



Horse and Rider Print on Sale

The MSU Alumni Association has commissioned a new print of the horse and rider statue in front of the MSU Entrance Plaza called "The Spirit of McNeese" by local artist and McNeese alumnus Sue Campbell.

A limited edition of 300 signed and numbered color prints are available at \$75 per print. They are 18" x 24" in size and come with a 1.5" bronze medallion which has the McNeese horse and rider logo. To order a print, call the alumni center at ext. 5232.



CONTACT INFORMATION

President's Hotline..... Ext. 5587

Web Site Information

Group Benefits Program

..... www.groupbenefits.org

State Travel Regulations

..... www.doa.louisiana.gov/osp/travel/traveloffice.htm

University of Louisiana System

..... www.uls.state.la.us

Louisiana Board of Regents

..... www.regent.state.la.us

MCNEESE UPDATE

McNeese Update is published four times a year by the Office of Public Information and Communications to provide information to University faculty and staff regarding news and events. Correspondence should be directed to: Editor, McNeese Update; MSU Box 92695; ext. 5635; fax 5637; e-mail ctownsen@mcneese.edu.

Editorial Staff: Candace V. Townsend, Renee LeLeux, Erin Cormier Graphic Design: Anne Cobb
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2007 CALENDAR 2008

December	
15.....	Commencement
19-31	Christmas Holidays
January	
1.....	New Year's Holiday
2.....	Offices Open
17.....	Faculty Meeting—Guest Speaker—Dr. Richard Light Walter H. Gale Professor of Education at Harvard University
17.....	Freshman Orientation
17-Feb. 14.....	Brooks Fredericks: Recent Paintings
18.....	Late Registration Begins
21.....	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
22.....	Spring Classes Begin
25.....	David Friend/ Guest Piano Recital
29.....	Jenna Calirto/Guest Piano Recital
February	
1-29	Annual Juried Student Exhibition
4-6.....	Mardi Gras Holiday
8.....	Dr. Bret Smithey and Lori Smithey/Faculty Vocal Recital
19.....	Dr. Judy Hand/Faculty Flute Recital
21.....	Shawn Roy/ Guest Vocal Recital
21-March 14	Ceramics Invitational
25.....	Career Fair
25.....	Misha Galaganov, viola, and John Owings, piano/Guest Recital
28.....	MSU Wind Symphony
March	
6.....	MSU Symphonic Band Concert Wade Wolfe Lecture Series/Photography
12 -16	MSU Theatre—"Twelfth Night"
17.....	Bruce Owen/Guest Viola Recital
18.....	MSU Chamber Choir
20-April 25.....	MSU National Works on Paper Exhibition
21-28	Spring Break
April	
5.....	MSU Percussion Ensemble
7.....	Teacher Fair
8.....	Dr. Lina Morita/ Faculty Piano Recital
10.....	MSU Jazz Ensemble
16.....	Grad Fest
17.....	MSU Symphonic Band
23-27	MSU Theatre--"Caroline or Change"
May	
1.....	Pastiche Concert
1-15	Spring Senior Exhibition
2.....	Annual Spring Art Sale
4.....	Harp Ensemble Concert
8.....	MSU Choirs
17.....	Commencement
26.....	Memorial Day Holiday

MCNEESE UPDATE



Write to Excellence

WRITING EFFECTIVELY AND APPROPRIATELY AS REQUIRED IN THE DISCIPLINES

Light to Speak on Student Success

Dr. Richard Light, the author of the award-winning book, "Making the Most of College: Students Speak Their Minds," and the Walter H. Gale Professor of Education at Harvard University, will speak to several university groups on campus Jan. 17, with a keynote address to the general faculty, deans and department heads scheduled from 10-11:30 a.m. in Baker Auditorium in Farrar Hall.

Light will present information about strengthening MSU's campus culture for student success. This spring, the University will implement its Write to Excellence Quality Enhancement Plan to enhance student success and incorporate writing into all curricula offered at the University.

Light teaches statistics, program evaluation and policy analysis at Harvard, with special focus on programs in higher education. His work emphasizes how to collect and analyze information to improve program management. He received his doctorate in statistics from Harvard and has authored or co-authored seven books.

At Harvard, Light is also founder and chair of the Forum for Excellence and Innovation in Higher Education. This forum is a five-year effort to work with leaders of 14 outstanding colleges and universities to develop a capacity at each institution to become a "learning organization." This involves developing several innovations to enhance students' experiences at each college, implementing them on each campus and then rigorously evaluating their effectiveness.

Light recently chaired a project at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences called "The Educational Impact of Changing Student Demographics in Colleges and Universities." This five-year study brought together senior campus leaders from 20 colleges and universities. It encouraged gathering evidence about what campus leaders can do at a time of dramatically changing demographics. The project explored how to enhance benefits for students as they attend colleges with fellow students who come from increasingly different backgrounds.

Holiday Reminder

Holidays for the remainder of the fall 2007 semester include:
Christmas Holidays

Wednesday-Thursday, Dec. 19-20 (forced closure)

Friday, Dec. 21

Monday-Wednesday, Dec. 24-26

Thursday-Friday, Dec. 27-28 (forced closure)

New Year's Eve

Monday, Dec. 31

Note that all administrators and staff will return to work at 7:45 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 2. Tuesday, Jan. 1, will be a holiday on the 2008 holiday calendar. Employees will be required to use annual leave, compensatory leave or leave without pay to cover the days of forced closure.

Post Office Open Dec. 27

The MSU Post Office will process incoming mail on Thursday, Dec. 27, during the Christmas holidays.

Mail will be distributed into boxes for students and departments, but outgoing mail will not be processed. The outside boxes will be serviced by the U.S. Post Office. Full postal services will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 2.

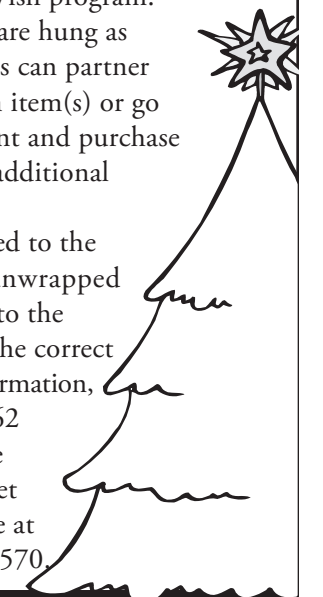
Wish Tree Ornaments Available

Ornaments are still available on the Holiday Wish Tree in the bookstore and gift items will be accepted through Dec. 14. These gifts will be distributed to employees with dependent children that are in need of assistance and who have registered for the Holiday Wish program.

The gift wishes of the children are hung as ornaments on the tree. Employees can partner with co-workers to purchase wish item(s) or go together as an office or department and purchase more than one gift by removing additional ornaments.

All gift items should be delivered to the University Police Department unwrapped and with the ornament attached to the package to ensure that it gets to the correct employee and child. For more information, call Human Resources at ext. 5362

or the
Budget
Office at
ext. 5570.



Label area

Human Resources Briefs

Shared Leave Programs Offered

Two new leave programs have been created through the Office of Human Resources to help fellow employees who have insufficient appropriate paid leave balances to cover their absence from work due to their own serious health condition or the serious health condition of an eligible family member.

A Shared Sick Leave Pool program for unclassified employees and a Crisis Annual Leave Pool program for classified employees are now offered. The relevant policies are online on the Human Resources Web page at www.mcneese.edu/hr under the link Policies and Procedures-General and the donation forms are under the link Forms-Compensation and Pay.

Risk Management Training

Supervisors who were not able to attend the Office of Risk Management training seminars this fall can go online to view the PowerPoint presentation on the Human Resources Web site at www.mcneese.edu/hr under the link Training and Development.

The presentation provides continuous education to ensure that each department maintains compliance with state risk management laws regarding accidents in the workplace.

Insurance Portability at Retirement

Employees are reminded that in order to maintain coverage with certain insurance programs when they retire the insurance must be portable.

Human Resources has a list of insurance providers and updated information concerning portability into retirement at group rates and whether the premium will be deducted from the state retirement check or paid through bank draft.

Employees who retire through one of the optional retirement programs will have relevant portable insurance premiums deducted through bank draft. Information regarding setting up bank drafts is provided by Human Resources at the time of retirement.

Some insurance benefits are continued through COBRA, which will only allow 18 months of coverage after retirement.

For questions related to any of these items, contact Charlene Abbott in Human Resources at ext. 5103.

Paycheck Info for December

The Office of Accounts Payable will be open from 8-10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 21, to release paychecks to students and to those civil service employees who have been hired after Dec. 1. Picture IDs will be required. No direct deposit slips will be released until after the holidays.

Arrangements should be made in advance if someone else is picking up an employee or student check. For more information, call ext. 5288.

Banners Passes Available for the Holidays

Banners Holiday Passes are available to give as gifts through Dec. 18. People who receive Banners Passes will receive two tickets to the entire series plus invitations to receptions to meet the artists, seating in a reserved area and program recognition.

More than 20 events—including lectures, exhibits and concerts—will take place between Feb. 9 and May 2. Information on the series can be found on the Banners Web site at www.banners.org. For more information or to order Holiday Banners Passes, call ext. 5123.

Spring Semester Dates to Remember

Spring semester classes begin Jan. 22.

The deadline to pay tuition fees is 4 p.m. Jan. 17. The cashier's office will stay open until 6:30 p.m. Jan. 16 for fee payments.

Late registration online begins at 7:45 a.m. Jan. 18 and closes at 11:59 p.m. Jan. 24, while late registration in academic departments will be held from 7:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Jan. 18 and Jan. 22-24.

Late registration fees are due by 4 p.m. Jan. 25.

For more information about fees, call ext. 5107. For more information on late registration, call 5356.

Credit Union Now Offers Debit Card

The McNeese Federal Credit Union has added a Visa Debit Card to its many services for employees who are members. The debit card will allow members the opportunity to pay directly from their checking accounts without the hassles of writing a check.

The debit card can be used anywhere in the United States where Visa is accepted and can also serve as an ATM card, which will allow members the opportunity to make cash withdrawals, transfers between accounts and account balance inquiries. The cards will be accepted at all ATM locations belonging to the Pulse, Plus or Interlink networks.

Members who have a checking or share draft accounts with the credit union are eligible to apply for one of the new cards.

Applications for the debit card are available at the credit union, located behind Gayle Hall, and on the Web site at www.mcneesecu.com.

The credit union is open from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. The office will be closed Dec. 24-26 and Jan. 1 for the holidays. For more information about the services offered to members, call ext. 5344.



Faculty Colloquia Continues in Spring

Three presentations will be offered at 2 p.m. on Thursdays this spring as part of the McNeese Faculty Colloquia program for students and employees.

The Write to Excellence Committee in collaboration with the McNeese Alumni Association is sponsoring this program to promote faculty writing on campus and to the community as part of the Quality Enhancement Plan for the University.

The scheduled spring dates, speakers and locations are as follows: Feb. 21, Dr. Michael Kurth and Dr. Daryl Burckel, *The Effects of Hurricane Rita on the Labor Market of Southwest Louisiana*, Business Conference Center; March 13, Dr. John Griffith, *An Engineering Approach to Energy Conservation*, Alumni Center; and April 17, Dr. Valarie Waldmeier, *Clinical Breast Examinations: Is Your Health Care Provider Proficient?*, Alumni Center.

Career Services Offers Spring Fairs

The Office of Career Services will host its annual career and teacher fairs this spring.

The career fair will be held Feb. 25 in Parra Ballroom. This event provides students and alumni the opportunity to meet with representatives from business, industry, government and professional schools.

The teacher fair will be held April 7 in Burton Coliseum. This event allows graduating education seniors, alumni and those completing certification requirements that have registered with Career Services to interview for jobs with

school agencies from Louisiana and other states.

Faculty members are asked to encourage their students to attend these events. For more information, call Career Services at ext. 5612.

Initial Accreditation Visits

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education will conduct an initial accreditation review in March of the Master of Science in Nursing degree program.

The National Association of Schools of Art and Design will be on campus in April to review the Bachelor of Arts in art degree program for initial accreditation.



Old Cell Phones Needed

Secure the Call Foundation is in need of old cell phones and batteries. The foundation collects old phones, inspects them, cleans them, charges their batteries and then re-programs them to be used as free 911 emergency phones.

The phones will be distributed to domestic violence shelters, senior citizen centers, neighborhood watch groups, school crossing guards and other agencies with an immediate need for 911 access.

For more information on the program, visit the foundation's Web site at www.donatemycellphone.org or call 1-888-883-6628.



United Way Pledges Increase

Employees pledged approximately \$16,175 to the 2008 United Way Campaign—an increase of 21 percent over 2007 campaign contributions.

“We appreciate the donations and pledges from our employees and hope we can continue this generous support for a worthy cause in the future,” said Ralynn Castete, United Way co-coordinator.

Jerry Denny, assistant professor of nursing, was treated to a presidential car wash in the Quad by Dr. Robert Hebert, with help from the Cowgirl Kickers, as the winner of the drawing for the car wash. Employees who pledged to this year's campaign were eligible for more than 30 prizes donated by McNeese and area businesses.