2009 Louisiana High School Essay Contest

Sponsored by the Folklife Society of Louisiana, the Louisiana Folklife Center, the NSU Writing Project, and the College of Liberal Arts at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

Essays should address the following question: “What aspect of your Louisiana heritage is most important to you?”

Length: Approximately 500 – 1,000 words. Essays need to be typed (double spaced, 12 point font, standard margins). All essays should have titles.

Deadline: June 1, 2009

The essay contest is open to all Louisiana students in grades 9 – 12 regardless of type of school institution, including students in all types of private educational environments, as well as home schooled students.

Essays should be sent as e-mail attachments to Dr. Shane Rasmussen, rasmussens@nsula.edu or by mail to the Louisiana Folklife Center, NSU Box 3663, Natchitoches, LA 71497. The deadline for submissions is June 1, 2009. Please include a separate cover page with your name, school affiliation, mailing address and, if applicable, e-mail address, and the title of your essay. “Louisiana High School Essay Contest” should be the subject line of e-mails. Prize winning students will be notified by July 15, 2009.

The prizes for the contest winners are: 1st place – $150; 2nd place – $100; and 3rd place – $50. The three prize winning essays will be solicited for publication in Louisiana Folklife, an academic journal produced by the Louisiana Folklife Center, Northwestern State University, General Editor, Dr. Shane Rasmussen. (Essays may be subject to minor revision before publication.) The three prize winning students will also be invited to present their essay at the 1st Annual Conference on Louisiana Studies held at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana, on Saturday September 26, 2009.

Dr. Lisa Abney, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Head of the Department of Language and Communication (co-chair)
Dr. Shane Rasmussen, Director of the Louisiana Folklife Center and Assistant Professor of English (co-chair)