August 2020

holk wor

The Return to Campus

Mask Up Colonels-

Keeping Diversity

Getting Involved

Photo of Dr. Clune and Boots Clune In Publication Since 1949



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear students.

The past few months have been very uncertain to us all. Whether you are an incoming freshman or a returning student, I am sure COVID-19 got in the way of some of your plans, one way or another.

For someone who loves being on Nicholls State University's campus so much, it saddens me that last semester we all had to transition to online classes, and for some us, we had to move back home, which might have been hours away from our friends.

As we enter the fall semester, we students still do not know what to expect from the COVID-19 and how the whole semester will work out. No one could have predicted we would be in this situation for such a long time.

However, we have to look ahead and hope that there are better days to come. As of now, the university plans to have students return to campus. It is our job as student journalists to bring you hard-hitting news stories to keep you informed of what is happening on our campus.

With that being said, my goal as the new Editor-in-Chief of the Nicholls Worth will be to continue to put out investigative content and begin new multimedia content such as podcasts and social media videos for you all to enjoy.

Even though I am fairly new to this position as the Editor-in-Chief, I have no doubts that our new staff writers and myself will do everything we can to put these ideas before anything.

My biggest hopes are not just for the Nicholls Worth, but for the Colonel Media Group as a whole, to make student media a place where you can find campus news, sports and entertainment stories as easy and as quick as possible.

So much has happened this past summer and that is why in this magazine, we have prepared stories on the plans for the fall semester, student involvement and the university's diversity plan, along with an updated campus map.

No matter what happens, I am sure the fall semester of 2020 will be busy for us all. Therefore, I can assure you that the Nicholls Worth will be there writing stories for all students, faculty and staff to read.

Jade Williams



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Looking forward at NW: The Magazine and a great fall semester Written By: Jade Williams

THE RETURN TO CAMPUS

New guidelines to follow for the fall semester due to COVID-19 Written By: Jade Williams

HOW TO MAKE A MASK

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Find out how Nicholls plans to continue to keep diversity on campus Written By: Jillian Landry

GETTING INVOLVED

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2020'S HOT HITS

Popular tiktok challenges with their songs and artist Written By: Jade Williams

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It wasn't until March 18, 2020, that an email was sent out from Nicholls State University stating that classes would b online for the rest of the spring 2020 semester.

Many students moved home, and very few people remained on campus. Then, summer came, and as the state began moving into phase two, students started returning to campus little by little.

The fall semester is quickly approaching, and when it is here, students will notice that many things have changed, and they will probably have concerns as to what the "new normal" is.

On July 10, University President Jay Clune sent out an ema stating his fall plans and what students can expect upon their return to campus. Clune said many people have expressed concerns with the semester and have asked "Why not keep it virtual?" or if they will know when to report to class.

Before announcing the fall plans, Clune said they looked a surveys that were sent out to students regarding whether of not they wanted to return to campus for classes this upcor ing semester.



RETURNS 4 M P I J S

WRITTEN BY JADE WILLIAMS I GRAPHICS BY ADDIE WETZEL

e ed	"We try to look at the data, and we look at the restrictions that the state puts on us. So, we went virtual in the spring semester when state restrictions required us to. Now, state restrictions allow us to be on campus," Clune said.
-	Clune said the surveys indicated that students wanted to come back to campus. Clune said he and the other members from the administration put together a plan to welcome back students with health and safety guidelines to follow.
il	Public Safety Director Brian Clausen said all classrooms will be kept at a socially-distanced standard. He said everything like tables, desks and chairs will be six feet apart. Health check-ins and questionnaires will be continued throughout the semester.
	Students will have to report to a check-in on campus for a quick temperature check before reporting to class just like the university had in the summer.
it or n-	All students will have to wear a mask if they report to cam- pus to protect themselves and others.
	Clausen stressed the importance of wearing a mask and said the university looks at the risks to try and find the best ways possible to lower those risks of people getting infected.



"YOU'RE GOING TO SEE SOME VERY FLEXIBLE COURSES, WHERE SOME STUDENTS ARE IN THE CLASSROOM, OTHER STUDENTS WATCHING A STREAMED VIDEO, PERHAPS A RECORDING VIDEO OR SOME OTHER ALTERNATIVE ASSIGNMENT TO KEEP DENSITY RATES DOWN IN THE CLASSROOM," **DR. JAY CLUNE**



He said wearing a mask is one way to lower the chances of people getting sick.

"If you have a person who is possibly infected with COVID-19 or a carrier, and is not wearing a mask, the distance, the number one way to transmit is air droplets. This occurs when a person forcefully coughs or sneezes, and this can fly several feet," Clausen said.

Clausen said it can also be transmitted when a person comes into contact with another person's breathing zone.

"So, by putting a face mask on the employee or the person who is infected, as well as the one who is not, then you capture those air droplets within that face mask and it does not travel the distance that it would if you didn't have it," Clausen said.

Clausan said if healthy people are all wearing a mask, then we are protecting each other. He said when the economy opened back up after phase one, numbers in cases started to increase because people were not wearing masks.

Clausen said that is why it is so important to wear masks because the number one way of getting infected is through community spread.

Clune said, from his personal experience, he knows just how important it is to wear a mask. On July 14, Clune sent out another email that stated he and his family had tested positive for COVID-19.

"When we were informed that we were positive with COVID-19, we were pretty sure, 99.9%, we got it from our daughter, but I always felt safe on campus. When I talked to Mr. Clausen about who I had been in contact with, whether or not we were wearing masks, whether or not we were social distancing, we quickly eliminated any need for my

colleagues to quarantine because we had been in a safe distance wearing masks and practicing best practices and relatively short interactions with one another," Clune said.

Clune said it was because of his mask that he didn't infect the nine other people he works with daily.

Clausen said along with having to wear masks, they have purchased plexiglass/fogging units to protect speakers and professors so they can teach accordingly.

Clausen also said they will continue to meet the 50 percent fire marshal requirements for classrooms because they can only fit so many due to social distancing.

As far as classes are concerned, the email sent out on July 10 stated that the university has trained over 200 faculty members for the HyFlex program through virtual workshops. This is the program that will take place throughout the fall semester.

Director of Communications Jerad David said the HyFlex program is a "type of hybrid," where the faculty members are going to decide which students will come to class and which students will have a class online.

David said choosing students for online or to come to campus in-person will be completely up to the faculty members. If students are online, the lecture will be on Zoom or Google Meets and will happen at the same time as the in-class lecture.

"You're going to see some very flexible courses, where some students are in the classroom, other students watching a streamed video, perhaps a recording video or some other alternative assignment to keep density rates down in the classroom," Clune said.

Clausen and Clune said they have been trying to stay ahead

of the game and that disinfecting and constant cleaning of Braud said the total cost of North Babington is about classrooms will be consistent throughout the semester. Clau-\$525,000. He said \$400,000 will be covered by a grant from an industry partner that he couldn't name publicly just yet. sen said they will continue to keep people informed with the Nicholls website, sharing graphics and sending out emails to The remaining balance will be coming out of a plant fund students. used for building improvements. Clune said the reason they went to the HyFlex program was When the renovations are done with North Babington, that it is flexible with time and will allow some students to Braud said about 32 rooms will be available for students to be on campus for a college experience. live in. "If students want to be here and they pay their residence hall Braud said North Babington has been closed for about ten deposits and they pay their food bill, then we have to offer years. He said occasionally a coach or someone might have them the experience they signed up for with all the safety been able to stay there, but for the most part, the rooms have measures in place to make sure we are not knowingly transnot been avaliable. mitting the COVID-19 disease," Clune said. North and South Babington are separated. South Babington Clausen said they will also have residential life procedures is partnered with the South Louisiana Economic Council. in case they need to guarantine students. He said they will Braud said the renovation plan here will open up about 36 utilize the medical providers within the community to more rooms. provide the tests and they will rely on the Office of Public The renovations in South Babington will be much of the Health for contact tracing. same and will also be on the second and third floors. Braud said in total, the renovations should come out to about Clausen said the main reason they are relying on this is so the university will know how to refer someone who might \$550.000 or \$570.000. need to get tested. "Actually, on South Babington, what we are talking about doing is some of the COVID-19 guidance that we've been "If a student is here, we will take our procedures to protect the other students while maintaining the infected students keeping track of, some of that guidance tells us that unihealth and wellbeing," Clausen said. versities should have a designated isolation space available to students for on-campus residents who may not have the

Clausen also said that food and shelter will be provided.

"We had increased enrollment in the summer and the fall semester. What we expected to see is what we call a melt in Braud said with South Babington, they will more than likely the area of students wanting to live on campus," Clune said dedicate an entire floor to take care of the isolation needs "In fact, many universities anticipated there being that melt during the summer and fewer students choosing to live on an increase in numbers on campus. campus. What many universities, including Nicholls, have discovered is that there is a greater demand to live on cam-"We are going to have a few cases spread out, as Dr. Clune is pus than ever before." aware of, but I don't see that big community spread within

Clune said because of more people wanting to live on campus, they are opening up North and South Babington to single occupancy.

The Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program is partnered with North Babington.

Vice President for Finance and Administration Terry Braud said the first floor will continue to be a part of BTNEP, but the second and third floors will be renovated for student housing.

Braud said they are replacing floors, getting new air conditioners and new paint. He said they are also replacing the bathrooms.

resources or the ability to leave campus quickly if they test positive," Braud said.

- towards those students, especially if those cases start to have
- Nicholls or coming from Nicholls, so that tells us we are doing the right things," Clausen said.
- Clausen and Clune said campus events might also look a little different when returning to campus.

"Everything is going to be a little different. We are limited with campus events to 50 people," Clune said.

Clune said that made them rethink campus events, especially when it comes to sorority and fraternity recruitment. He said they went through and thought of organizations that could have virtual meetings to reduce physical contact.

"We had originally thought, for example, that large extracurricular organiza-





"EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE A LITTLE DIFFERENT. WE ARE LIMITED WITH **CAMPUS EVENTS TO 50** PEOPLE,"

- DR. JAY CLUNE

tions could perhaps meet in Shaver Gymnasium at night, you know, large sororities and things of that sort. The more recent guidelines have limited us to smaller groups and it's a fluid situation," Clune said.

Clausen said the university is working hard and is keeping up with what the state governor mandates. He said they have to define what social events are and how many people can attend in the future.

Clausen said keeping up with the mandates is important because many other things will change in the future and unfortunately, wearing a mask and social distancing is going to be the new normal.

"We are trying to do everything we can to keep all of our students enrolled and engaged on the path to graduation, to keep all of our outstanding faculty and staff employed until we get to a vaccine. We can't do this forever," Clune said.







We are no stranger to the phrase "broke, starving college students." We have so many things to worry about financially like textbooks, phone bills, laptops and so much more. Buying extra things can sometimes be hard to fit in the budget.

One of the newest and biggest necessities in life right now is wearing a face mask. Wearing a face mask with COVID-19 still going around is highly important for your protection and protection of others.

However, one thing I have come to notice is that a good reusable/washable face mask is hard to find at a decent cost. Some of them, not all, are 10 to 15 dollars apiece. If you order one online, shipping is added to that.

For a college student, that can be a lot of money when that amount can be spent on other things.

So I have decided to write a few steps so that one can make Nothing should be taken for granted. their face mask at home with hardly any money being spent I am sure we all want some type of "normalcy" to return So try out making your mask from home using an old T-shirt or any fabric you may have. It will save you time and money to the world, however, wearing a mask and staying six feet apart is going to be the new normal for a while. without having to physically go out and buy one.

I want to return to campus, I want to be back with my friends and I want to be in classes learning to the best of my ability, as I am sure many others do. In order for this to hap-

MASK UP, COLONELS! WRITTEN BY JADE WILLIAMS I GRAPHICS BY ADDIE WETZEL

pen, we all have to put in the effort of protecting ourselves.

After last semester, I didn't realize how much of that I took for granted. My friends would ask me to go to places or study with them and I would say no. Sometimes because I didn't want to and sometimes because I really didn't have the time.

Then guarantine came and nobody was allowed to leave their houses, go places with their friends or even return to school for everyday classes. Some of us had to move out of our apartments, some of us had graduation plans ruined and for some of us, our whole lifestyle changed.

Now that we plan to return to campus, following the health guidelines that the university is setting is more important than ever. If wearing a face mask and staying six feet apart means I get to be with my friends and classmates, I'll do it.

Save your money and spend it with your friends instead.

MATERIALS:

SCISSORS

T-SHIRT or any fabric

A RULER

STEP 8:

SAVE MONEY, TIE IT UP AND BE SAFE! TIME TO MASK UP COLONELS!

STEP 1 & 2: LAYOUT & CUT ACROSS

STEP 3-7:

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KEEPING DIVERSIGN

"WE NEED THOSE OF HIGHER POWER TO REALLY USE THEIR POWER TO CREATE A BETTER ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDENTS OF MINORITY AND REALLY ALL STUDENTS ON CAMPUS," FREEMON SAID.

WRITTEN BY JILLIAN LANDRY I GRAPHICS BY ADDIE WETZEL

Changes have been made this summer, like the beginning of the street and building name changes, as well as a new Student Government Association council, to better help represent the diverse population of Nicholls State University.

Prior to this summer's changes, the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force was already established. In April of 2018, University President Jay Clune established the task force, which continued to meet over the course of a year to lay the foundation of diversity and inclusion.

"One of those things was looking at a diversity and inclusion survey that went out early 2019, and those results were released in April 2019. So, now that I have been appointed the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, the task force will start reconvening this fall to look at matters in a holistic manner related to diversity and inclusion around campus and we will continue to move forward to make progress there," Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer Steven Kenney said.

The task force has four components that include representation from different groups. Those groups include faculty, staff, students, alumni and community.

Kenney said the task force was created to ensure the voices that needed to be heard were there with different perspectives coming from the four groups. He said the representatives on the council went to their constituents and asked them what they wanted to see changed on campus. Kenney said he wanted to stress that even though the task force is only 40 people, it is getting feedback and perspectives from everyone to make sure people have an opportunity to be heard.

Kenney said the task force is still moving forward with some of the initiatives started with the spring 2019 survey.

Kenney said the task force is looking to come up with a space where faculty, staff, students, alumni and community can have conversations about what needs to happen on campus.

In June, SGA held a special meeting to discuss the creation of its Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council. SGA President Ethan Naquin said the council was a part of his campaign, but was created sooner because of the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery.

"The council was originally part of what I wanted to create as president with my campaign platform when I first had decided to run. So, I really wanted to create just a broader sense of you know like the name says here, diversity, equity and inclusion on campus, as well as bring attention to other campus minorities that are on campus that you know aren't regularly always included in campus discussions," Naquin said.

The council is made up of the presidents of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Colonels

Retention of Winners Network, Black Women's Leadership Association, Black Student Union, National Pan-Hellenic Council, Gay-Straight Alliance and Nicholls International Community. Naquin, Kenney, the Student Programming Association President and the SGA Director of Student Rights and Grievances will also sit on the council.

Naquin said the council is aiming to have its first meeting before the fall semester begins to address the concerns the council has. Naquin said with the campus digital divide it is important to make sure that students have equal access and opportunity for their education. He said at the first meeting, the council will discuss its vision and focus for the fall semester.

"So, of course, a whole bunch of things we are going to have to go through especially you know with updating everyone with the racial equality on campus you know what we are doing with making sure we're fostering, first and foremost, an inclusive environment on campus and second of all, of course, you know with COVID and everything, making sure that everyone's reaching their fullest potential and everyone's going to have access to what they need to succeed whether or not they are online or in-person," Naquin said.

Naquin said the council will be working collaboratively with the administration to ensure that the vision and goals of the council are realized, expressed and met. He said the direction of the council will be determined at the first meeting.



- "Our council aims to take what is directly affecting students, and taking these student's concerns from you know all these organizations from what they are hearing to be able to work with Mr. Steven Kenney, who is our Diversity and Inclusion Officer, and work with him as a liaison for the task force on the university level to make sure that we are vetting all these student concerns, making sure that administration is hearing them," Naquin said.
- is Naquin said he is also working to help make sure Gay Straight Alliance is getting reformed on campus. He said
 SGA is working on developing a multicultural center in the
 Bayou Suites. He also said this center will also house the
 LGBTQ center.
- NAACP President Cydnee Mills said she thinks both the task
 force and council can help people of color on campus to
 speak on the concerns they have and allow them to have a
 voice on campus.
- e National Pan-Hellenic Council and Black Student Union President Kayla Freemon said both the taskforce and council will help students who may be at a disadvantage compared to someone else.
- "It'll help resolve issues that normally wouldn't get resolved because it would normally be put on the back burner as not being as important, but because they created this, I feel like those situations, the board will help resolve those situations

and get actual help for students who need it," Freemon said.

Freemon said she and other students have been speaking with the university about different issues that the black organizations have. She said they are trying to resolve these things that should have been resolved a long time ago.

Freemon said the issues the students have are the lack of equality and recognition for black organizations, lack of support from the university, diversity issues in SGA and SPA, as well as, financial resources for their organizations.

"Really, right now we are at the point of fighting for equality and you know things of that sort for everybody, not even just BSU and NPHC. It's all about speaking out and having our voices heard and having people seriously understand what needs to be handled," Freemon said.

Freemon said she believes that the university needs to tend to the issues that the organizations bring to them and to listen to the solutions that they suggest. She said they need to make sure everywhere on campus is a safe place for every student rather than trying to create one place or scenario.

"We need those of higher power to really use their power to create a better environment for students of minority and really all students on campus," Freemon said.

Mills said these conversations start with the willingness of everyone that is involved.

"I think that starts with the willingness of everyone on the council, even us, to have open and sometimes uncomfortable conversations about, you know, what we might face on campus or changes, and really just get an understanding of what it's like to be a black or international student on campus," Mills said.

Freemon said the biggest challenge will be time. She said these changes aren't something that will happen overnight

and that the changes they are fighting for are for those that will come after them.

"I would hope that things would speed up. I would hope things would get handled right then and there so that we can really just move forward and thrive as a university, but time is not really on our side because you know there are so many things going on and there's so many opinions," Freemon said.

Freemon said with everything going on with COVID-19, things are being put on the back burner. She said with that happening it will slow down the process of what they are trying to do.

Freemon said with campus shut down last semester, it messed up the organization's membership. She said with having half the student body on campus, BSU and NPHC hope to keep membership up and gain more members.

Freemon said it will be hard to gain membership and keep it up while also having to social distance themselves from one another.

"Trying to get students involved through social media is our best bet right now, trying to make things easier because students tend to like things that are at their fingertips, rather they have to do something more physical, so we're basically trying to create ways that we can still interact with them and not make it seem like it is so difficult just to make an interaction," Freemon said.

Mills said COVID-19 affected the NAACP because they had events planned to engage more students and once the pandemic began, everything was put to a pause.

"That's less engagement that we have with you know people we can get in touch with or help realize that there's more to do on campus, so that definitely affected it but now that we sort of know what's going on, that's really helpful for us when we are planning the semester and planning ways to

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JUST TO MAKE AN INTERACTION," FREEMON SAID.

get students involved," Mills said.

Mills said this year is the 11th NAACP annual homecoming fashion show, and they are looking at planning their event socially distant. She said they will be doing what they can online to make sure everyone is safe.

In June, it was decided that the street names, as well as the names of Beauregard and Polk Hall, would be changed. Kenney said the only thing that has happened so far regarding the name changes, is that the signage was taken down. He said there will be a group put together in late August, early September to begin looking at possible name changes.

Mills said she thinks the building name changes were a great start and that she is hoping that the group that picks new names will consider some people of color as options.

"I know we have one building, and that is the alumni house that's named after a prominent black person in the community, so I was hoping that whenever the building names are considered they'll consider some people of color to rename the buildings after," Mills said.





Nicholls Map Key assrooms Residence Halls ining Sports Complex arking Various

GETTING IVFN/ WRITTEN BY ALYSSA HENDERSON I GRAPHICS BY ADDIE WETZEL

Nicholls State University is more than just a place to attend classes and hang out in the quad.

There are various ways for students to become more involved on campus, like joining many clubs and organizations.

Greek life is one way students can get involved. You can find your brothers or sisters by joining a fraternity or sorority on campus.

There are four sororities at Nicholls which include Phi Mu, Delta Zeta, Sigma Sigma Sigma, and Gamma Phi Beta. There are also four fraternities which are Kappa Alpha Order, Kappa Sigma, Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Tau Kappa Epsilon. Nicholls has three National Pan-Hellenic Council chapters which are Omega Psi Phi, Sigma Gamma Rho and Alpha Phi Alpha.

You can become a member of one of these chapters by attending Rush Week. This year, Rush was different from previous years due to Covid-19. Rush typically happens right before the fall semester starts, so if you didn't rush and want to join, talk to some members in Greek life about a future snap bid.

Another way students can be more involved on campus is by getting a campus job. Student employment is an easy way students can be more active on campus and receive a paycheck. Student jobs are everywhere. You can work at the library, the recreation center, in housing, health check-ins and many more places.

Student jobs can found on the website, social media and simply by asking around and filling out applications. You can also talk to student employment about potential jobs.

More student involvement can be sought out through different organizations at Nicholls. One organization is the Student Government Association. SGA is the organization where students' voices are heard. SGA also hands out T-shirts and they pass motions that are brought up by the senate to help improve the quality of campus life.

There is also the Student Programming Association and C entation Team on campus for students to be more involved SPA is responsible for student entertainment. They plan an host events like the famous Crawfish day, homecoming we activities and the Mardi Gras breakfast and dance.

The Orientation Team is the group of individuals that welcome in the next generation of the Nicholls family. They as responsible for providing and leading tours for prospectiv and incoming students. They are the ones who provide answers to eager questions and give an insight to student life at Nicholls.

Students can also become more involved by becoming a member of one or more of the clubs that Nicholls has to offer. Some clubs available on campus are Biology Society, Nicholls Allied Health Club, Nicholls Education of Teachers, Math Club, Psychology Club, Public Relations Student Society of America, Student Media and Sociology Club. These are just a few of the many clubs that Nicholls has.

Another productive way students can be more involved on campus is by utilizing the resources of the recreation center. The Recreation Center offers group class workouts, two full basketball courts, a cardio room and a strength room.

This fall, social distancing guidelines will be followed at the rec. The guidelines include wearing a face mask to enter the building and they will have hand sanitation stations throughout the building and a health screening.





Ori-	Becoming more involved on campus has its benefits.
ed. Ind	Students have more opportunities to meet other students.
reek I- are ve	These connections can help with studying, networking for the future and create lifelong friendships. Being a more active student gives you an overall better experience and creates more memories of your college years at Nicholls State University.
ı- Îe	See the list of some of the many other organizations Nicholls has to offer.
	For more academic organizations, visit the Nicholls website for more information.
Ι.	



2020'S HOT HITS

WATERMEL-**ON SUGAR By: Harry Styles**

Not only were the lyrics to this song everyone's Instagram caption, but this song blew up on TikTok when a dog was featured putting his face through a watermelon. Everyone loves dogs, so it



2

HEARTLESS

By: Diplo, ft. Mor-

gan Wallen

This popular song became a

famous challenge to TikTok this

summer. The challenge involves

mothers putting their babies in

cute outfits every day of the week.



Everyone loves a good dance challenge. The Blinding Lights dance challenge brought many families together throughout quarantine. Now the song plays almost every day on the radio and you can't help but dance to it.









PLAY

THE

TUNES

5

Hood Baby

By: KBFR

This song on TikTok is also a chalenge. This challenge is usually done by a family of three to four standing in a straight line and taking turns looking at a camera. Sometimes people bring in their dog to do the challenge, which makes it even more popular.

ROCKSTAR

By: DaBaby, ft. **Roddy Ricch**

This song is everything on TikTok. While it is a dance challenge, the song became highly popular and began to be used for just about every random TikTok. Nine out of ten times, you log on the app, you are guaranteed to hear this song.

NW 21

DON'T FORGET **TO GRAB YOUR** VEARBOO COPY OF THE

IN RETROSPECT

VOLUME 72 Coming Soon



NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITI THIBODAUX, LOUISIANA

A PIROGUE

2020

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