

Media Release

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September 1, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **2006 CREOLE HERITAGE CELEBRATION AND EXPOSITION**

October 12-13, 2006 Natchitoches, Louisiana

(Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA) The 13<sup>th</sup> annual Creole Heritage Celebration, sponsored by NSU Creole Heritage Center of Northwestern State University will be held in the Events Center on Second Street Natchitoches, Louisiana October 12-13, 2006. It will include a Louisiana Vendor Fair, varied informative workshops, exhibits, special guests and program presentations, musical enjoyment, an array of Creole foods, the ultimate Creole Heritage Celebration sale and lots more.

The Vendor Fair will be on Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> and is free and open to the public. Louisiana products and vendors will be on hand with crafts, services, art works, jewelry, books, and reference materials. The NSU Creole Heritage Center will have a multitude of Creole Heritage Memorabilia for sale, including the long awaited prints from the Gilbert Fletcher Creole Legacy Art Series. Another featured item will be the 2006 Commemorative T-shirt that contains over 800 Creole family names.

Workshops will cover such topics as the 1910 Indian Enumeration Census project, a *Creole Conversation* presented by various Creole speakers; the history and demonstration of Tignon Tying; a 1970's video look at the St. Augustine Church Fair; the Mini-grant workshop, the 2006 Annual Creole Heritage CD containing over 1,500 pages of data, *Creole Lessons*, a children's workshop, a report on Natchitoches-New Orleans family connections, a discussion on "Treasures in the French Archives" by a French professional researcher and genealogist, and the national Creole Family History & Genealogical Database.

The Full Registration packet covers admission to all workshops, evening events, banquet meal and Zydeco dance. A one-day registration option is also available. A brochure mailer containing a detailed schedule will be mailed to all address listings in the Center's registry. Additional information and online registration is available at [www.nsula.edu/creole](http://www.nsula.edu/creole) or by calling the Center at 318-357-6685.

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Monday, September 04, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**Creole Event to Provide Work-at-Home Seminar**  
California Company Recruits Workers

A seminar aimed at recruiting at-home workers, from across the nation, will be available at the October Creole Heritage Celebration in Natchitoches, Louisiana. Huntington Court Reporters & Transcription, Inc., a California based company, will present this seminar. The company provides transcription services for law enforcement and legal industries. The seminar will provide an overview of the company, the required qualifications, certification guidelines, equipment requirements and salary ranges. Admission is opened to all paid (full or partial) registrants of the Creole event and will take place on Friday, October 13, 2006 at the Natchitoches Events Center.

All participants of the seminar will be afforded an opportunity to meet the company representative, Ann Bonnette-Smith, and receive an informational packet about this work at home prospect. Two sessions are planned and will be held at 9:30 am and 2:00 pm in the Events Center boardroom. Seating will be limited and provided on a first come, first served basis. Overflow attendees for the morning session will receive priority admission to the afternoon session.

Registration information for the Creole Heritage Celebration is available at [www.nsula.edu/creole](http://www.nsula.edu/creole) or by calling the NSU Creole Heritage Center at 318/357-6685. Call 1-800-259-1714 for local area information and directions.

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Monday, September 04, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

### **Mississippi Artist and Researcher at Creole Celebration**

Lori K. Gordon, nationally known for her “Katrina Collection” will be on hand during the Louisiana Vendor’s Fair scheduled as a part of the Creole Heritage Celebration. Gordon will not only be providing various pieces of her art but will also present a session entitled “*A Creole Legacy, The Labat Project*”. The Vendor’s Fair will open at 9:00 am on Thursday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at the Natchitoches Events Center. This part of the Celebration activities is free and opened to the public.

Gordon’s Katrina Collection is about the creation of something new from the wreckage of the past. She used fragments of old paintings, keys to her home, clocks, which stopped when the storm reached Clermont Harbor, and many other pieces of rubble to represent this journey and resulting series of her works. Knowledge of this series is spreading across the nation and has resulted in a wide host of media coverage for Ms. Gordon. This has ranged from a recent interview for the CBS Evening News, which is due to air soon, an online Associated Press story, and two separate interviews with the National Public Radio program. She has also just returned from a trip to Minneapolis for the premiere screening of a documentary by Watts Up Productions. "The Art of the Storm" follows the journey of several Gulf Coast artists in their efforts to recover from the storm.

In addition to her skills as an artist, Gordon will talk about another project, which is very dear to her heart. *A Creole Legacy, The Labat Project* is a report of personal interviews with Ms. Celestine Labat, who died three years ago at the age of 104, and was from an established Creole family in Bay St. Louis. Growing up during the time when women were not allowed the right to vote, Celestine expanded her horizons to get an advanced education, attaining both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree. Her presentation will cover the highlights discovered during the many interviews conducted by Ms. Gordon. This presentation will be a part of the scheduled program for the Creole Heritage Celebration registrants.

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### **Widow Paris Spirit to Visit Creole Celebration**

Marie Laveaux nee *The Widow Paris* has consented to join the Thursday night reception at the Creole Heritage Celebration. The mythical, romantic Creole figure whose origins of lore began in New Orleans and spread to Cane River, through the Glapion surname will be on hand to help demystify the many legends attributed to her. If asked, the Widow will provide clarification of the numerous Maries' including her half sister, Marie Laveaux as well as her stepmother Marie Laveaux and paternal grandmother Marie Laveaux. The reception is scheduled to begin at 6:30 pm, October 12<sup>th</sup> at the Natchitoches Events Center and is opened to all paid registrants.

This appearance by the Widow Paris has been arranged by Barbara Trevigne, who will be providing additional sessions on the history of the *Tignon and Women of Color in Old New Orleans* and *The Natchitoches-New Orleans Creole Family Connections*. These sessions will take place on both days of the scheduled Creole Celebration.

Trevigne is a native New Orleanian and biographer of the Widow Paris. She matriculated at Tulane University, earning a Masters+30 in Clinical Social Work. Barbara is a visual artist, Masters plus cultural historian, lecturer and thespian. In 1998, she was commissioned to design a Christmas ornament for the White House Christmas Tree, under the administration of President William Clinton. Barbara is a published writer and is often quoted for her expertise, regarding Creole culture, especially the dress of Free Women of Color.

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### **French Genealogist to Present at Creole Heritage Celebration**

Eric Bourgoin of Les Bordes France will present a session entitled “Genealogy Treasures in the French Archives” at this year’s Creole Heritage Celebration. The session is scheduled to take place as a part of the Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> program at the Natchitoches Events Center.

Bourgoin is a full time, independent professional genealogist and family historian. He has worked in archives throughout France, especially in the provinces of Burgundy, Champagne and Lorraine and is experienced at using a wide range of documentary resources to locate genealogical and historical information. From 2002 to 2005, he carried out four research missions in France about the founders and ancestries of two of the most prominent families of Natchitoches and Cane River: the Metoyers (Reims, La Rochelle, Château-Porcien) and the Prudhommes (Romans). A special area of expertise is the study and interpretation of ancient writings as far back as the 16th century, which allows him to provide clients with a more in-depth understanding of the social, economic, and cultural circumstances of their ancestors.

His recent visit to Louisiana and the Creole Heritage Center provided him with a understanding of “both that the Creole people have a deep craving for a better knowledge of their history and that a huge part of this knowledge in Louisiana is still not fully available because of the language barrier”. Bourgoin further stated that he “would really be happy to help unlock the barrier, both as a Frenchman and as a genealogist and historian. On the French side of the ocean, there is a lot to do as well. One cannot imagine the treasures hidden in the French archives for those who are eager to know more about their family history.” This will be the basis of his presentation in October.

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