

THE CURRENT SAUCE



02-03 NEWS

Learn about some doctor recommendations during the cold and flu season, and how students are taking precautions during this time.

04-05 ARTS & LIVING

Read about how NSU begins to use Virtual Reality in the classroom, elevating the curriculum, and a feature about a senior's art exhibition.

06 SPORTS

This sport's story features the impact of former NSU athlete onto new women athletes chasing to break her records.

07 VIEWPOINTS

NSU's construction for the new academic building is in full swing, how are students dealing with the noise? Read about our Viewpoints editor and illustrator's experience in The Current Sauce.

DECEMBER



Photo By Nina Ovalle

While faulty gate arms may contribute to the problem, Brett Garfinkel also suggests that the signage in faculty/staff lots can cause confusion.

BY NINA OVALLE

As with any controversy, opinions vary based on perspective. However, the controversy of parking is a unanimous and unavoidable experience for anyone, including faculty and staff.

Northwestern State University of Louisiana faculty and staff have voiced their perspectives and opinions regarding the parking issues in the faculty/staff lots on campus.

Wesley Harrell, the University Police captain, frequently notices students parking in faculty/staff parking areas, which remains a major concern for faculty members.

"A lot of students park in faculty/staff lots, then faculty start calling. Our dispatchers are emailing me about it, and we have to send officers, but we just want to make sure we are keeping everything safer," Harrell said.

Harrell believes that the parking lot's capacity isn't the issue; rather, it's the responsibility of students to park in their designated zones that creates the problem.

"If the residential students park where they're supposed to park, there's plenty of room for the commuters and plenty of room for all. If the commuters park where they're supposed to park, there's plenty of room in housing to park. Nobody needs to park in a faculty lot," Harrell said. "Students need to make sure they're parking in the right parking lot."

Kent Peacock, an assistant professor of history, specifies that certain faculty/staff lots experience more issues, but he believes that NSU has sufficient space for student parking.

"I would say the issue is with certain lots; there are certainly enough parking spaces on campus overall, but certain lots, there are issues," Peacock said.

Peacock wonders if the struggles might be related to student awareness.

"Honestly, I don't know how aware students are that they're only supposed to be parking in certain lots, so I wonder if a lot of students just aren't aware," Peacock said.

Traci LaBom-Norris, the director of Accountability and Student Conduct, agrees that NSU has an adequate parking infrastructure to accommodate

every student's needs. She believes students need to be aware.

"We as a university can actually resolve this issue simply by everybody following the designated zones. We do have adequate space, I think it's just that everyone just has to be mindful of their designated zones," LaBom-Norris said.

LaBom-Norris's office, situated on the third floor of the Student Union, often finds a full parking lot.

"The Student Union is a local spot so people are gravitating to our parking lot. But the people who are assigned, which are the faculty/staff, we end up not having an adequate amount of space for ourselves," LaBom-Norris said. "I can actually say that personally, because there have been times where there were actually no spots available at all."

Typically, faculty/staff lots feature gate arms, which open only with card access, assigned to faculty and staff members. However, NSU is experiencing technical issues with those gate arms in some faculty/staff lots.

"Our gates have been lifted so that means there was an overflow of

students. So now we have students there, it doesn't matter if they were commuters, residential... everyone. It's kind of been a free for all," LaBom-Norris said.

Brett Garfinkel, the department head of Theatre and Dance, believes that the malfunctioning gate arms have increased parking difficulties this semester.

"I do not have any major parking issues 'cause there's only one lot that I park in, which is the CAPA (Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts) faculty parking lot, but ever since the gate stopped working there has been lots of problems with students parking in the lot," Garfinkel said.

While faulty gate arms may contribute to the problem, Garfinkel also suggests that the signage in faculty/staff lots can cause confusion.

"The signage for faculty/staff just shows an 'F' and an 'S' in a black box with white letters and in very small print underneath it, it says 'faculty/staff parking' which is not always clear for students that are rushing to class," Garfinkel said. "Yes, there's been a lot of students parking in the faculty lot, but I think a lot of them are unclear that it's a faculty lot because the gate is not working."

Garfinkel believes the only solution lies in repairing the gate arms.

"I think the only thing that would fix this is to get those gates working again," Garfinkel said.

Malfunctions in gate arms began when the previous parts supplier went out of business. John T. Dunn, the president of the faculty senate, elaborates on the plans to fix the gate arms in faculty/staff lots.

"The supplier of the gates was the sole producer of parts for the gates, but they recently went out of business so we found another supplier willing to take on repairs," Dunn said.

However, Dunn also acknowledged that the manufacturing and supply of replacement parts has taken longer than expected. "The last I heard, gates should be coming back online in the near future," he said.

Continue Next page...

NEWS

While Dunn understands the inconveniences created by the malfunctioning gate arms for many faculty members, he personally has not encountered issues within the CAPA faculty lot.

“Personally, I have young kids, so I get here early enough to not have a problem. I also park in a lot that is big enough to support the number of people working in the building, but many other lots, however, are much smaller, and when students take up all the spaces, there is no place left for faculty to park,” Dunn said.

Paul Christopher, an associate professor of music, also parks in the CAPA faculty/staff lot and has not experienced any personal parking issues.

“I’m in this lot, so it’s never been a problem for me, but I do think there’s a problem even though it doesn’t impact me personally,” Christopher said.

Christopher expressed a more lenient perspective regarding parking issues.

“I mean, I don’t walk around paying attention to it. I do know it’s a problem for a lot of students, but have I ever had a problem with students parking here? No,” Christopher said. “If I can’t get in there, I can always find another place to park, but once again, that’s just me.”

As for solutions for parking problems, Christopher acknowledges the presence of an endless cycle of questions.

“There’s another point... police the lot, but...there’s other things they can be making sure are secure. It’s an endless cycle, so clearly the best thing to do would be to just add more lots, but where do we add the lots? I don’t even know,” Christopher said.

However, Christopher said the only thing for certain is that there is an issue

for students parking at NSU.

“I do agree it’s a problem, I know it’s a problem. I know it’s a problem especially for students, I just don’t know what exactly we should do,” Christopher said.

Adam Philley, the associate director of choral activities, shares a similar understanding of the student perspective on parking struggles.

“I mean, I only park in like, one spot, so I don’t know that there’s a serious parking issue here. But times when I come down for social events, it is kind of an issue; like Gala or football games, it’s difficult, so I can see student’s struggle,” Philley said.

Though Philley understands the students perspective, he differentiates times when faculty need priority.

“Especially if I’m coming back to teach, I do think that I should have that priority parking, but if I’m just here to see a performance then we’re all kind of the same there. I feel like it’s a faculty lot, and I’m faculty. So, I should have the first right to park there, but I also understand. So I’m not going to roll down my window and yell at you, that’s not how I feel about that,” Philley said.

Philley has never experienced a situation where he felt the need to alert parking security due to a parking issue.

“I haven’t ever had a situation where I felt like I needed to call, but that’s not to say my experience stands for all. My experience may be different from others,” Philley said.

In contrast to Philley, Pete Gregory, a professor of anthropology, predominantly uses the faculty lot adjacent to John S. Kyser Hall, an area often patrolled by University Police.

“They give a lot of tickets out here now. They pretty much control this lot, and

students use it a lot, but they come out and write a lot of tickets so it’s not filled up now like it was a couple weeks ago,” Gregory said.

Harrell, the University Police Captain, clarified the consequences associated with parking citations.

“Citations start at \$45, then they only go up from there, and that’s for all improper parking, like if somebody parks in a handicap spot, etcetera,” Harrell said.

University Police typically grant a grace period for students to adjust themselves to campus parking policies, and aim only to provide a safer environment.

“We don’t like to write tickets, but that’s a part of our job and tickets are a necessity to make the campus safer. The parking and safety committee sets that so we don’t benefit monetarily, the only benefit we’re aiming for is to make the campus safer,” Harrell said.

Gregory, however, believes that the grace period does more harm than help for students.

“With the grace period, students get used to it and don’t think they’re going to get tickets, then they start giving tickets and students get upset because ‘I been parking here so why am I getting a ticket now for,’” Gregory said. “I think with the grace period, maybe they could just not have the grace period, that way students wouldn’t feel like they could get in here.”

He acknowledged that though he has his own experience and opinions, so do many other universities.

“It’s a worldwide problem. I can’t think of a campus anywhere I’ve ever been on that people didn’t have parking problems. Ours is wonderful compared to LSU (Louisiana State University),” Gregory said.

Nick Taylor, an assistant professor of New Media, Journalism and Communication Arts, compared the parking situation at NSU with that of other universities.

“I think, of course, I’ve been to different universities, there’s always parking issues. Is this any worse than any other university? Absolutely not. In fact, in a lot of ways, it’s better than a lot of universities,” Taylor said.

Taylor does, however, agree that there is a parking issue at NSU.

“Yes, students love to park in our lots, and I understand why. We’re right here, they’re in a hurry, they see open spots. So students do park there often, that is an issue,” Taylor said.

Parking problems remain an inevitable experience of university life, but Taylor believes NSU maintains faculty/staff lots well.

“I mean we have more cars, sometimes, than spots,” Taylor said. “I think the university overall, if I was giving them a grade, I’d give them a B+ for taking care of parking issues, which is much better than most universities.”

Parking issues differ among all university campuses, as do opinions about them, as well as possibilities of resolutions. Taylor emphasized the need for a continuous assessment and adaptation of parking policies and solutions.

“Parking policies and parking issues have got to be completely, or continually looked at and updated,” Taylor said. “You’re never going to solve them because as soon as you solve one issue then another issue is going to come up. It’s just something we got to continually handle.”

GALLERY



PURPLE MEDIA NETWORK
END OF THE YEAR BANQUET



Photos Submitted by Lia Portillo Cantarero

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The Current Sauce is the official student-run newspaper for Northwestern State University. The content and stories within the paper may not necessarily reflect the views of administration, faculty and staff.

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FIRST FALL BREEZE

By Mary Beth Widhalm

You swept through
My ribs like branches
Plucking away my own dead leaves,
Breathing movement through
My thick and heavy heart,
Twisting and whispering
Of exotic lands and uncharted seas.

A hundred other winds
Breathed and died
And curled themselves around my
body
But none that smelled like summer
and like winter
With such lingering.

Winter did come,
And I wanted nothing but to wrap
myself in you
And sleep and sleep,
But the whispers echoed through
my mind.
Your words, your words;
They are written behind my eyes.
I tried to give them back -
To plant them in the green ground,
To toss them to the blue sky,
But they keep coming back to me -
Two shades of the same color.



NSU students should take precaution when fighting off viruses this flu season

BY KALLIE BOURGEOIS

With flu season in full swing, Northwestern State University of Louisiana students should consider taking the proper precautions to fight infections this fall.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), viruses can spread in several ways other than coughing or sneezing. By touching an object that has a virus on it, then touching the mouth, nose or eyes is the most common way to catch a virus.

Dr. Sandra Kemmerly, system medical director of hospital quality at Ochsner Health, described the best way to avoid catching or spreading viruses is personal hygiene.

“People should practice good personal hygiene, including effective handwashing and stay home any time you have fever or other symptoms to help prevent the spread of these illnesses,” Dr. Kemmerly said.

Though personal hygiene practices are suggested, a new variant of COVID-19 virus is arising. The new variant, XBB.1.5, is a sub-variant of the Omicron (XBB) COVID-19 strain. According to the CDC’s website, the new variant has contributed to a 10.9% increase in positive COVID-19 cases.

Dr. Kemmerly explained that infection from the latest variant is less severe compared to previous variants.

“The virus itself doesn’t look or act much different than previous variants,” Dr. Kemmerly said. “The symptoms are the same as before; fever, chills, shortness of breath, cough, sore throat, runny nose and muscle aches.”

Since early September, Dr. Kemmerly has seen a decrease in COVID-19 cases or hospitalizations. She believes the decrease is because of the use of vaccines.

“Vaccines remain our best line of defense against severe illness related to the COVID-19 virus, as well as other communicable viruses,” Dr. Kemmerly said.

In September, the Food and Drug Administration made several changes to COVID-19 vaccine products to include a single component which directly corresponds to the XBB.1.5 variant.

“They (vaccines) are formulated to more closely target currently circulating variants and to provide protection against serious consequences of COVID-19, including hospitalization and death,” Dr. Kemmerly said.

Christopher Voigt, M.D., Fellow of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine (FAAEM), agreed with Dr. Kemmerly that vaccines have contributed to the decrease of COVID-19 cases.

“Anecdotally, we are not seeing as many patients in florid respiratory failure as we did in 2020 due to prevalence of vaccinations and the fact that this virus has now been seen by human immunity which was not the case in 2019, thus the “novel,” moniker attached to covid during the pandemic,” Dr. Voigt said.

Dr. Voigt suggests getting vaccinated for Influenza and COVID-19 and to consider wearing a mask or staying home if you experience any upper respiratory symptoms.

“As a population, we are moving

to a more seasonal cycle of virus penetration similar to Flu, and with such, we can expect the cold and flu season to become the Covid, cold and flu season with a subsequently more predictable course,” Dr. Voigt said.

Dr. Voigt explained that current COVID-19 variants, such as EG.5 and FL.1.5.1, are variants of the XBB family for which the vaccine provides cross-coverage and antibody production.

“The new vaccine is based upon the XBB.1.5 variant and will be the only vaccine available this season,” Dr. Voigt said. “One should seek to be vaccinated by mid-October to be prepared for large gatherings of the holiday seasons.”

Students at NSU share their opinions on how to stay healthy with their knowledge of past personal health experiences and personal research.

Saige Trahan, freshman nursing major, believes vaccines are effective, but explains most people are not immune to COVID-19 even if they choose to get vaccinated.

“Covid isn’t as serious today but I know for a fact it is still going around,” Trahan said. “I’m not sure how the health center deals with Covid on campus, but in my hometown they try their best to make sure students are receiving the proper care when fighting viruses.”

Sophia Naquin, freshman biology major, believes that COVID-19 is still a concern, but it isn’t as serious as other severe diseases.

“Vaccines for the flu are more effective than the Covid vaccines, because of how much research and time was put into making a vaccine for flu,” Naquin said.

NSU students looking to receive the flu and/or the COVID-19 vaccines could contact their local healthcare provider or pharmacy.

MADELINE ROMERO'S "LITTLE BIRD" SENIOR EXHIBITION INVITES VIEWERS TO FIND THEIR INNER LITTLE BIRD



Photo By Madelyn Murphy

Madeline Romero stares at her work "Mirror (The Little Bird Inside You)."

BY MADELYN MURPHY

Stepping into the narrow, long gallery, a girl smiles at the sight of familiar paintings that evoke a sense of calmness within her. She walks further down the gallery, filled with joy as she views paintings of a cute little bird living its life. She soon realizes, though, that she has never seen these exact paintings before. It is what the paintings consist of that forms the feeling of familiarity.

Recently, senior studio art major Madeline Romero presented her senior art exhibition, "Little Bird." Studio Art students are required to have a senior exhibition, where they showcase the work they are most proud of in a gallery, as if their art were going to be in a real museum.

At first, Romero knew her exhibition needed a theme, but had no idea what it would be. Eventually, it clicked.

"Once I started drawing Little Bird, it felt like it came naturally, like I was meant to paint Little Bird," Romero said. "So I was like, 'Oh my god, my theme is just going to be Little Bird because it makes me so happy, and I don't have to stress about anything.'"

Everything in the long gallery centered around Romero's character, Little Bird.

"I draw Little Bird in everyday situations to tell stories and draw out memories," Romero said. "I want my art to evoke a sense of familiarity in the viewer, a sense of self. I want people to understand they are not alone. We all go through similar experiences in life at

one point or another."

Although Little Bird is just a cute little guy, his purpose goes much further than that. He represents everyone's lives, providing a sense of unity and tying people together.

"Little Bird is you, Little Bird is me, Little Bird is everyone (hence the mirror)," Romero said. "I want people to look into it and see Little Bird in themselves."

In her painting, "Mirror (The Little Bird Inside You)," Romero hopes that others see Little Bird within them, just as she sees Little Bird in herself. Numerous paintings are inspired by events in Romero's life that are relatable to others. On one of her canvases, Romero painted Little Bird having a panic attack, as she had a panic attack while painting him. Numerous people of all different backgrounds can relate to this painting, along with many more of Romero's art pieces.

In a book, Romero left in the gallery for people to leave notes in, someone wrote, "Walking into the gallery, I felt a very warm welcome. Through the chaos and problems of the world, I can rest easy knowing there is Little Bird."

It is clear the impact Little Bird has on people, giving them someone to relate to and letting them know they are not alone in any of their emotions or situations. Although everyone shares emotions of anxiety and panic, they also share feelings of happiness and

good memories.

"The painting with the telescope, 'Little Bird goes Stargazing,' is a memory of when I was little and my dad bought me a telescope, that shade of blue specifically," Romero said. "We'd go over to his house, go outside, and we'd look at the moon just about every night."

Including this piece in her gallery emphasizes, again, the idea that Little Bird is everybody.

Including this piece tied to a specific memory of hers emphasizes the idea that Little Bird is Romero. Romero smiled as she reflected upon this memory.

"Family is a big part of my life," Romero said. "They're an inspiration for me. They're always there for me. They push me to do great things."

With this, Romero anticipated the night of her reception, which her family attended. She hoped her friends, family and dad would especially like it. Luckily, her family's reactions proved Romero's efforts paid off.

"My family was very proud of me and all the work I had done, and my dad loved the lighting on the painting in the back," Romero explained.

By the end of the reception, Romero had a successful night. Not only was her family there to support her, but so were many others.

"I honestly was rattled by the sheer

amount of people that came to my reception. It really warms my heart to know I have so many people in the art department and on campus that support me and my endeavors," Romero said. "The art department is my family, and I hope future art students feel the same."

Many of those who viewed her gallery left notes about how proud they were of Romero, how much they enjoyed the show, and how Little Bird impacted them. With that, she wanted to encourage and support future seniors in their endeavors.

"The comments people left for me in my book allowed me to reflect positively, as I could tell that I achieved what I set out to do," Romero explained. "Little Bird made a home in so many people's hearts."

With that, she wanted to encourage and support future seniors in their endeavors.

"To future seniors figuring out their exhibition," Romero began, "don't feel overwhelmed by how big the space in the gallery is. It's not a requirement to fill the entire space; just try to put together a cohesive show. Get a head start on making pieces for your show in your sophomore and junior years. Find a theme or concept that you can expand upon that brings you joy or resonates deeply with you. You can do it because Little Bird and I believe in you."



STUDENTS EMBRACE VIRTUAL REALITY IN THE CLASSROOM

PROFESSOR COLLIER HYAMS AND STUDENT COLTON BAILEY
CREATE 3D MODELS WITH THE 3D PRINTER.

BY MADELYN MURPHY

Virtual Reality (VR) is a form of technology that has been around for years and has found a prominent role in classrooms at Northwestern State University of Louisiana. VR is becoming more and more popular, and it has made its way into academics.

At NSU, there are classes in which Virtual Reality aids students in completing assignments. Corbin Covher, an associate professor of art and the art department facilities manager, is the professor of the class Advanced Studio Problems (ART 4030), which is an independent study course.

“It is an independent study type of class where students work on their own in the computer lab to create 3D models for 3D printing,” Covher said. Aside from 3D modeling, the class offers students the opportunity to explore programs using VR. However, the class uses VR for more than just 3D modeling.

“The students have been able to try out an architecture and a painting program as well,” Covher said.

Colton Bailey, a student in Covher’s class, shared his experience in the class. “3D modeling has been a passion

of mine, and the ease of use with the VR software allows me to pursue the passion without much headache,” Bailey said.

NSU is expanding its horizons when it comes to new opportunities for students. Students like Bailey have the chance to enhance their creative abilities and delve into the digital realm.

“This was my first time using VR,” Bailey said. “The freedom to create is the coolest thing about the program given that all projects are in the digital world, and there is no practical limit to the space you have to work with.”

The success of VR integration in Covher’s class has led to its adoption in other courses, like Collier Hyams’ New Media 4.

Hyams, a senior professor of art with a degree in integrated electronic arts and music, described the classes where VR would be included in the coursework.

“Art 4610 New Media Design III is our 3D modeling, printing and animation class,” Hyams said. “Art 4810 New Media IV is experimental media arts. Art 5700 is advanced problems in new media design.”

While these courses teach students the potential of VR and other emerging technologies, they are clearly not reaching the extent of what VR is capable of.



Photos By Jayda Gee

“My work with VR dates back to my graduate degrees where we explored creating music, visuals, architecture, live performance and world creation,” Hyams said. “I was even in a VR band that played at Switzerland’s Montreux Jazz Festival. All of this is to say that the possibilities are wide open.”

Instead of VR solely being used as a form of entertainment, as it is for most people, having VR technology at NSU allows students numerous opportunities to create. Students can

push the boundaries of creativity much further through the help of VR.

Bailey summed up his experience, noting, “I would recommend the class to a fellow student with the mindset that speed isn’t everything. VR speeds up the creation process, but good ideas take time.”

SPORTS

STEPHANIE SOWELL IS PAVING THE WAY FOR WOMEN IN NSU TRACK AND FIELD

BY CHRISTIAN ROBINSON

Stephanie Sowell, a four-time All-American and the 2020 N-Club Hall of Fame inductee, achieved great success as an eight-time Southland Conference individual champion. To this day, she holds Northwestern State University of Louisiana's triple jump record at 43-1, set in 2003. She was a dominant force in the NSU track and field team as well as the whole Southland Conference.

"It is a great thing to see an African American woman being appreciated and really makes me happy because it shows that I can reach that level too," Jaslyn Smith, junior jumper, said. She acknowledged Stephanie Sowell's role as an inspiration and the mold she created for female track and field athletes.

"Anytime an African American Queen gets the credit they deserve, it always makes me happy," Abria Paul, junior distance jumper, said. The main thought running through these players' minds was the appreciation for the recognition given to African American women athletes, giving them hope that they can reach that level of prestige at NSU, like Stephanie Sowell.

The impact Stephanie Sowell has had on the women's track and field team remains significant. Women athletes are wanting to not only break her records,

but aiming for one of the highest honors for any NSU athlete being inducted into the N-Club Hall of Fame.

"I want to break her record, though not just because of competition but as motivation," Sanaria Butler, sophomore sprint/jumper, said. This sentiment, shared with Jaslyn Smith and Abria Paul shows the level of respect and motivation felt throughout the women's track and field team.

"She may not need the appreciation because she knows how good she is, but it is great nonetheless because it gives women athletes a sense of validation," Paul said. "It is not just guys, women also play and practice hard in these sports and it's nice to see women athletes getting the shine."

Stephanie Sowell's accomplishments were not only a win for African American women but for women in general. Sanaria Butler, Jaslyn Smith and Abria Paul believe that having a women athlete being honored in a male run football game is a sign that women athletes are being taken seriously.

That leaves motivation at an all-time high, with the will to carry on a legacy that Stephanie Sowell created. Not only to carry that legacy but create new ones, be the woman who leads NSU women's track and field into a new age.



Photo by Christian Robinson

NSU track and field students Abria Paul, Jaslyn Smith and Samaria Butler.

VIEWPOINTS

MY JOURNEY AS VIEWPOINTS EDITOR FOR THE CURRENT SAUCE

BY DESTIN LOPEZ

In August, when I wrote my very first story for The Current Sauce, I was terrified. Terrified of submitting a poorly written story, terrified of spreading misinformation and very terrified of making someone at Northwestern State University of Louisiana angry.

Now, at the end of my first semester as a Viewpoints Editor, I am no longer scared; in fact, I feel as if my stories do not cause people to feel emotions when they read them, then I am not writing well enough.

My goal as a Viewpoints Editor is to write stories that make people contemplate their own views. It's a vulnerable position, as many are afraid to post their own personal opinion online for everyone in the school to read.

That is why I make sure that every opinion I publicize, political or not, is backed by facts and my own life experiences. I am placing my viewpoint on a pedestal for everyone to read, to invite discourse. I want to write about the things everyone knows about, but nobody talks about.

I have been, for quite a long time, a person who keeps up with politics. I feel as though people who say that they prefer to 'stay out of politics' are people who have not been affected by it, to where they would have to be involved. Politics is ongoing, everywhere at all times, even here on our small campus. Being able to express my views while educating people on unspoken topics has been a blessing. The Current Sauce has given me a voice, and a reason to speak up.

When I learned of the position of Viewpoints Editor, I had no idea what it would entail. My hometown lacked a newspaper when I was little, because of our low population and

underfunding. My grandparents often got their newspaper from the parish or another town. I rarely read anything but the comics and horoscopes in the back. My highschool had a yearbook, which I was editor for, but it didn't have a writing aspect.

I took a chance in applying for this position, with encouragement from my professor, Melody Gilbert, who always gives me more credit than I give myself. My grandparents were extremely proud to see my first story in the Hispanic paper edition, and have asked for more copies to give to the rest of my family. Even though my family is hours away, they still find ways to be proud of me.

This semester, I was given the opportunity to go to Atlanta, Georgia to attend the College Media Association conference. I wouldn't have had the opportunity to do so if I had not joined student media. I got to attend so many amazing media and law sessions, meeting with many journalists who are



Photo by Lia Portillo

I took a chance in applying for this position, with encouragement from my professor, Melody Gilbert, who always gives me more credit than I give myself.

doing work that I can only dream of.

I have met so many students through joining the Current Sauce and student media, that I would have never met without. I have made friends that I will carry along with me through my last semester at NSU, and onto my future. I am looking forward to the prospect of writing more stories next semester, and one day writing in a newspaper after college as well.



Illustration by Naomi Adams

Many eagerly anticipate the completion of construction, but it has only just begun.

However, not all students are troubled by the noise, as some have grown accustomed to it. Denali Cobb, a senior psychology major, shared her perspective. “It doesn’t bother me. It reminds me of being in the marching band because it sounds like a metronome,” Cobb said. “I thought the band was outside practicing before I realized it was construction. I don’t hear it inside.”

From a personal standpoint, attending classes on the top floor of Kyser Hall has been a loud and disruptive experience. Professors have voiced their discontent, and peers have learned to ignore the noise to focus on lectures. Although, the repetitive nature of the construction noise makes it hard to miss.

No matter the disturbance caused by the construction noise, it is necessary to improve the campus environment. The demolition of Caddo Hall was needed due to the building’s long standing issues with black mold and disrepair. NSU is in need of a new educational facility, given that Kyser Hall lacks ADA compliance and rarely has both elevators operational.

While current students may not get to enjoy the benefits of the new buildings upon their completion, future students will hopefully enjoy handicapped-accessible, modern facilities.

BY DESTIN LOPEZ

Construction has begun at Northwestern State University of Louisiana at the site formerly occupied by Caddo Hall, which was recently demolished to make way for the new Robert Alost Hall. Despite the improvements for the campus, the construction activities create a disrupting noise, expected to last for the next 18 months. The construction site is next to Kyser Hall, where most classes are held on campus, where some students and faculty members feel that it is interrupting their learning.

Shae Wetzel, a junior biology major, expressed her frustration with the situation, saying, “Yes, it bothers me so much, especially trying to take exams or tests in Kyser. Sometimes it shakes the projectors when you’re trying to copy what the professor writes and everything.”

The construction work, known to be doing heavy duty work, has caused vibrations felt both within classrooms and by passersby. This not only disrupts the learning environment but also causes distractions that can drown

out a professor trying to lecture.

Julian Peshoff, a sophomore musical education major, disclosed how her education has been affected by the construction noise, she said, “It’s really irritating when taking a listening exam because the noise has a pitch that throws off my focus. Personally, I can’t wait until it’s done.”

For students whose majors rely heavily on sound, loud noises are particularly bothersome. Many eagerly anticipate the completion of construction, but it has only just begun.

MY ILLUSTRATION JOURNEY AT THE CURRENT SAUCE

BY NAOMI ADAMS

A welcoming community, newfound friendships and a road to improvement have marked my first semester working for The Current Sauce. As a normally timid person, I quickly grew comfortable with my coworkers the more I was around them both for meetings and events; everybody had been overwhelmingly sweet and welcoming from the get-go. I also got the amazing opportunity to travel to a different state and learn from other student media organizations which allowed me to get even closer to people to the point of blooming friendships. Finally, I can see a road to improvement. The Current Sauce has challenged me as an artist in the best way possible: nudging me outside of

my comfort zone. I have highlighted my strengths while exposing my weaknesses, which shows where I must improve for the following semesters. I hope to continue to grow with the help of my amazing team!

Illustration by Naomi Adams

The Current Sauce’s illustrator Naomi Adams reflects on her semester and how it has shaped her as an artist.

