

The Week:

We learned this week that NSU alumnus Jim Mustian was part of a team at the Advocate in Baton Rouge that was awarded a Pulitzer Prize, <http://news.nsula.edu/home/the-highest-honor-in-american-journalism/>. Mustian, a 2008 Journalism graduate, currently works for the Associated Press in New York. He joins Gary Fields as NSU Journalism alumni who have received the prestigious Pulitzer Prize.

Also, thanks to the many students, staff and community volunteers for your support in hosting the Red River Special Olympics on campus this week, <http://news.nsula.edu/home/nsu-hosts-2019-red-river-special-olympics/>. This event, coordinated by our First Year Experience students, provides a positive, uplifting experience for approximately 100 children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

On Wednesday, I met with the Strategic Planning Team to discuss the group's new focus and approach to future planning. The new planning calendar reflected the highlights of initiating a review of the University Mission in preparation for updating the Strategic Plan. That will include reviewing key office and unit missions, roles, and functions to ensure effective and efficient use of resources and the focused approach to completing the SACSCOC Fifth-year Report.

The Director of Institutional Effectiveness (DIE) initiated the mission analysis process with an overview of steps 1 through 3 of the total 16-step mission analysis process. The overview included the origin and lines of authority of the current mission statement, the challenges of the environment in which we operate, and the specified, implied, and essential tasks used to develop the University Mission. In June, the team will discuss their independent research in these three areas followed by an overview of steps 4 through 7, reviewing available assets, determining constraints, identifying critical facts and assumptions, and looking at risks. The result will be an up-to-date University Mission Statement, thereby establishing the conditions for updating the University's Strategic Plan.

Finally, as a reminder, please plan to attend one of three sessions scheduled for Thursday, April 25, on Americans with Disability Act (ADA) Compliance Training.

Participation in this training program is mandatory. Sessions are scheduled for 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The sessions will be in the A.A. Fredericks Auditorium and will be conducted by University of Louisiana System attorneys Linda Law Clark and Winston DeCuir, Jr.

Those who are not on the main campus, have teaching commitments or are unable to attend the April 25 sessions because of Research Day or for other reasons can participate in recorded sessions of the training program. The program will be available for viewing in the *Moodle Mandatory Training Shell*. When the training has been posted, personnel will be notified via the *Daily Messenger*.

Thank you for planning to attend the ADA Compliance Training sessions. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Dr. Marcus Jones at 357-5701 or marcusj@nsula.edu or Roni Biscoe at 357-6359 or ramirezv@nsula.edu.

My Week:

Monday morning, Dale Wohletz, Frances Conine, Reatha Cox, Alan Pasch, Shayne Creppel, Josh McDaniel, Ron Wright and I took part in a design meeting with architects to review floor place design for upgrades to the Friedman Student Union. Plans are moving forward to create a large event space that will seat more than 150 people and an Esports and gaming area for students.

Wednesday morning, I taped a recruiting video with Josh McDaniel and Tyler Ward from our Marketing Department. Afterwards, Dr. Darlene Williams, Dr. Marcus Jones and I met about several campus items. Later that morning, I had the honor of attending a meet-and-greet reception and guest lecture by Dr. Nita Landry, co-host on the Emmy Award winning talk show *The Doctors* and a board-certified OB/GYN. The lecture was part of our College of Business and Technology "Start the Spark" speaker series. I want to thank Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne, Dr. Carmella Parker and Valerie Salter for coordinating the event.

Wednesday afternoon, I participated in a North Louisiana Economic Partnership conference call. Afterwards, Tom Whitehead, Drake Owens and I met with National Center for Preservation Technology and Training administrators Kirk Cordell, Andy Ferrell and Richard Wagner about programs and projects. Later, I met with the Strategic Planning Team.

Wednesday evening, I attended the New Media Student Showcase, reception and awards ceremony at the Orville Hanchey Gallery. I want to thank New Media, Journalism, and Communication Arts professors Dr. Ron McBride and Emily Zering for their hard work in making the showcase a huge success.

Later that evening, I attended a dinner and meeting with several local business leaders and made it back to campus to catch part of our baseball team's victory over Louisiana State University – Alexandria.

Thursday morning, Dr. Vickie Gentry and I met on several academic matters. Afterwards, I spent time with two prospective-student tour groups.

Thursday afternoon, I met with Pastor Eric Klemme with Christ the King Lutheran Church. Later, Dr. Jafar Al-Sharab and I had a conference call with Project Lead the Way administrators. Afterwards, I met with Dr. Katrina Jordan and later with Dr. Kim McAlister about COEHD updates.

Thursday evening, Jennifer and I attended a wonderful production of *The 1940's Radio Hour*. As always, the faculty, staff and students in our Department of Theatre and Dance did a phenomenal job with the production.

Friday and Saturday, I attended our baseball games vs McNeese State at Brown-Stroud Field.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Fork 'em Demons,

Chris



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