1 Executive Summary

The New Orleans Studies minor provides students with in-depth study of the history, culture, society, environment and representations of the city of New Orleans, offering a model for understanding larger issues of the urban experience through a close examination of a specific place.

Incorporating a broad range of disciplines, the minor supports the university’s mission of working for a more just world by providing students with a critical understanding of the city in which they live.

Loyola’s commitment to the New Orleans community is a unique one grounded in a devotion to Jesuit values that demands a strong presence and connection to the city and its citizens. In recognition of this commitment, Loyola has attracted and developed a strong interdisciplinary faculty with singular expertise in the study of New Orleans.

In keeping with the 2012 Strategic plan, New Orleans Studies complements the goal of enhancing reputation and stature, particularly strategy 3a, which emphasizes the importance of programs “emanating from our location in New Orleans…that are distinctive in subject matter and that are cross-disciplinary, inter-departmental, and inter-college programs based on subject matter upon which no other University competes.”

New Orleans Studies is overseen by the steering committee of the Center for the Study of New Orleans, which is composed of faculty and staff from areas throughout the university.

We regularly consult with chairs and directors about course offerings and rotations. We also use information about courses and their enrollments that is provided by Academic Affairs.

2.0 Unit Profile Summary

Leslie Parr and Justin Nystrom served as co-directors during the 2012-2013 academic year.

Steering Committee:

- Laura Beatty, Student Records Coordinator, School of Mass Communication
- John Biguenet, Robert Hunter Distinguished Professor, Department of English
- Barbara Ewell, Dorothy Harrell Brown Distinguished Professor of English, Department of English
- Sanford Hinderlie, Professor, College of Music and Fine Arts
- Justin Nystrom, Assistant Professor of History
- Lisa Martin, Journalism Instructor and Director, Center for Intercultural Understanding
- Patricia Nugent, Archivist, Monroe Library
- Leslie Parr, A. Louis Read Distinguished Professor of Communication and Director, Center for the Study of New Orleans
- Janna Saslaw, Associate Professor of Music Theory, College of Music and Fine Arts
- John Snyder, Professor, College of Music and Fine Arts
- Robert Thomas, Professor of the School of Mass Communication and Director, Center for Environmental Communication
- Tracey Watts, Instructor, Department of English

3.0 Goals for Current Academic Year

Goals for 2012-2013:
Update protocol and strategic plan. (See CSNO protocol and strategic plan posted on intranet)
Convene meeting/reception for all New Orleans Studies faculty to make them more aware of minor.
Publish a brochure for New Orleans Studies.
Add new courses to the minor.
Conduct exit interview with New Orleans Studies minors.
Create new evaluation instrument for New Orleans Studies courses.

We accomplished all of these goals. Sandy Hinderlie developed History of New Orleans Music for the minor taught it for the first time this year.

We developed a new online evaluation form and sent it to all New Orleans minor courses.

Next year, we will assess all courses for New Orleans content and try to increase the number of minors.

4.0 Budget for Current Academic Year

Operating budget ($1,500) and expenditures ($1,339.51)

Field trip, History of New Orleans: $287.16
Field trip, Mississippi River Delta Ecology: $114.95
New Orleans Studies Brochure: $295.00
Poster/ flyer design: $185.00
New Orleans Studies Faculty Reception: $69.23
Contribution to “Dirty Energy” film showing: $50
Exit interview lunch: $58.17
10% budget adjust: $150.00

5.0 Assessment Report

The steering committee has identified the following learning outcomes for New Orleans Studies:

- a critical understanding of the history of New Orleans
- a critical understanding of New Orleans society from at least three different disciplinary perspectives
- a critical understanding of New Orleans culture
- a critical understanding of significant issues and problems facing the city today from at least three different disciplinary perspectives

Assessment:

We distribute evaluation forms to New Orleans Studies classes. Last semester we tried using an electronic form, since it is sometimes difficult for faculty to find time in class for their students to fill out our form and the departmental evaluation. We hoped that by doing an online evaluation, we might get more and fuller responses.

Activities:

Aside from the reception for New Orleans Studies faculty, most activities in the minor took place within courses, ie field trips in History of New Orleans and Mississippi River Delta Ecology.

We also co-sponsored a film with Environmental Studies, “Dirty Energy” about the BP oil disaster.

Additionally, students attended programs during NolaLoyola 2012: “Beats of the Streets: The Brass Band Tradition in New Orleans.” (See CSNO annual report)
5.2 Results of In-House/External Studies and Inventories

Courses Offered in New Orleans Studies Minor, 2012-13

- BIOL Z244, Miss. River Delta Ecology
- CRJ C275, Deviant Behavior
- CRJU C250, Juvenile Delinquency
- ENGL A351, Louisiana Literature
- ENGL A466, Southern Women Writers
- HIST A240, History of New Orleans
- HIST A245, Louisiana History
- HIST A336, History of the Old South
- HIST A337, The New South
- HIST A338, Civil War and Reconstruction
- SOCI A242, Sociology of Mardi Gras
- SOCI X312, African Diaspora Community and Culture
- MUGN V246, History of New Orleans Music
- THEA V243, Black Theatre: 1940-Pres

In all, we offered 13 courses with an enrollment of about 380 students.

We had only two declared minors, which tells us that we need to examine the marketing of the program. This was one reason we spent money developing a new brochure advertising the minor. We need to look at what else might attract more minors.

6.0 Summary of Achievements

Summary of Achievements of New Orleans Studies Faculty:

- John Biguenet received the top literary award in the state—the Louisiana Writer award. His play, Mold, also premiered this year.
- Biguenet and Justin Nystrom were named “People to Watch” in New Orleans Magazine. The annual survey of new notable figures in New Orleans was featured in the September issue of the magazine.
- David W. Moore received The Rev. James J. Pillar, O.M.I., Distinguished Professorship in History
- Mark Fernandez received a 2012 Woody Guthrie fellowship. The fellowship supports projects that examine Guthrie in an American historical and cultural context, as well as projects that explore Guthrie's life and work in a global context. Fernandez was also named a Louisiana Historical Association (LHA) fellow. The LHA recognizes the outstanding accomplishments of members and others by creating “Fellows of the Association.”

New Orleans Studies Supporting Documents

NOST-course-evaluation-2012-2013.doc