

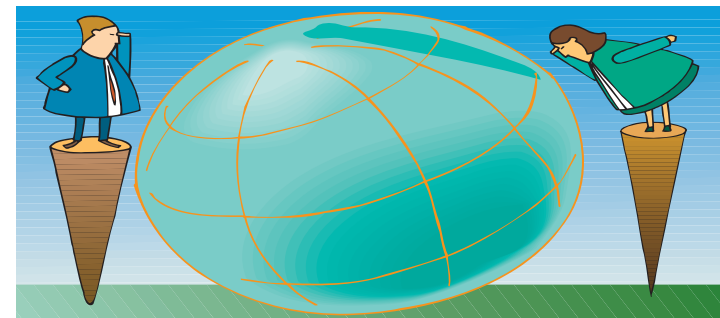


## Banners Series Celebrates 15 Years

This spring's McNeese Banners Series will soon bring some of Louisiana's artists to Lake Charles for its 15th season, including the Dirty Dozen Brass Band, the Lost Bayou Ramblers and Marcia Ball.

The 2007 series, which runs Feb. 24-May 3, will include the usual eclectic variety of music—including jazz, chamber, blues, Cajun and vocal. It will also include a magic show, a movie, a juggling comedian and two juried art shows, in addition to lectures on a variety of topics, ranging from the geography of New Orleans to the Islamic religion.

For a complete listing of events, go online to the Banners Web site at [www.banners.org](http://www.banners.org) or call for a brochure at ext. 5123.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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

### Web Site Information

Group Benefits Program

..... [www.groupbenefits.org](http://www.groupbenefits.org)

State Travel Regulations

..... [www.state.la.us/osp/travel/traveloffice.htm](http://www.state.la.us/osp/travel/traveloffice.htm)

University of Louisiana System

..... [www.uls.state.la.us](http://www.uls.state.la.us)

Louisiana Board of Regents

..... [www.regent.state.la.us](http://www.regent.state.la.us)

# MCNEESE UPDATE

McNeese Update is published four times a year by the Office of Public Information and Communications to inform faculty and staff of administrative developments, campus events, the state and direction of planning, and other news and events that may affect the university community. Correspondence should be directed to: Editor, McNeese Update; MSU Box 92695; phone 475-5635; fax 475-5637; e-mail [ctownsen@mail.mcneese.edu](mailto:ctownsen@mail.mcneese.edu).

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# 2007 CALENDAR

## February

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 14.....          | Valentine's Day  |
| 14.....          | Financial Aid Awareness Day  |
| 14-15.....       | MSU Theatre— <i>The Vagina Monologues</i>  |
| 15.....          | Janet Tyson--Wade Wolfe Lecture Series   |
|                  | Black History Month--Book Discussions <i>The Bluest Eye</i> by Toni Morrison and <i>Sugar</i> by Bernice McFadden, 6 p.m., Meeting Room C, Frazar Memorial Library |
| 15-March 15..... | William Anastasi, Peter Milton & Susan Weil  |
|                  | <i>Investigations: Ulysses/Finnegans Wake</i>  |
| 16.....          | Safety Meeting Reports Due   |
| 19-21.....       | Mardi Gras Holidays  |
| 22.....          | Black History Month Event—Film and Lecture   |
|                  | <i>Journey to Africa: Revisiting the Slave Pens of Ghana and Black Against Black Prejudice</i> , 6:30 p.m., Baker Auditorium                                       |
| 22.....          | Bill Rose/Faculty Recital  |
| 24-May 3.....    | Banners Series   |
| 28.....          | Southwest Wind Quartet Concert   |

## March

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 5.....           | Black History Month--Concert                                |
|                  | Higher Level Gospel Choir, noon, Ralph Squires Recital Hall |
| 6.....           | Dr. Carol Lines/Faculty Recital                             |
| 7.....           | QEP Quality Day   |
| 9.....           | Employee Benefits Fair                                      |
| 10.....          | Cowboy Q&A Day  |
| 11.....          | Scholarship Brunch  |
| 12-16.....       | Faculty Advising—Summer                                     |
| 13-15.....       | SACS On-Site Visit  |
| 20.....          | Summer Registrations Begins                                 |
| 22-April 19..... | MSU National Works on Paper Exhibition                      |
| 28-April 1.....  | MSU Theatre-- <i>Das Barbecü</i>                            |

## April

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| 2-5.....   | Faculty Advising—Fall                            |
| 5.....     | Health Insurance Meeting                         |
| 6-13.....  | Spring Break                                     |
| 16.....    | Fall Registration Begins                         |
| 16.....    | Teacher Fair                                     |
| 17-19..... | NASM reaccreditation visit                       |
| 19.....    | Grad Fest  |
| 24.....    | MSU Credit Union Annual Meeting                  |
| 25.....    | Administrative Professionals Day                 |
| 26.....    | MSU Choirs Concert                               |
| 27.....    | MSU Percussion Ensemble Concert                  |
| 28.....    | Official Ring Ceremony                           |
| 29.....    | Annual Alumni Association Meeting /Crawfish Boil |

## May

|           |                          |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1.....    | PASTICHE                 |
| 3-10..... | Spring Senior Exhibition |
| 4.....    | Spring Art Sale          |
| 12.....   | Commencement             |
| 28.....   | Memorial Day Holiday     |
| 31.....   | Master Plan Reports Due  |

# MCNEESE UPDATE

## Quality Day To Celebrate *Write to Excellence* Initiative

Quality Day will be held campus-wide Wednesday, March 7, to inform McNeese faculty, staff and students about the Quality Enhancement Plan's *Write to Excellence* initiative recently approved for the university.

Faculty, staff and students are invited to attend the presentations and participate in the day's celebration that will take place in Baker Auditorium, the Quad and in the New Ranch.

Fun, food and festivities are planned throughout the day, according to Dr. Harold Stevenson, McNeese QEP chair. The keynote speakers are Dr. Sandra McGuire, director of the Student Learning Center at LSU-Baton Rouge, and Dr. Valerie Balester, executive director of the Texas A&M University Writing Center.

The McNeese QEP, *Write to Excellence*, revolves around the concept that students will be able to write effectively and appropriately as required in all disciplines. Writing components will be a part of all academic majors. Beginning with a Freshman Foundations course, students will learn about the QEP and how it will be interwoven into their individual degree plans.

"As we said in the spring General Faculty Meeting, this represents a big change in the educational expectations of our students," Stevenson said. "The QEP is all about students, what they learn while they are here and how we equip them to succeed after they graduate."

McGuire will speak on student learning and how faculty can enhance the student learning process. Balester will address the role of the writing center and the importance of writing across the disciplines.



### Writing Contest Announced

The *Write to Excellence* Committee is excited to announce the first annual *Write to Excellence* Writing Contest. All undergraduate students enrolled at McNeese are invited to participate and the top three essays will receive cash prizes.

Judges will be the *Write to Excellence* Committee -- a faculty member from each college -- and a staff member from the Basic and General Studies Division. Each paper will

be evaluated by three graders to ensure that all essays are evaluated equitably. The topic—*Is It More Important to Do Work That One Finds Fulfilling or Work That Pays Well?*

Interested students should refer to the Blackboard site-- *Write to Excellence* Contest--for submission forms, rules and information regarding submissions. Deadline for essay submissions is at midnight Feb. 28.

Winners will be announced and prizes given at the university Quality Day on March 7. Winning essays will be published in *The Arena*, the university literary and art magazine.

Questions should be referred to Dr. Delma McLeod-Porter at ext. 5337 or through e-mail at [dporter@mail.mcneese.edu](mailto:dporter@mail.mcneese.edu).

Winners of the first *Write to Excellence* Essay Contest will be announced and students will have the opportunity to participate in QEP-centered activities and compete for prizes.

A Freshman Foundation (FRFN) Committee, comprised of the 2005-06 Pinnacle Excellence Award recipients, is developing a series of one-credit courses that will be implemented in each academic college. The FRFN courses will stress the institution-wide nature of the *Write to Excellence* plan and clarify the university's

expectation that all students, regardless of discipline, will be able to write effectively and appropriately as required by their discipline.

The program will be piloted beginning in January 2008. The FRFN courses will be required for all first-time freshmen beginning August 2008.

The *Write to Excellence* Committee, comprised of the 2006-07 Pinnacle Excellence Award recipients, is working to develop plans for the McNeese Writing Center and strategies to improve student writing and resources for faculty.

Questions should be referred to Stevenson at ext. 5663 or e-mail at [hstevens@mcneese.edu](mailto:hstevens@mcneese.edu).

### Quality Day official events include:

- 8:45 a.m.--Welcome and introduction of Sandra McGuire (Baker Auditorium)
- 9-10 a.m.--Dr. McGuire's presentation
- 11 a.m.-noon--Valerie Balester's presentation
- Noon-1 p.m.--Student music ensemble performs in the New Ranch
- 1-2 p.m.--McGuire and Balester meet with the FFC and WTEC
- 2-3 p.m.--Community forum addressing the importance of writing in medical, industrial, financial and community service industries.

### *Web Registration Dates for Summer & Fall Announced*

The official faculty-advising period for summer 2007 registration is March 12-16, with Priority Web registration for the summer to begin March 20.

The official faculty-advising period for fall 2007 registration is April 2-5, with Priority Web registration for the fall to begin April 16.

Summer registration ends April 27, while fall registration ends July 13.

Label area

## Financial Aid Awareness Day

Financial Aid Awareness Day 2007 will be held from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 14, in a tent in the quad to remind current MSU students who are receiving financial assistance that they must reapply each year for financial aid via the FAFSA.

Financial aid personnel will be on hand to distribute applications, answer questions and provide information to students about upcoming deadlines and types of financial aid.

## Safety Meeting Sign-In Sheets Due

Departmental sign-in sheets for the fourth quarter 2006 and first quarter 2007 safety meetings are due in the Safety Office by Feb. 16. The Louisiana Office of Risk Management requires that the original department sign-in sheet be on file in the Safety Office, not a faxed or photo copied sign-in sheet.

Quarterly safety meetings are required for every academic and non-academic department. Safety meeting information may be viewed online at: [www.mcneese.edu/administration/vpba/safety](http://www.mcneese.edu/administration/vpba/safety). For more information, call ext. 5270.

## Open Enrollment Meetings Set

Representatives from the Office of Group Benefits and all eligible health insurance plans will be in the Business Conference Center at 9 a.m. April 5 to discuss changes for the coming year and to answer questions from McNeese employees.

Another session for retirees will be held at 3 p.m. that same day in the BCC.

Annual open enrollment for group benefits will be held in human resources April 1-30. This is the time to make changes to insurance coverage that will take effect July 1. Call Yvonne Jacobs at ext. 5105 for more information.

## Annual Credit Union Meeting Set

The annual meeting of the McNeese Federal Credit Union will be held at 4:30 p.m. April 24 in Baker Auditorium of Farrar Hall.

Primary members who are present and who joined the credit union before Dec. 31, 2006, are eligible to attend the meeting and have a chance to win cash door prizes.

Membership into the credit union is open to all permanent McNeese employees, active MSU alumni, their dependents, siblings, parents, grandparents and grandchildren of members.

The credit union is open from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. To open an account, a \$50 minimum deposit is required. For more information about the credit union, call ext. 5344.

## Ring Ceremony In April

The spring Official Ring Ceremony will be held April 28 in Parra Ballroom. Alumni and students will receive their rings in a ceremony detailing the meaning and symbolism of the ring.

McNeese introduced the Official Ring tradition last fall and 87 students and alumni attended the first ring presentation held in December.

The McNeese Official Ring is available to all alumni, undergraduate students having earned a minimum of 75 hours while pursuing a baccalaureate degree, and degree candidates for the associate, master's or specialist degree.

## Library Staff Offers Reference Assistance

A new reference assistance tool is being offered by the McNeese library staff during academic semesters.

Now you can use your favorite Instant Messenger to chat live with a McNeese librarian. The new service provides reference assistance using three instant messaging programs: AIM, Yahoo and MSN. Once you ask a question, the librarian can guide you in your research or help you find quickly located, factual information.

More information about the service and the hours it operates can be found at <http://library.mcneese.edu/depts/ref/index.htm#IMREFERENCE>

For other information, stop by the reference desk or call ext. 5725.

## Defensive Driving Course Online

The Defensive Driving Course at McNeese is now offered online at [www.mcneese.edu/rec](http://www.mcneese.edu/rec). The Louisiana Safe Driver Course is required to drive a state vehicle or a personal vehicle for any kind of state business.

When accessing this link, employees may need to turn off pop-up window blocker in browser preferences.

Each person taking the course will report to the Recreational Complex office for the final steps in completing the course. The course must be renewed every three years unless the class of license requires other training or testing.

For more information, call Linda Naquin at ext. 5371.

## Career Services Offers Teacher Fair

The McNeese Office of Career Services will host its annual teacher fair this spring.

The teacher fair, which will be held April 16, allows graduating education seniors 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 this event. For more information, call Career Services at ext. 5612.

## Black History Month Events

In recognition of Black History Month, there are still several upcoming events sponsored by the Black History Month Planning Conference.

A display of books centered on the African American experience is on exhibit through Feb. 28 at McNeese Frazar Memorial Library.

Additional planned activities are as follows.

- Feb. 15—Book Discussions, “The Bluest Eye” by Toni Morrison and “Sugar” by Bernice McFadden, 6-8 p.m., Meeting Room C, Frazar Memorial Library.
- Feb. 22—Film and Lecture: “Journey to Africa: Revisiting the Slave Pens of Ghana” and “Black Against Black Prejudice,” 6:30-8 p.m., Baker Auditorium, Farrar Hall.
- March 5—Higher Level Gospel Choir, noon-12:45 p.m., Ralph Squires Recital Hall, Shearman Fine Arts Center.

For more information, call the Office of Special Services and Equity at ext. 5428.

## Benefits Fair To Be Held

The annual McNeese Employees Benefits Fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. March 9 in Parra Ballroom of the Student Union Annex. This event is sponsored by the Human Resources Office.

Vendors will be on hand to provide information to those employees who attend this event. There will be food and door prizes.

The MSU College of Nursing will also be offering free blood pressure checks and APS-Group Benefits representatives will speak about a Healthy Care Program being sponsored by Office of Group Benefits.

## Cowboy Day In March

High school juniors and seniors interested in attending McNeese are invited to visit the campus for “Cowboy Q&A Day” from noon to 2 p.m. March 10, in the Student Union Annex (New Ranch).

Representatives from basic and general studies, financial aid, scholarships and testing, housing, admissions and enrollment information, departments and student organizations will be on hand to answer any questions. Campus tours will be given.

For more information, contact the Enrollment Information Center at ext. 5504.

## Campus Security Report Available

The McNeese Annual Security Report is available for review on the university's Web site at [www.mcneese.edu/police/crime.asp](http://www.mcneese.edu/police/crime.asp).

A federal regulation known as The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act requires all colleges and universities that participate in federal student financial aid programs to publish a security report for the previous calendar year.

Crimes are reported in 10 categories including burglary, forcible sex offenses, non-forcible sex offenses, robbery, aggravated assault, motor vehicle theft, arson, hate crimes, negligent manslaughter and murder. Federal regulations also require universities to report arrests and referrals for disciplinary action for violations of liquor, drug and weapon laws.

## In Brief

### SACS

The Southern Association of Conferences and Schools/Commission on Colleges on-site Peer Review Team will be on campus March 13-15 for reaffirmation of accreditation. McNeese was first accredited by SACS in 1954.

### NSSE

The National Survey of Student Engagement is underway and continues through June 1. The NSSE is a Web-based survey for freshmen and seniors only. Faculty and staff are asked to encourage these students to participate.

### NASM

The National Association of Schools of Music will be on campus April 17-19 to review the entire music program for reaccreditation.

### Spring Holidays Set

Mardi Gras holidays are scheduled Monday-Wednesday, Feb. 19-21. Non-teaching employees must use a forced closure day for that Wednesday.

Easter break/spring break for students and faculty is April 6-13, while non-teaching employees have off Friday, April 6, and Monday, April 9, which is also a forced closure day.

Memorial Day holiday is Monday, May 28.

### Office Supply Books Available

The 2007 office supply books for the state contract office supply vendor, Corporate Express, are now available for pick up from Room 120 in Smith Hall.

### Student Employment Reminder

Student workers are not to begin work until they have been issued a Work Assignment Card from the Student Employment Coordinator. All supervisors are required to ask the student to present the Work Assignment Card prior to beginning employment.

The supervisor is responsible for reviewing and retaining the card. Graduate assistants are not issued a work assignment card.

For more information, contact the Student Employment Office at ext. 5102.