

*“The only thing we know about the future is that it is going to be different.”*

(Peter F. Drucker, Management Consultant, 1977)

## Introduction

Insight is defined as “the act or result of apprehending the nature of things or of seeing intuitively.” Our College of Business strives to produce graduates who have insight into the future of business locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

For this Forum, we focus on the future through providing a forecast for the nation and examining a special opportunity for future regional development. Two talented speakers have come to tell us of their views for the future of the nation and the region. We follow these future-oriented events by providing a view of the past in hopes of improving our future through acquainting attendees with a new tool to assist in local economic development.

Thank you for joining us in this year’s forum. We hope you will learn significant facts about the world, our nation, our region and our local area.



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## The Forty-First Annual

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# J. Walter Porter *Forum*

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Thursday, October 25, 2007

## *Business “Insights”*

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*Sponsored by the College of Business and made possible by the endowment established by the family and friends of the late J. Walter Porter in recognition of his interest in improving the image of business as a career field for college students and of his concern for moral and ethical standards as expressed in his philosophy of business. The forum is an effort to translate the textbook into practice by bringing capable, successful business executives to the campus to speak on selected topics in their area of expertise.*

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*College of Business  
Northwestern State University  
Natchitoches, Louisiana*

*Schedule of Events*  
**2007 J. Walter Porter Forum**

Russell Hall, Room 107

**8:15 a.m.**

**Dr. Rajeev Dhawan**  
**“The U. S. & International Economies”**

Director  
Economic Forecasting Center  
Georgia State University

**9:30 a.m.**

**Colonel Warren G. Ward**  
**“Cyber Innovation Center  
& Cyber Command”**

Director  
Strategic Plans and Programs, HQ 8th Air Force

**10:45 a.m.**

Networking Break

**11:00 a.m.**

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**Dr. Jerry L. Wall**  
**“Accessing Local Economic Data”**

Dean, College of Business  
Northwestern State University

**12 Noon**

The Natchitoches Room

Luncheon

(Guests, Speakers, Faculty, Dean’s Advisory  
Board Members, and COB Seniors)



Walter Porter  
(1900-1965)

A native of Kaufman County, Texas, Mr. Porter graduated from Texas A&M, class of 1922, and took a Master’s Degree in Civil Engineering at Harvard in 1924. In 1931, he helped organize the Gifford-Hill Pipe Company in Grand Prairie, Texas. Mr. Porter saw the need to sell business to the college and to bridge the gap between the college campus and industry. Mr. Porter felt that many people in the academic, professional, governmental, and even in the business world, fail to understand the workings of the competitive system and the motivation force behind it. He was determined to contribute to a better understanding of that system among his own employees, associates, and where he could, on college campuses. His death came on the eve of a scheduled three-day lecture program at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas. The J. Walter Porter Forum is a continuation of that effort.

This year’s speakers are...

**Dr. Rajeev Dhawan**

Dhawan is Director of the Economic Forecasting Center at Georgia State University where he develops forecasts for the U.S., Southeast regional, and local metro Atlanta economies. He has received several awards for his forecasting accuracy. Dhawan appears regularly in the local and national media, is a popular speaker, regularly briefs the boards of private companies and serves on the Georgia Governor’s Council of Economic Advisors. He holds a bachelors from St. Stephen’s College in India, a masters from the Delhi School of Economics, and a doctorate from the University of California at Los Angeles.

**Col. Warren G. Ward**

Ward is the Director, Strategic Plans and Programs, Headquarters Eighth Air Force, Barksdale AFB. He is responsible for oversight of the organization’s planning, programming, budgeting and execution cycle for cyber programs. He is a command pilot with both combat and combat support hours. He holds a bachelors from Louisiana Tech; a masters from LSU-S; a second masters from the Air Command and Staff College; and is a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College and the Air War College.

**Dr. Jerry L. Wall**

Wall joined the NSU College of Business in July 2007. He received his bachelors from Oklahoma State University; his masters from East Carolina University, and his doctorate from the University of Missouri—Columbia. He most recently directed the Center for Business & Economic Research at the University of Louisiana at Monroe and was a Professor of Management. He served as the President of the Association for University Business & Economic Research, and is on the international Board of the Alliance of Universities for Democracy headquartered in Pecs, Hungary. He is a retired colonel in the U. S. Army and served on the national Board of the Military Officers Association of America.