



*An Open Letter from Janet Ravare Colson about her retirement & other things*

To those who have not heard yet, I will be retiring from the Creole Heritage Center effective December 31, 2011. Although I will be retiring, I will continue to support and work with the Center. My main objectives will be to work toward providing an online archive of the information gathered over the past 20 plus years; help with coordination of the “Creole in Vegas” event and other fundraising activities as well as assisting in any future transition the Center may have to put in place.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask for your continued support in helping to keep the doors open at the Center. Ways you can help are:

- Join the Center’s **monthly pledge program** – see <http://creole.homestead.com/2011Event/The-Future.html> for information, access to sign-up online or download the application to submit by mail. You can also call the Center at 318-357-6685 to have a form mailed to you.
- Become a part of **THE Creole Book** by purchasing an ad or Tribute/Memorial entry. Detail information about the book and application form for ads will be posted in January. Following is a brief description of the book:

“This publication traces the history, accomplishments and milestones of the Creole Center located at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. This book represents an account of the only Center of its kind in America and beyond. It begins when the word “Creole” was hardly spoken or acknowledged by thousands who can now openly embrace it as a part of their culture and history. This book will show the national impact the Center has made in fulfillment of its mission and why it is now known as the official National Creole Voice. The planned 150-200 page book will include a textural and pictorial overview of the Creole Center goals and achievements”. Current plans call for this book to be available for release and purchase at the *Creole in Vegas* event next May.

- Attend the “**Creole in Vegas**” event next May, 2012. Detail information is located at <http://creole.homestead.com/Vegas/Creole-Vegas-Home.html>. We also have a Facebook group page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/creoleinvegas/>. Join this group to keep up with the latest updates re this major event. **DISCOUNT REGISTRATION ENDS FEBRUARY 1, 2012!!**
- Support the Center’s staff and hard working volunteers, especially Sheila Richmond, Loletta Wynder, Markita Hamilton and Tracey Colson.

I would especially like to thank all those who have supported my term as Director of the Creole Center over the years. It has definitely been a very rocky ride with many ups and downs, but it has definitely been worth it. As those who know me, I live and breathe Creole and will continue to support the Center’s mission to document and promote this unique culture for as long as I can.

Please note that my contact email address ([colsonj@nsula.edu](mailto:colsonj@nsula.edu)) will no longer be active as of December 31<sup>st</sup>. My email address has changed to [creolecenter@gmail.com](mailto:creolecenter@gmail.com). Don't forget, you can always call the Center at 318-357-6685 to get additional information, have registration or pledge forms mailed to you, and offer any assistance you can provide. The Center operates during normal business hours Monday through Friday.

Sincerely, Janet

Don't forget - **DISCOUNT REGISTRATION FOR VEGAS ENDS FEBRUARY 1, 2012!!**

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.

