

Shane E. Rasmussen, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

Director, Louisiana Folklife Center
Assistant Professor of English
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Academic Appointments

Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA. Director of the Louisiana Folklife Center (LFC) and Assistant Professor of English. Fall 2008 – present.

- Plan and direct the activities of the Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival
- Archive and maintain over 6000 hours of audio-taped and video-taped materials and print library
- Write grants for Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival
- Oversee budgets of Louisiana Folklife Center, Louisiana Regional Folklife Program, Louisiana Folklife Journal, and grant accounts
- Supervise faculty and staff members attached to LFC
- Organize and conduct fundraising campaigns
- Plan advertising and promote LFC and Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival
- Coordinate community outreach programs with LFC and Natchitoches community and schools
- Chair Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival Steering Committee
- Teach two courses per long semester and one summer course for the Department of Language and Communication

Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA. Visiting Assistant Professor of English. Fall 2007 – Summer 2008.

Education

Ph.D. English. University of Louisiana at Lafayette. May 19, 2007.

Areas tested by four-hour written comprehensive exams:

Early American Literature (Columbus – 1900): Passed with Distinction.

Folklore (Major Area): Passed with Distinction.

Restoration and Eighteenth-century British Literature: Passed with Distinction.

Science Fiction: Passed with Distinction.

Oral defense of the exams: Passed with Distinction.
GPA: 4.0

M.A. English. University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Passed the Oral Comprehensive Exam with Distinction. GPA: 4.0. December 2003.

B.A. English and History (double major). University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon. June 1997.

Dissertation

Under the mentorship of Dr. Marcia Gaudet, I completed and defended my dissertation, "Arbitrary Traditionalism: Cultural Authenticity and Modern Mainstream American Deathways." An occupational ethnography of American deathcare workers, this interdisciplinary dissertation employs theory from folklore, death, and bereavement studies, and is informed by original fieldwork.

Conference Presentations

Forthcoming: "Shaking out the clothes for spiders': African-American Folklife Traditions along Louisiana's Cane River Lake." Organizer and discussant for roundtable discussion at the 1st annual conference on Louisiana Studies. Natchitoches, LA. September 26, 2009.

"This was their life': Life Celebrations as a Cultural Trend in Modern American Deathways." Paper delivered at the annual Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association Conference. New Orleans, LA. April 11, 2009.

"Mortal Corpses: Grave Emotions and Bodily Disposition." Paper delivered at the annual Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association Conference. San Francisco, CA. March 19, 2008.

"Kill 'em all!': *Starship Troopers* and the Critical Stomach." Paper delivered at the annual Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association Conference. Boston, MA. April 6, 2007.

"Ritualistic Individualism': Personalized Catharsis as Celebratory Ritual in the Modern American Funeral." Paper delivered at the Tenth Annual Conference on Holidays, Ritual, Festival, Celebration, and Public Display in conjunction with A Conference on Chinese Daily Ritual Practice. Salem, OR. June 3, 2006.

"*Star Wars* Fan Day II: A Unique Kind of Commodity Festival." Paper delivered at the 5th annual University of Louisiana at Lafayette Graduate Student Conference on Language and Literature. Lafayette, LA. April 29, 2006.

"Beyond Vengeance: Hamlet's Rite of Passage through Grief." Paper delivered at the annual South-Central Renaissance Conference. Austin, TX. April 2, 2004.

“Arbitrary Traditionality: Cultural Authenticity and Modern Mainstream American Deathways.” Paper delivered at the annual conference of the American Folklore Society, “Folk Culture and the Public Domain.” Albuquerque, NM. Chaired session. October 12, 2003.

“‘I have nothing to write about’: Guiding Students towards Invention and Arrangement.” Paper delivered at the annual conference of the Louisiana Association for College Composition, “A Gumbo of Ideas for Teaching Composition.” Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, LA. February 22, 2003.

“‘The WORTHY encompassed by the INEVITABLE’: A Study of the Crushing Oppressions of Money, Place and Power in Thomas Hardy’s *Tess of the d’Urbervilles* and *Jude the Obscure*.” Paper delivered at the 1st annual University of Louisiana at Lafayette Graduate Student Conference on Language and Literature. Lafayette, LA. April 13, 2002.

Teaching Experience

Northwestern State University:

English 0920: Basic Composition and Grammar: Fall 2007.

English 1020: Rhetoric and Composition II: Fall 2008.

English 2050: Major British Writers: Fall 2007 / Spring 2008 / Fall 2009.

English 2060: Major American Writers: Spring 2008 / Spring 2009.

English 2070: Major Writers in World Literature: Part I (Homer – Cervantes): Fall 2007 / Spring 2008 / Fall 2008.

English 2080: Major Writers in World Literature: Part II (Molière – Camus): Fall 2009.

English 3210: Advanced Composition: Fall 2007 / Spring 2008.

English 3400: Greek Drama and Myth: Fall 2009.

English 3850: Special Topics: Science Fiction: Fall 2008.

English 5240: Principles of Second Language Learning and Second Language Instruction: May 19 – June 6, 2008.

English 5450: Studies in American Literature II: Science Fiction: Fall 2008.

English 5600: The Uses of Folk Materials in Teaching: Summer 2009.

English 5721: Internship in Public Folklore: Summer 2009.

ADVANCE Program for Young Scholars. “Folklore in Everyday Life.” Taught the essentials of Folklore as an academic discipline to twelve talented and gifted students, ages 13-17. June 9 – 28, 2008.

Korean Teachers’ English Education Program. “A Taste of Louisiana, Natchitoches Style.” Taught English as a Second Language to ten Korean public school teachers. July 14 – August 6, 2008.

University of Louisiana at Lafayette:

English 101: Rhetoric and Composition: Fall 2002 / Spring 2006 / Fall 2006 / Spring 2007.

English 102: Literature and Composition: Fall 2003 / Spring 2004 / Fall 2005.

English 205: American Literature Survey: Part I (Columbus – 1900): Spring 2006 / Fall 2006.
English 332: Introduction to Folklore: Fall 2005.
English 360: Advanced Expository Writing: Summer 2007.
English 365: Technical Writing: Summer 2007.
Writing Lab Tutor: Summer 2006.

Sun Valley Language School, Narita, Japan: Instructor, English as a Second Language, 1997 - 2001.

I am familiar with Blackboard and Moodle, and have had the opportunity to teach folklore, literature, and composition courses in SMART classrooms.

Publications

Review: *The Three Boys and Other Buddhist Folktales from Tibet*. Published online at *JFR (Journal of Folklore Research)* Reviews. Posted on September 26, 2007.

Journal

Louisiana Folklife. General Editor of Volumes 31- present.

Festival

Directed the 30th annual Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival. Theme: “New Populations in Louisiana.” July 17-18, 2009.

Louisiana Studies Conference

Co-founder of the Northwestern State University Conference on Louisiana Studies.
Conference co-chair of the 1st Annual Conference on Louisiana Studies. September 26, 2009.
Selection Committee member for the 1st Annual Conference on Louisiana Studies.

Essay Contest

Founder and co-chair of the 1st Annual NSU Louisiana High School Essay Contest, 2009. Served as Selection Committee Chair for the Contest.

Grants Received

Principal Investigator: Decentralized Arts Funding. “2010 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival.”
Funded amount: \$3,965.08. Effective date: October 1, 2009.

Principal Investigator: Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities: Outreach Grant. “New Populations in Louisiana.” Funded amount: \$2,000. Effective date: July 7, 2009.

Principal Investigator: Louisiana Office of Tourism. “2009 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival

Media.” Funded amount: \$13,000. Effective date: July 1, 2009.

Principal Investigator: John W. & Bertie Murphy Deming Foundation. “The Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival.” Funded amount: \$1,000. Effective date: March 11, 2009.

Principal Investigator: NSU Enrichment Fund. “Promoting Folklife: Fieldwork for the Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival and Presentation of a Folklife Paper at the Popular Culture Association / American Culture Association National Conference.” Funded amount: \$2,000. Effective date: February 26, 2009.

Principal Investigator: Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities. “New Populations in Louisiana: Narrative Sessions.” 2009 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival. Funded amount: \$9,332.00. (Note: Due to state budget cuts this grant was defunded. In a letter to me dated January 8, 2009, Dr. Michael Sartisky, President/Executive Director of the LEH, remarked that, “The Decision not to fund your proposal was a strictly financial necessity rather than a lack of recognition for its merit. In fact, your proposal survived rigorous competitive review and was deemed worthy of funding by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities’ Grant Review Committee and approved by the full Board of Directors for funding depending on the funds available.”)

Grants Under Review

Principal Investigator: National Endowment for the Arts: Challenge America Fast-Track Review Grant. “2010 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival.” Requested amount: \$10,000. Submitted: May 28, 2009.

Fundraising

The Louisiana Folklife Center received \$6,738 in charitable donations in support of the 2009 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival.

Northwestern State University Folklife Concert Series

Co-chair of the NSU Folklife Concert Series, 2009-2010.
Founded the NSU Folklife Concert Series in Spring 2009.

Folklife Concert

Initiated and coordinated a folk concert for Northwestern State University students, faculty, and staff, as well as the general public. Artist: Sarah Jayde Williams and Friends (including internationally renowned Cajun fiddler, Hadley Castille). Sarah Jayde Williams and Hadley Castille are from Opelousas, Louisiana, and play Cajun and Texas Swing. January 21, 2009.

Service to the Profession

Served as a grants review panelist for the Louisiana Division of the Arts Folklife Initiative Fund.

May 19, 2009.

Committee Work

Northwestern State University:

NSU Human Subjects Institutional Review Board. Member. Fall 2009 – present.

Program Elimination Committee. Member. Summer 2009.

Academic Affairs Restructuring Task Force. Member. Summer 2009.

Language and Communications Graduate Faculty Committee. Member. Summer 2008 – present.

University Service

Northwestern State University:

Faculty advisor, the NSU Distinguished Lecture Series, 2009-2010.

Faculty food service worker at the Freshmen Convocation barbecue. August 23, 2009.

Moderated two narrative sessions at the 2009 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival: “Thai Culture and Krathong Lotus Flowers” and “Japanese Holidays and Customs in Louisiana.” July 18, 2009.

Served as a judge for duo readings of oral interpretations of literature, 2nd Annual Columns Classic speech and debate tournament. January 23, 2009.

Assisted in departmental recruitment through participation in the university wide Majors’ Fair. October 4, 2007 / September 23, 2008.

Served as a focus group member as part of the “Go for Greatness” initiative. April 8, 2008 / September 9, 2008.

Served as part of the “Back Stage Crew” on Move-In Day: August 23, 2008 / August 22, 2009.

Edited Terence LeRay Vinson’s Ph.D. Dissertation, “An Analysis of the Relationship that Summer Bridge and Non-Summer Bridge Participation, Demographics, and High School Academic Performance Have on First-Year College Students, Coupled with an Analysis of Grade Point Average and Retention.” Mr. Vinson is an Academic Adviser and Coordinator for the University College at Northwestern State University. August 2008.

Contributed over sixty volunteer hours to the 2008 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival. July 2008.

Moderated two narrative sessions at the 2008 Natchitoches-NSU Folk Festival: “Scottish Genealogy” and “Spinning and Weaving Wool.” July 19, 2008.

Edited NSU Master’s Candidate Inessa Wise’s Master’s Thesis, “Trauma Symptoms as Predisposing Factors for Body Image Distortion.” I revised and proofread Ms. Wise’s Thesis for ESL concerns. (Ms. Wise is from the Ukraine.) May 2008.

Served as room test administrator for the spelling portion of the Northwest Louisiana District Literary Rally. March 15, 2008.

University of Louisiana at Lafayette:

University of Louisiana at Lafayette English Department Recruitment Committee: Graduate student representative. Fall 2006 – Spring 2007.

University of Louisiana at Lafayette Graduate Student Conference on Language and Literature:
Member of the planning committee and chair of hospitality. April 13, 2003.

Master's Thesis Committees: Northwestern State University

Director, Master's Theses

Adam C. Viator. "Folklore and Science Fiction: A Projective View of Folklore through the Lens of Science Fiction." Spring 2009.

Member, Master's Theses

Amanda LaRoche. "Communicating Regional Culture and Gender through Foodways in Southern Literature." Spring 2009.

Current Master's Committees

James Christopher Callahan. "Louisiana Gothicism: Literature Enacted as Identity." (director)
Melody Carson. "All Signs Point to Heaven: The Cultural Phenomenon of Church Signs in the South." (member)
Stephanie Shultz. "Monsters, Madness, and Disease: Degeneration and Gender Constructions in Bram Stoker's *Dracula* and Richard Marsh's *The Beetle*." (member)
Dan Strother. "A Fading Legacy: Tales from Louisiana's Neutral Strip." (member)
Sherrie Thomasee. "Hospitality in Literature and Culture: A Southern Regional Tradition." (member)
Oona Orleans Zbitkovskis. "Vampires as a Viable Romantic Lead." (member)

Curriculum Development

Designed English 4870 / 5870: Folklore and Film. Accepted by the Northwestern State University Curriculum Review Council August 26, 2008 (4870) and January 27, 2009 (5870). I am scheduled to teach this course in Spring 2010.

Professional Development

Attendee, the NSU Regional Conference on Federal and State (LA) Grant Opportunities. Northwestern State University, September 15-16, 2009.
Faculty Participant, U.S. Department of Education Title III NSU Year 5 Cohort: Innovative Academic Programs and Services, and Faculty Development Grant Project. Northwestern State University, Fall 2009 – Summer 2010.
Attendee, the Smithsonian National Folklife Festival. Washington, D.C., June 25-27, 2009.
Attendee, the Academic Integrity and Threat Assessment Workshop. Northwestern State University, March 17, 2009.
Attendee, the Prior Learning Assessment Workshop. Northwestern State University, March 4, 2009.
Attendee, the Academic Advising Workshop. Northwestern State University, February 26, 2009. Earned Certificate of Achievement from the department of Electronic and Continuing Education.

Northwestern State University: "PowerPoint," 2 hours, February 5, 2009.
 Certified completion of the National Institutes of Health Web-based training course "Protecting Human Research Participants," October 30, 2008.
 Attendee, the Databases Workshop at the Watson Library. Northwestern State University, September 16, 2008.
 Attendee, the Northwestern State University Writing Project Mini-Institute for Grant Writing. May 10 and 17, 2008.
 Earned two Certificates of Achievement from the department of Electronic and Continuing Education. Northwestern State University: 1) "Blackboard Introduction," 3 hours, August 15, 2007; 2) "Tips and Tricks for a Successful Online Course," 2 hours, September 25, 2007.

Invited Lectures

Juneteenth Black Heritage Festival. "Juneteenth: Past, Present, Future." Many, LA. June 20, 2009.
 Ouachita Parish Public Library. "*Poor Man's Provence* and Cajun Culture." West Monroe, LA. June 18, 2009.
 Natchitoches Rotary Club. "The Louisiana Folklife Center and the 2009 Natchitoches-NSU Folklife Festival." Natchitoches, LA. May 12, 2009.
 C.E. Byrd High School. "Journalism, Oral History, and Worldview." Shreveport, LA. April 8, 2009.
 West Louisiana Historical and Genealogical Association. "Vernon Parish and the Louisiana Folklife Center." Leesville, LA. March 7, 2009.
 Many Rotary Club. "Sabine Parish and the Louisiana Folklife Center." Many, LA. February 26, 2009.
 University of Louisiana at Lafayette. "Confessions of a Gaijin: Living and Teaching in Japan. Phi Beta Kappa Lectures Honors Seminar. April 7 and 14, 2005.

Community Service

Cub Scoutmaster, Cub Scouts of America, Natchitoches, LA. June 2009 – present.
 Ward Mission Leader (unpaid lay service position) for the Natchitoches ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. September 2007 – October 2008.
 Webelos and Blazer Cub Scouts Leader, Cub Scouts of America, Lafayette, LA. January 2004 – July 2007.
 Assistant Cub Scout Master, Cub Scouts of America, Albany, OR. October 1993 – February 1994.
 Full-time Missionary for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Utah Provo Mission. September 1991 – September 1993.

Honors and Awards

Recipient of the Richard G. Neiheisel Phi Beta Kappa Endowed Award: December 13, 2003.
 Fellow at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (four year fellowship): 2001 – Summer 2005.

Honor Societies

Gamma Beta Phi: Inducted April 29, 2006. University of Louisiana at Lafayette chapter.

The National Scholars Honor Society: Inducted February 27, 2007.

Phi Beta Delta: Inducted November 28, 2006. Alpha Beta chapter at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Phi Beta Kappa: Inducted June 14, 1997. Alpha of Oregon at the University of Oregon chapter.

Phi Kappa Phi: Inducted April 25, 2004. University of Louisiana at Lafayette chapter.

Memberships

American Culture Association

American Folklore Society

Modern Language Association

Popular Culture Association

Western States Folklore Society

References

Dr. Lisa Abney, Provost, Vice President for Student and Academic Affairs and Professor of English

Northwestern State University

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