointed Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.



DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC – In February, the Nicholls Music Department hosted a trumpet masterclass in Danos Theater led by **Aaron Dubois**, Associate Principal Trumpet with the Louisiana Philharmonic. He worked individually with three trumpet players and presented to other brass players.



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES – Deputy Secretary, **Otha “Curtis” Nelson, Jr.** from the Office of Juvenile Justice shared his expertise and knowledge with Dr. Melinda Jefferson’s Juvenile Delinquency course. OJJ serves youth who have been adjudicated delinquent or Families in Need of Services (FINS). They are responsible for youth assigned to their care by the court system, either for supervision or custody in residential placement or secure care. Hosted by the CRJU Club.



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, MODERN LANGUAGES, & CULTURAL STUDIES – Dr. **Kathy Conner** and The Creative Writing Club hosted “Celebrating African-American Voices”, a special reading in celebration of Black History Month. Students gathered in The Grid to read the works of Black writers and their own writing.



DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC – On Saturday, April 1st the Nicholls Music Department hosted a three hour long music skills camp for 50 local band students in 7th - 9th grades. It was directed by Assistant Professor **Jason Ladd**, Department Head **Michael Bartnik**, Director of Athletic Bands, **Ben Robichaux**, Assistant Professor **Gustavo Miranda**, and several current music majors, who taught instrumental masterclasses, music theory, music history, and sight-reading sessions.



DEPARTMENT OF ART – Professor **Deborah Lillie** has had three photographs accepted by a panel of professional photographers for exhibition in the Golden Lens Photography Competition hosted by Bossier Parish Community College Foundation, Shreveport Regional Arts Council, and Prize Foundation. Lillie’s photographs feature the surreal landscape that resulted from the LDW’s temporary draw-down of Lake Bistineau in an effort to abate the growth of Giant Salvinia, an invasive aquatic plant. Walking on the now grass-covered lake bottom, Lillie photographed features of cypress trees that are normally unseen because they are deep underwater.



DEPARTMENT OF ART – The Scholars Expeaux Student Showcase of Research and Creative Activity had excellent participation from students enrolled in the Bachelor of Fine Arts program. Three students in Animation and Motion received awards for their work as follows: **Steven Johnson**, Animation Best in Show Award for “Fritz’s Plight”, **Alexis Kramer**, Second Place Award for “Otlo”, and **Kristen Kortright**, Second Place Award (tie) for “Sativa”. **Gabby Blanchard** presented a film studies paper at the Humanities Symposium and an animation at the animation showcase. Blanchard received the Humanities Symposium first place award and will represent Nicholls at the ULS (University of Louisiana System) Academic Summit in April. **Tabitha Daigle** was a Humanities Award winner and received an Honorable Mention for her research paper and presentation. Tabatha Daigle also received the Best Art Poster award for “Propaganda in the Oldest of Places: Augustus and Imperial Rome” and **Alyssa Legaux** received the Undergraduate Library Research Award for her poster on contemporary art referring to Chadwick Boseman. Dr. **Deborah Cibelli**, professor of Art History, represented the College of Liberal Arts at the award ceremony.



DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC – In late March, the Nicholls Chamber Choir, under the direction of Assistant Professor Dr. **John St. Marie**, sang for the installation of Bishop Mario Dorsonville who begins service in the Houma-Thibodaux Diocese. The Chamber Choir will also be on tour in Ireland from May 24 to June 1st and will sing their final concert in Dublin at St. Patrick’s Cathedral with renowned Irish singer **Deirdre Shannon**.



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES – Instructor **Kristen Callais’** Sociology 304: Community Development students stepped out of the classroom to “escape” and participate in some pretty interesting scenarios this semester. The students learned more about their communication and decision-making skills while growing closer as a class community.

THREE STUDENTS AWARDED MINI-GRANTS



Sutton



Hue



Charron

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS - **Ashlyn Sutton**, **Mark Hue**, and **Gabrielle Charron** were awarded mini-grants by the College of Liberal Arts. Students applying for Mini-Grants must be declared majors within the disciplines of the College of Liberal Arts, of at least Sophomore status, have a G.P.A. of at least 2.5, and be active in university, college, or departmental service, activities and/or clubs. Both Ashlyn Sutton and Gabrielle have had papers accepted by Columbia University Phi Alpha Theta Conference. Each will present at the conference. Mark Hue was awarded funds for the Overlook Film Festival. The award was used to help students driving and carpooling to the event.

HISTORIC OPERA PERFORMANCE HANSEL & GRETEL WITH ORCHESTRA

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC - The 11th Annual Opera Production, Hansel and Gretel by Engelbert Humperdinck with Orchestra, will be performed in the Danos Theater. The opera participants will include current music majors and minors, our Bridge to Independence students, local high, middle, and elementary school students from surrounding parishes, alumni, and international artist, **Stacey Lee Chamblin**, who will play the role of the mother, from San Jose, Costa Rica. This will be a historic performance, enhanced to include an orchestra comprised of

members of our music faculty, alumni, current students, the Louisiana Philharmonic and Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestras. Dr. **Jason Ladd** will be the orchestral conductor. Dr. **Valerie Anne Jones Francis**, Executive Artistic Director, **Casey Haynes**, Assistant Artistic Director, Dr. **Raquel Cortina**, Opera Consultant. These productions are made possible through the generous donations of **Dr. David Boudreaux and The Friends of the Opera, The Cenac Family, Mary and Al Danos Family Foundation, and Healthy Blue of Louisiana.** Show times: Friday, April 21, 7:30, Saturday, April 22, 7:30, Sunday, April 23, 3:00. <https://www.nicholls.edu/music/opera/>



DEPARTMENT OF ART – The Department of Art hosted an open house for high school students who are seriously interested in pursuing a career in visual art. 21 Students and 18 parents attended the event held in March, which featured open studios with art majors working on their own projects, peer to peer discussions between high school students, art majors, and art alumni, and a presentation for parents by art faculty and art alumni. This was the first event of its kind, and was designed for high school students recommended by their art teachers, scholars who have been accepted by Nicholls and declared art as their major, and scholars who are undecided. In the fall, these students will be invited to participate in an online exhibition of their high school artwork.



DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC – Dr. **John St. Marie** was invited to direct the South Louisiana Community Orchestra in a holiday concert in December. This was the first concert by the orchestra since December 2019 and it was a triumphant return. The Nicholls Choirs and Omaggio Community Chorus joined the orchestra on a few selections and the performance was extremely well received by a packed house! Dr. St. Marie was invited back to lead the orchestra in a program of Strauss and other Romantic composers.

DEPARTMENT OF ART - **Rodney Woods**, photography major, recently exhibited his work in Ellender Memorial Library. His “body of work speaks to the unforgotten history of African Americans, the Issues we face daily, and how society perceives us now and then ... my goal is not to create conflict, but conversations.”





DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES – **Lauren Hyatt**, Specialist for Alcohol and Tobacco Control, came to speak with **Rebecca Picou’s** Sociology 390 students about her past work with violent juvenile offenders. Specialist Hyatt spent many years working for the Office of Juvenile Justice. She served as a Juvenile Probation Officer and as an Internal Investigator for a Juvenile Detention Center. Specialist Hyatt was able to provide the Interpersonal Violence class with firsthand knowledge of working with violent offenders.



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, MODERN LANGUAGES, & CULTURAL STUDIES – **Ali Cortez**, Instructor of English, is teaching the Honors 2023 Study Abroad course for the France-Italy trip. The class is on the evolution of fairy tales that stem from French and Italian writers.



DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION -The Speech Faculty hosted the Spring Speech forum in March in Peltier Auditorium. Political Science freshman **Seth Scott** and Criminal Justice freshman **Yoselin Enriquez** debated the topic: "Should the U.S. defund the IRS and replace the income tax with a sales tax?".

DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC – The Department of Music welcomed **Christopher Adkins**, the principal cellist of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, for a guest recital. Christopher has held his position with Dallas since 1987 along with serving on the faculty at Southern Methodist University. Mr. Adkins collaborated with Instructor of Music Dr. **Ying-Shan Su** on piano.



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES – Dr. **Melinda Jefferson** and her Soci 385 - Criminology course attended a culinary event during Black History Month on African Street Food. In criminology, there has been a growing body of research that examines food and agricultural issues and their connections to crime and deviance.



DEPARTMENT OF ART - The 2023 ArtWorks fundraiser was a big success! 363 people attended the event and purchased 168 pieces of artwork, special packages, and experiences. The event could not have happened without a dedicated committee, faculty, and 83 student volunteers who staffed the event and made artwork with our patrons. Overall, ArtWorks raised over \$57,000.00 for studies abroad scholarships, academic scholarships, undergraduate research mini-grants, and equipment purchases. The 2022 ArtWorks event funded four full studies-abroad scholarships and numerous mini-grants, and was used as matching funds for several successful and pending grant applications to secure equipment for the studios and classrooms.



**LIBERAL ARTS
ASSISTANT PROFESSORS
AWARDED TRAVEL GRANTS**

Celebi

Gilley

Khatibi

Goedker

Miranda

Mehmet Celebi, Assistant Professor of Sociology, gave a presentation at the Southwestern Social Science Association 2023 Annual Meeting in Fort Worth, Texas. The presentation titled “Double Trouble: Hurricane Ida and its Effects on Mental Health” focused on the relationship between Hurricane Ida and its effects on mental health among faculty, staff and students at Nicholls.

James Gilley, Assistant Professor of Social Science, presented at the annual International Studies Association conference in Montreal, Canada. The presentation was on Great Power Politics and resource competition between space powers.

Marjan Khatibi, Assistant Professor of Art, presented at the UCDA Design Education Summit 2023 conference at the Bowling Green State University (BGSU) School of Art. Her presentation topic was "Social design for a more equitable future: the issues and challenges in the design process for social change"

Ashley (Ash) Goedker, Assistant Professor of English, Modern Languages, & Cultural Studies, attended the Dairy Hollow Writing Residency in Eureka Springs, AR to work on a book of poems. The Writers’ Colony at Dairy Hollow is a 501(c)3 nonprofit whose mission is to nurture writers of all backgrounds, genres, and levels of experience. |

Gustavo Miranda, Assistant Professor of Music, performed a concerto in Ruston, LA as the main feature with the LA Tech Wind Ensemble, and a recital with the Ninkasi Percussion Group.

