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Beat

In celebration of Women's History Month, U.S. Army Col. Jeanne Picariello Murphy was the featured speaker at the annual Bonnie Bourg Lecture Series and the Women's History Luncheon and Award Presentation.

The Bonnie Bourg Lecture Series highlights inspirational female students and professionals who have been successful in their careers and achievements. The Women's History Luncheon and Award Presentation honored the Woman of Achievement Award recipients. This year the theme of Women's History Month is "Celebrating Women of Character, Courage and Commitment." Dr. Michele Caruso, Dean of Student Affairs and a member of the Bonnie Bourg Lecture Series committee said that when choosing a speaker for these two events the team searches for women who exemplify traits that are consistent with the theme. Mrs. Murphy "is like the epitome of character, courage and commitment," according to Caruso. "We didn't have to look further than our backyard" for the speaker of the lecture and luncheon.

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Jeanne Murphy

Murphy was a college athlete and served 10 years as a U.S. Army nurse. She was also chief of health promotion for the U.S. Southern Command in Panama, fronted army health, wellness and support programs and worked with combat troops during and after the Gulf War. More recently she assisted the Red Cross in Mississippi during Hurricane Katrina, and acted as the Chef Admission of the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens, Greece. Murphy's lecture was titled 'When a Door Opens.' She attributed her success that led her to where she is today to the accumulation of places and positions she's held over the years, "When there was an open door I took it." The possibilities and opportunities available to those who work hard, stick with it, and try new things was the value Murphy said she wanted to convey through her lecture.

Murphy said she hoped that some of her experiences would help inspire people to get excited about getting out and seeing things in the world. Being a part of larger programs and then bringing those skills back to Thibodaux and Nicholls, "I think we can just keep living, growing and improving with that kind of attitude." Murphy encouraged students to enter any door that is opened and explore it because there may be a lot more opportunities out there than what are perceived. Murphy said she enjoyed the luncheon, but "the student one was better."

The Women of Achievement Awards presented at the luncheon were given to one student and one faculty/staff member from Nicholls who have been successful in achieving great things in their education and career. The nominations for the awards were based on females who are consistent with this year's theme, add value to the historical legacy of women, achievements that add to future opportunities for other women, contributed to the advancement of her field of study/research/career/volunteer/interest etc., and serve as a healthy role model for other women. Karen Chauvin, Director of the Louisiana Center for Dyslexia and Related Learning Disorders, was presented with the Nicholls faculty/staff Woman of Achievement Award. Chauvin said she was extremely honored by this completely unexpected award. Melissa Cloutet, a senior in the College of Business, received the Nicholls student Woman of Achievement Award. Cloutet said that anything that she does is out of her love for Nicholls, not so much for acknowledgement, "but it was nice to be publicly recognized for all my hard work at NSU."

Caruso said the luncheon was geared towards faculty and staff, although students are invited, to serve as motivation and inspiration for what can be achieved. The purpose of the Bonnie Bourg Lecture is to "encourage students with words of wisdom, life-skill knowledge, challenge students to think of what they are capable of and to pursue their potential." Both the Bonnie Bourg Lecture Series and Women's History Luncheon and Award Presentation are two events that are part of the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Jubilee: A Festival of the Arts and Humanities. The Department of Student

Affairs was directly responsible for the luncheon. The Bonnie Bourg Lecture Series committee, along with the Department of Student Affairs, collaborated together to put on the Bonnie Bourg Lecture held yesterday.