

LIBERAL ARTS NEWS



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY – On April 4th, **Ms. Laurie Kraus-Landry** led **History 490 students** on a historical architecture tour of the Garden and Warehouse

Districts of New Orleans. Students photographed a variety of architectural elements and styles for a semester project. The class traveled between districts via the St. Charles streetcar line—a National Historic Landmark.



DEPARTMENT OF ART – **Jeff Brown**, Associate Professor of Art, attended the 40th Annual Alabama Clay Conference at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. Jeff and art students participated in the Professor/Student exhibition titled, "Southern Synergies". Student participants include recent graduate, **Riley McIlvaine** (BFA 24) and current students **Beth Cheramie**, **Emily Green**, and **Alyssa Lecompte**. The show included works from other universities in Alabama and neighboring states.



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES – **Dr. Melinda Jefferson**, Associate Professor of Social Sciences, was the Faculty Staff Recipient for the 2025 Women of Achievement Award at the Nicholls Women's History Month Luncheon on March 11th, 2025.



DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC – On January 17th the **Louisiana CBDNA Intercollegiate Band** performed at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside as part of the Louisiana Music Educators Association's annual conference under the leadership of Gary Green, Emeritus Professor and Director of Bands at the University of Miami. The four Nicholls students selected for the ensemble were **Emma Gottschalk** (flute), **Tristan Theriot** (trumpet), **Alex Spivey** (trombone), and **William Schilling** (euphonium). Nicholls Music professor **Dr. Jason Ladd** currently serves as the Louisiana CBDNA State Chair and was in charge of all of the logistics related to the group, including the rehearsals and concert.

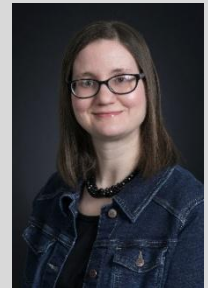


DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, MODERN LANGUAGES, & CULTURAL STUDIES – **Dr. Michael S. Martin** was invited to give a lecture to graduate students at the University of North Carolina. He was invited as part of the annual Critical Speaker Series held at the university.



DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION – **The Nicholls Players** presented *33 Variations* by Moisés Kaufman March 13th-16th in the Mary and Al Danos Theater. The play portrayed two parallel timelines that followed both a present-day Beethoven scholar and Beethoven himself as he wrote the *Diabelli Variations*. Directed by **Dr. Anna Broussard**, the play featured music performed live by piano instructor **Dr. Ying-Shan Su**. The cast was comprised of student actors from across multiple majors: **Courtney Bergeron** (Marine Biology), **Matteo Santiago** (Mass Comm), **Aurora McManamon** (Culinary), **Andrew Thibodaux** (English), **Daniel Aucoin** (Mass Comm), **Alex Terrebonne** (Culinary), **Nya Singleton** (Nursing), and **Madelene Sonnier** (Culinary). Additionally, the production showcased a preshow musical performance by music student **Luiz da Silva Vieira**.

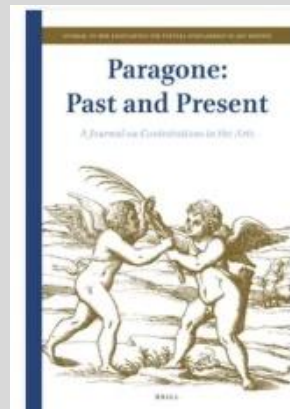
DEPARTMENT OF ART – **Dr. Ashley Busby** is a contributing author for new art world print quarterly, *Art & Object*. An extension of the existing online news provider, *Art & Object* aims to cover news and information for collectors both new and established. In the Winter 2025 issue, Dr. Busby researched and wrote an article entitled "The Artificial and the Real" about applications for AI and Blockchain technologies in art authentication. In Spring 2025, her featured review, "The Dark Arts: Gothic Modernism", examined a new collaborative touring exhibition staged by institutions in Helsinki, Oslo, and Vienna.



CHEF JOHN FOLSE CULINARY INSTITUTE – **Chef Donald Kasten** and **Chef Jana Billiot**, along with Culinary students, put on tableside demos for the ProStart program tours this Spring.



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, MODERN LANGUAGES, & CULTURAL STUDIES – **Chris Monier's** poem "Luthier" appears in volume 26 of *Trampoline: A Journal of Poetry*.



DEPARTMENT OF ART – **Dr. Deborah Cibelli**, professor of Art History in the Department of Art at Nicholls, published the article entitled, "Battle Paintings after Lepanto by Giorgio Vasari and Matteo Pérez d'Aleccio" in the international journal,

Paragone: Past and Present on January 20th, 2025. The journal, dedicated to art history, is published by Brill located in the Netherlands. Dr. Cibelli noted, "This study of frescoes by two artists from the sixteenth century was based upon research conducted at the National Endowment for the Humanities. I welcome the opportunity to share the findings in this specialized publication." The article is available at <https://brill.com/search?q1=Cibelli>



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES – **Political Science** was thrilled to celebrate the reactivation of **Pi Sigma Alpha**, the national political science honor society, at Nicholls State University with an engaging kickoff event that featured Former

Representative Garret Graves as a university guest speaker. The event occurred on May 5th in the Bijou Theater with insightful discussions on current political trends and a lively Q&A session with students and faculty. Overall, this gathering hopefully will spark student involvement and lay the foundation for future networking and professional development opportunities in political science.



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, MODERN LANGUAGES, & CULTURAL STUDIES – The 6th Annual **Film and Animation Screening** as part of the **Scholars Expeaux 2025** was held on Thursday, May 1st in Le Bijou Theater. The program consisted of three documentaries and two animations completed by four artists/filmmakers: **Elizabeth Atkins**, **Daniel Bigger**, **Mark Bourgeois**, and **Angel Martinez**. The event was coordinated and moderated by Assistant Professor, **Melissa Remark**. Congratulations to the Best in Show winners: "Forge Versus the Mantis" by Elizabeth Atkins and "Southern Fighters" by Mark Bourgeois.



Katherine Conner

Katherine Conner's short stories have appeared in *West Branch*, *Pendrake Magazine*, *Willow Springs*, *Shimmer*, *Copper Nickel*, *Blackbird*, *Pages*, *Surreal South*, *The Chattahoochee Review*, *The Fortland Review*, *Rainbow Review*, and elsewhere. Additionally, her story, "The Shipyard," won the *Willow Springs* Fiction Prize. Her collection of short stories was named a finalist for the Katherine Anne Porter Prize, the C. Michael Curtis Short Story Book Prize, and the Iron Horse Literary Review First Book Prize.

A graduate of the doctoral creative writing program at Florida State University, she also holds a Master's from the Center for Writers at the University of Southern Mississippi. Currently, she is an associate professor of creative writing at Nicholls State University and lives in New Orleans.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, MODERN LANGUAGES, & CULTURAL STUDIES – **Dr. Katherine Conner's** book, *The Hanged Man: Stories*, has been accepted for publication with Black Lawrence Press. The book will be published in August of 2026.

DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION – **Lance Arnold** performed a set and hosted Super Bowl Week "Comedy Gumbeaux" at the Howlin' Wolf in

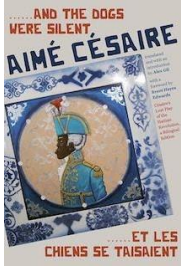


New Orleans. "Comedy Gumbeaux" highlights the top comedians in New Orleans every Thursday. Lance was given the honor of hosting the big Super Bowl show on February 6th to a packed house.

DEPARTMENT OF ART – Under the direction of **Jeff Brown**, Associate Professor of Art, the **Intermediate and Advanced Ceramics students** built a wood fired pizza oven during the semester. This provided a learning opportunity for students to see how kiln arches are created in pottery kilns. Plus, pizza is a lot tastier than ceramics!



Above: Students **Dante Notto & Malcom Hodnett** taking the lead in making the pizzas.



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, MODERN LANGUAGES, & CULTURAL STUDIES – **Chris Monier's** review of a lost play by Martinican poet Aimé Césaire appears in the spring edition of *Ezra Journal*. Written in 1941 while Martinique was under Vichy occupation, the play tells the story of the Haitian Revolution's central figure, Toussaint Louverture. The drama remained unknown for many decades until being discovered by Alex Gil, whose translation appears alongside the original French in a new volume from Duke University Press.



CHEF JOHN FOLSE CULINARY INSTITUTE – CJFCI representatives, **Culinary students** and **Director Jana Billiot**, went to the Bayou Culinary Showcase hosted by the Louisiana Restaurant Association (LRA). Proceeds benefitted LRA programs including the Education Foundation and ProStart.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES – **Dr. Tina Granger's SOCI 151 - 4M** class participated in a Service Learning event by attending the **Louisiana's Restoration Generation Coastal Summit** on March 12th, 2025 in the Nicholls Cotillion Ballroom. The students were studying Louisiana cultural practices and the loss of Cajun heritage. The students wrote a short paper on the issue of land loss and the importance of Cajun culture.



DEPARTMENT OF ART – In January 2025, **Dr. Ashley Busby** and student volunteers from **Kappa Pi honors art fraternity** led a hands-on art activity for 5th graders at St. Charles Elementary (SCES) in Thibodaux. Designed to enhance student learning in Mrs. Kortney Granier's ELA classroom, Dr. Busby provided a short talk on the history of fresco painting in the Renaissance and then students were able to create their own mini fresco paintings with assistance from Kappa Pi members **Nathan Bourgeois, Paris Guidry, Grace Landry, and Madison Rogers**. SCES students also received Renaissance art activity books and build-your-own dome kits to explore Renaissance architecture.



DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC – This year's opera production *Wings Unfolded: The Journey of Opera*, directed by **Dr. Valerie Francis**, took place on May 1st, 3rd, and 4th. The production featured students from the **Music Department's Vocal and Instrumental programs, Bridge to Independence program, and Max Charter School**. Nicholls alumni and faculty as well as **guest artists** also participated in the performances. For this production, they performed scenes from *Don Giovanni*, *Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute)*, *Così fan Tutte* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart along with Ruggero Leoncavallo's *I Pagliacci*, George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, and Giuseppe Verdi's *Aida*. The opera production continues to nurture creativity, hone musical and theatrical skills, and foster an inclusive spirit from year to year.

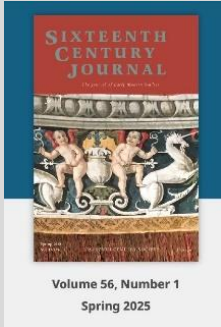


CHEF JOHN FOLSE CULINARY INSTITUTE – **Chef John Folse Culinary Institute** had a table for **Bayou Region Day** at the Capitol in Baton Rouge. Culinary students served praline brownies along with yogurt lemon olive oil cake to the people attending.

MASS COMMUNICATION – Senior pre-med major **Nasrine Ningbinnin** and first year pre-med major **Hayden Nugent** debated the merits of adopting a Canadian-style health system for the United States as part of **Nicholls' Spring Speech Forum**. Ms. Ningbinnin pointed to the lower costs and superior health outcomes of Canada's system, while Mr. Nugent pointed to longer wait times in Canada and claimed lowering drug prices would undermine research into new therapies. The forum is held each term on a different topic of current significance. It is sponsored by the **Department of Mass Communication** and the **Speech faculty**.



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, MODERN LANGUAGES, & CULTURAL STUDIES – **Dr. Robin White** supervised French minor student **Annelle Fletcher's** honors thesis, titled "A Study on the History of the French Language in Louisiana: Examining Cultural Influences and the Contemporary Decline of French Speakers." Annelle obtained Institutional Review Board approval, gathered over 115 survey responses, and successfully presented her research at the Honors Symposium on April 12th, 2025.



DEPARTMENT OF ART – **Dr. Deborah Cibelli**, professor of the Department of Art, reviewed the posthumous publication of Erwin Panofsky's thesis, "Michelangelo's Design Principles in Relation to those of Raphael", edited by Gerda Panofsky, for the Spring 2025

issue of the *Sixteenth Century Journal: The Journal of Early Modern Studies*. This is the official journal of the Sixteenth Century Society published by the University of Chicago. In the review Cibelli noted, "In showing Panofsky's methodological development, dating from his training in Germany during the 1920s, this work enhances our understanding of the theoretical foundations of art history."

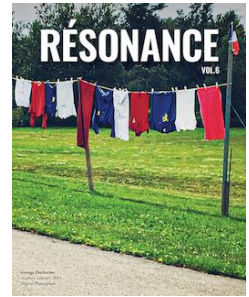


DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY – **Laurie Kraus-Landry** and her **American History Through Architecture students** visited Laura Plantation on Friday, February 7th. Students learned about the building materials and techniques used by Creoles in Louisiana. They completed an assignment evaluating how well this historic site matched with the examples surveyed in class.



CHEF JOHN FOLSE CULINARY INSTITUTE – **Nickolas Williams**, CJCI student, created the RLB Burger for Alumni Grill's Burger of the Month in April. All proceeds supported Culinary student scholarships.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, MODERN LANGUAGES, & CULTURAL STUDIES – **Chris Monier** has joined the editorial board of the literary journal *Résonance*, which focuses on the Franco-American experience and features diverse voices from areas like Canada, New England, and south Louisiana. Chris is working with *Résonance* as Translations Editor and Louisiana Creole Co-editor.



DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION – The **senior class** covered the lost German POW Camps of the Bayou Region for this semester's issue in the Lost Bayou series in *Garde Voir Ci* magazine. The issue is at gardevoirci.nicholls.edu/spring-2025



DEPARTMENT OF ART – Assistant Professor **Michael Scott Hull**'s digital animation and editing work on the music video of "Staircase Stomp" by The Clamor has received top honors at several festivals, including but not limited to the New York International Film Awards, Bangkok Movie Awards, Las Vegas Music Video Awards, Short Sweet Film Festival, and the Bare Bones Film Festival. Out of the various festivals, Scott's animation work has won 7 awards so far, with 5 of them being Best in Show. Colleagues and industry insiders have lauded Scott's achievement, describing his animation as a "game-changer" and a "benchmark for excellence in digital animation."

Department of Social Sciences



Nicholls State University

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES – The following **Sociology** students received the Future Mental Health \$1,000 scholarships: **Gazisha**

Brown, Courtney Chiasson, Reese Fanguy, & Brandon Queen.

CHEF JOHN FOLSE CULINARY INSTITUTE – **Culinary students** picked edible flowers and herbs from the Arlen B. Cenac Greenhouse for their final dinner in the Food and Wine pairing class.



CAROLINA CURRENTS

VOLUME 2, RECOVERING LOST STORIES

Edited by Christopher D. Johnson

STUDIES in SOUTH CAROLINA CULTURE

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, MODERN LANGUAGES, & CULTURAL STUDIES – Faculty member **Dr. Michael Martin** has a new article out in a journal that focuses on South Carolina Studies. *Carolina Currents*, edited by Christopher Johnson (Francis Marion University), is a new, two-volume journal published by the University of South Carolina Press. Martin's essay focuses on a little-known, nineteenth-century Charleston travel writer, Caroline Howard Gilman, and is titled "Sight, Symmetry, and the Plantation Ballad: Caroline Howard Gilman and the Nineteenth-Century Construction of South Carolina."

DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION – **Dr. Anna Broussard** presented at two national conferences this spring. She presented a paper titled "The Queer Myth of Hippolytus" at the Modern Language Association conference in January. Her second paper, "Reimagining Medusa," was presented at the Pop Culture Association conference in April where she received the Peter Rollins Travel Grant for Early Career Scholars and won the Frankie Stein Award for the Outstanding Socially Conscious Paper in the Monsters, Monstrosities, and Monstrous Area.



DEPARTMENT OF ART – **Jeff Brown**, Associate Professor of Art, and **Emily Green**, ceramics concentration student, were invited to submit ceramic cups to Time Slip Time Slip art exhibition curated by Kathryn Baczkeski of Southeastern, Madison Creech, and Matthew Creech. The exhibition was created for the mouth. It focused on our relationship with tasting things and viewing art work. Exhibition viewers had the opportunity to experience a handmade cup and coffee while taking in the artwork. The exhibition was held at the Contemporary Art Gallery at Southeastern Louisiana University from January 23rd-February 19th, 2025.

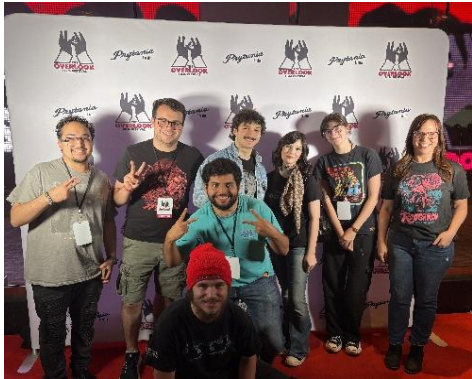


DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC – **Dr. Melissa Kindy** toured three states in January with the New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players as principal clarinetist for performances of the operetta H.M.S. Pinafore. The southeastern regional tour performed five shows in Florida, South Carolina, and North Carolina over the span of one week.



CHEF JOHN FOLSE CULINARY INSTITUTE – **Chef Jana Billiot** and **CJFCI students** presented their "Cinco de Mayo"-inspired menu at UL System Day at the Louisiana State Capitol, joining other universities from across the state in the celebration.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, MODERN LANGUAGES, & CULTURAL STUDIES – Assistant Professor, **Melissa Remark**'s film studies students had a wicked time at the Overlook Film Festival in New Orleans on April 5th. They volunteered with the box office, crowd management, panels, and VR stations. They attended horror author, Grady Hendrix's special presentation on the History of Witchcraft and his book signing, as well as a screening of *Rosario*, by debut feature director, Felipe Vargas. After the Q&A, students got to meet Mr. Vargas and ask more questions. This is third annual service-learning day for Nicholls Film Studies students. The Overlook Film Festival has been a successful partnership with **Nicholls Film Studies** with more plans to continue.



CHEF JOHN FOLSE CULINARY INSTITUTE – **Lauren Earl** and **Chef Amelie Zeringue** participated in the 21st annual **Scholars Expeaux**, where they presented their demonstration, "Rebuilding Work Ethic in Culinary Students," and won First Place in the Undergraduate Culinary Arts People's Choice Award.



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SCIENCES – **Dr. James Gilley** attended the International Studies Association meeting in Chicago from March 2-5. He presented an early version of a chapter from his currently in development book *Cosmopolitics: International Relations Theory, Great Powers, and Outer Space Resource Conflict in the 21st Century and Beyond*. He additionally chaired a panel titled on Space Law and Institutions.



DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION – **MACO students** impress at the Southeast Journalism Conference in Starkville Mississippi. **Brogan Burns**, **Shamarr Moses**, **Jaqueline Diaz**, and **Savannah Rome** competed in the onsite competitions. Burns took home "Best Sports Writer," and Moses earned third place in the "Broadcast Sports" competition. **Bethany Leonard** and **Philip Landry** won "Best Research Project" for their documentary "Voix Des Bayou: United Houma Nation." The team was led by **Lance Arnold**.



CHEF JOHN FOLSE CULINARY INSTITUTE – Instructors from the **CJCI** and the **Nicholls Biology Department** were featured in multiple episodes on the WYES PBS series *Louisiana Coastal Cooking*. They had an open house private screening reception at the WYES PBS filming headquarters.





DEPARTMENT OF ART – The **Department of Art** held their 11th annual **Art Works** event on Tuesday, April 1st, 2025. Art Works is the region's premier art auction and interactive event and raised over \$52,000 on the evening of the 1st. Patrons enjoyed hands-on activities, demonstrations and bidding on one-of-a-kind works of art. Nicholls Alum **Tyler Witt Mendez**, portrait painter and ceramicist, was the live artist in the Dane Ledet Gallery for the event. Mendez received the first Art Works scholarship from the initial fundraising efforts that began 11 years ago. All proceeds are used to benefit students in the form of scholarships and grants, enabling students to attend regional or national exhibitions, conferences, or study abroad. A wonderful time was had by all.



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AWARDS CEREMONY

The College of Liberal Arts celebrated the accomplishments and achievements of students from all of our departments at the annual Awards Ceremony on April 30th, 2025!

