



Vol. 1

College of Liberal Arts NEWSLETTER

Northeastern State University

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It's So Hard To Say Goodbye

This semester Northeastern will lose a familiar face in the Liberal Arts College office. Zoe Ann Storer, Secretary to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, will be retiring after working for NSU since July 1993.

Although the students, faculty, and staff who interact with Storer will miss her, Storer's husband and family look forward to spending time with her.

"For a while I think I'm going to be on vacation," said Storer.

Storer originally came to Tahlequah from Topeka, Kan. For 40 years Storer worked in banking. She also spent time working for an accounting office. Storer's previous work experiences gave her the organizational skills to keep everything running while meeting important deadlines in the Liberal Arts College office.

"I feel like I've accomplished several goals I wanted to achieve since I've been here," said Storer.

Storer and the rest of her co-workers pride themselves on always trying to make faculty and students feel comfortable to come into the office and ask questions. Storer says she will miss this interaction the most.

"I will miss the faculty and students – the interaction with students, and all the people I work with," said Storer.



Zoe Ann Storer hard at work in the Liberal Arts office at Seminary Hall. Mrs. Storer has been a staple to NSU for many years. Photo by Scott Weatherman.

NSU Professors Receive Grant

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education have given a grant to four NSU professors to host CSI Equine Mystery-Summer Academy. A three year grant for \$39,300 has allowed Dr. Kathi McDowell, associate professor of biology, Dr. Martha Parrott, associate professor of mathematics, Dr. Erik Terdal, associate professor of biology and Dr. Mike Wilds, associate professor of criminal justice and legal studies, to conduct this five-day, hands-on Summer Academy.

Twenty-five students entering ninth, tenth or eleventh grade will complete an application and submit the required materials. Students will explore areas such as mathematics, criminal justice, biology, physics and technology. The week-long study will include forensics, DNA analysis, horse behavior and a crime scene investigation.

Students will investigate the theft of a thoroughbred

story continued on pg 2.

A New Addition To NSU Story on Top 10 List

There is a new addition to the teaching staff at Northeastern. Dr. Gary Dan Davis, assistant professor, started teaching this January in the Department of Social Work. Davis, an NSU graduate, has a passion for the subject he teaches.

"I always felt like my calling was social work," said Davis.

A native of this area, Davis spent many years working as a health care administrator for the Indian Health Service. This job, as well as other jobs he held, required him to live in many different areas of the state. When the opportunity presented itself for Davis to fill the position of assistant professor in the Social Work department, he was

thrilled to return home and get back to his calling...teaching.

"I just love this job. It gives me so much opportunity; the challenge of being around people of ideas, people that challenge you to think," said Davis.



Dr. Gary Dan Davis, Assistant Professor.
Department of Social Work.

Davis brings much enthusiasm to his work, but still enjoys his time off. The history buff spends his free time walking and participating in cultural activities, such as

stomp dances and language classes. As exciting as playing with grandchildren can be, Davis feels that students always keep him on his toes. "It's amazing to see people develop in their lives and their careers," said Davis.

Students Attend Conference

Dr. Corbett and three NSU students attended the annual Oklahoma State Conference of Phi Alpha Theta, the international honor society for history majors, at Oklahoma Baptist University.

Sarah Thomas, Sand Springs senior, presented a paper entitled "Dwight Mission: A Center for Cherokee Teaching and Training." Thomas won second place in the Oklahoma History

division. There were 14 papers in this category. Sarah received perfect or near perfect scores in four of five judging categories: introduction/thesis, organization/development of thesis, composition and presentation.

The other two students who attended were Amanda Burnett and Amanda Carney. Burnett is the president of the local chapter of Phi Alpha Theta.

Tahlequah writer Joan Shaddox Isoms short story, "Remade Tobacco", has placed in the top 10 stories of 2004 in StorySouth's One Million Writers international competition for short fiction published on the Internet.

Eclectica Magazine published Isom's story, which deals with a young Cherokee girl who is finding her way through a maze of cultural, social and personal obstacles. Isom said the idea evolved from her work as writer-in-residence in the Oklahoma schools.

"Several of the Native American students were struggling with their own identity, and I thought about how demanding it must be to grow up within such a situation," said Isom.

Isom taught in the English Department at NSU for nine years. Some of her published books are *The First Starry Night* (Charlesbridge) and *The Leap Years* (Beacon Press). Short story devotees can read and vote on the winning stories by clicking on www.storysouth.com/millionwriters/2004toptenstories.html.

NSU Grant cont'd

racehorse and later a similar horse wins the Triple Crown.

"The students will use forensics to determine if it is the same horse," said Wilds. "The students will use math and science to process a crime scene at a stable. At the end of the week the students will role play as a judge, prosecutor, or defense attorney."

During the academy students will take field trips to local businesses, educational institutions or law enforcement agencies to see how the real world uses math, science and the scientific method to solve mysteries on a daily basis.

For further information, contact Wilds at (918) 449-6532 or wilds@nsuok.edu

Students Present Research

Two NSU history majors completed research projects and presented paper at a professional meeting. Amanda Burnett, a senior from Tahlequah, and Sarah Thomas, a senior from Sand Springs, prepared articles for the *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture*.

Burnett wrote a narrative history of Cherokee County and Thomas provided an entry for Rogers County. An Oklahoma Statehood Centennial project of the Oklahoma Historical Society, the two-volume Encyclo-

pedia will be published in 2006.

Sarah Thomas also presented a paper at the annual state conference of Phi Alpha Theta at Oklahoma Baptist University on February 26. The title of her paper was "Dwight Mission: A Center for Cherokee Training and Teaching."

Phi Alpha Theta is the international honor society for history majors. These students prepared their work under the direction of Dr. Bill Corbett, professor of history.

Social Work Will Miss A Good Friend

The Department of Social Work will lose a valued faculty member this spring. Dr. Hershel Beaver, assistant professor of Social Work, has been teaching at NSU for 10 years. With his family's support and love, Beaver plans to retire at the end of this semester. Although Beaver has not decided what he will do during retirement, he has a few ideas in mind.

"If an opportunity comes along that seems appropriate, then I'll pursue that. If

I don't work, then I plan to do volunteer work for children's advocacy," said Beaver.

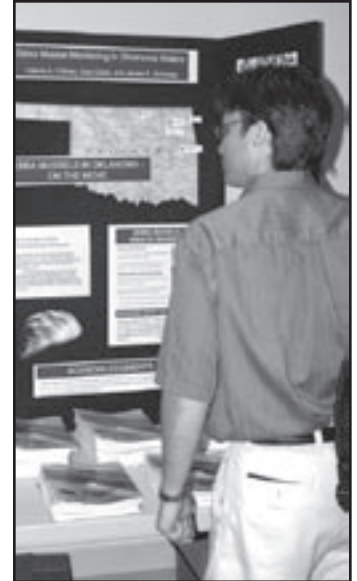
Beaver received a bachelor's degree in education. He became involved in social work, and pursued a master's and Ph.D. His love for social work has given him much enthusiasm as a professor. Beaver particularly enjoys working with his students.

"I've always enjoyed the advisement part of this position, the out of the classroom part of the job," said Beaver.

Beaver has accomplished much outside of the classroom during his time at NSU. Beaver coordinated the Title 4E program. He served as chair of the department during a transitional year. Most importantly, Beaver accomplished much of what is expected in his job; interacting with students on a day-to-day basis.

"Assisting students to internships and practicum that will help them be successful is a great accomplishment," said Beaver.

Undergraduate Research Day A Huge Success



Several outstanding students presented their findings at this year's Undergraduate Research Day. Numerous students and faculty were among the onlookers who turned out to view the students' research projects. Photos by Tara Replogle

Milbauer: Regional Nature of Oklahoma

John A. Milbauer recently began the background work for an examination of courthouse squares, courthouses and associated features in Oklahoma. This is part of a long-term study in which Milbauer will assess the regional nature of Oklahoma. For a long time scholars have asked if Oklahoma was the South, the Midwest, the Southwest, the West, Native America or something else. The central courthouse square is located in the business district of the county seat, and the courthouse is in the center.

"This is numerous in Oklahoma it will shed some light on the state's regional status."

A study of courthouse squares, logically, should also examine the courthouse itself. It will be interesting to see how Oklahoma compares with other parts of the country in terms of architecture. Lastly, the courthouse is often the site of Civil War monuments, especially in the south. The abundance or scarcity of these features will be an indicator of the degree of Southern cultural influence in Oklahoma.



John A. Milbauer, Professor of Geopgraphy recently began the background work for an examination of courthouse squares, courthouses and associated features in Oklahoma.

The College of Liberal Arts In The News

• Phillip Roark is busy training the newly staffed Afghanistan Police force. He graduated from NSU-BA with a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice. One of his famous quotes, while his compound was under rocket fire, was "Why can't we all get along?" Another Criminal Justice alumni, Buster Hall, is busy working as an International Investigator for the United Nations. He reports directly to the United Nations Ombudsperson and investigates complaints against International police officers, the United Nations Police and local police officers. Both Phillip and Buster are working for private law enforcement firms making in excess of \$100,000 tax free American dollars - not bad for one or two years out of school!

• John Baldrige, geography major, was accepted to participate in the 57th Japan American Student Conference this summer. The JASC brings together

40 students each from Japan and the United States. The month-long program begins at Stanford University, then travels to Kyoto/Shiga, Hiroshima, Okinawa, and Tokyo. JASC is partially funded by the Freeman Foundation. This year's conference topic is "Exploring the Roles & Possibilities of the Japan-America Partnership." John is part of a smaller group that will focus specifically on the social and cultural implications of globalization.

• Dr. Mark Bighley is his third year as editor of CrossAccent, the Journal of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians. It is published three times a year, and contains articles on theology, hymnody and other worship-related topics that are of interest to church musicians, as well as book, recording and music reviews. He is responsible for content, i.e., "I solicit the material (except for the reviews, which have separate edi-

tors), receive it, edit it for style and send on to the designer. Then, it must be proof-read and sent back to the designer for corrections. I then receive a final proof from the printer, and then it is printed and sent out to the membership.", said Bighley

• A new edition (the 4th) of the Directory of Congressional Voting Scores and Interest Group Ratings by Dr. Mike Sharp (Professor of Political Science, Department of Social Sciences) is being published by Congressional Quarterly Press. It is due out in August 2005. The book provides a comprehensive analysis of the voting records of every member of Congress from 1947 to 2004.

• Mayrene Bentley presented the paper, "Cherokee and Conformity to General Principles of Animacy Marking," at the 2005 Annual Meeting of The Society for the Study of Indigenous Languages of the Americas in

Oakland, CA on Jan. 8, 2005.

• NSU graduate, T.R. Brixey, will be arguing a case before the U.S. Supreme Court on December 1. T.R. graduated in '97 and attended The University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He practices law in Arkansas. Rousey v. Jacoway, 124 S. Ct. 2817 (2004). The issue is whether 401K plans are exempt in bankruptcy proceedings

• Ande Kidanemariam had his book- A Comparative Study of Infant Mortality in Four Developing Countries- published by Edwin Mellen Press in the 2003-2004 academic year. Dr. Kidanemariam is also honored by Who's Who Among America's Teachers in 2003-2004 for excellence as a distinguished educator in Who's Who among America's Teachers.



NSU Theatre Company has wrapped up another successful season. Pictured Above: L to R Godspell and The Goat, or Who Is Sylvia?

Credit Union League Names CEO

Native Tulsan Lisa Finley has been named president and chief executive of the Oklahoma Credit Union League. Finley took the helm this week after longtime President Bob Bianchini left for retirement.

At 39, Finley is among the youngest people in the industry to head a state Credit Union league.

She joined the OCUL in 1998 as director of communications and the governmental affairs department. Since then,

she has served as senior vice president and chief operating officer, overseeing governmental affairs, and communications administration. Finley said she is excited about the direction in which the industry is headed.

"The credit union industry is a very rewarding industry to work for," she said in a written statement. "It's full of challenges and opportunities."

Before coming to the OCUL, Finley was a member of the ex-

ecutive staff of the Cherokee Nation. During her seven years of service, she served as the director of business development, press secretary for the principal chief, and congressional liaison.

The OCUL, with employees based in Tulsa, Lawton and Oklahoma City, provides services and technical assistance to nearly 89 credit unions statewide. Its headquarters is in Tulsa at 2535 E. 71st St.

Dr. Vassar Is A Very Busy Man

Dr. Andrew Vassar did a "Let's Talk About It, Oklahoma" presentation on "Joseph Campbell and the Power of Myth" at the Tahlequah Public Library on January 26th and will do another on "Huckleberry Finn" in



Dr. Andrew Vassar, Professor of Humanities.

Bartlesville April 5, 2005 as part of their city's read-in of Huck Finn, a month long series of events that includes a play of Huck Finn, a re-enactor of Mark Twain, and a scholarly presentation of the book. Dr. Vassar also attended a conference of the Association of Asian Studies at the end of March in Chicago after just returning from a conference on "Teaching India" in Conway, Arkansas. Dr. Vassar has two articles on Native American Drama in the works for the Encyclopedia of Native American Literature, a reference book.

NSU's Outstanding Senior Bids Farewell In Final Performance

NSU student Jamie Campbell has recently accepted an acting job at Virginia's famed Wayside Theatre. This theatre is one of the oldest in Virginia and has a rich history including helping spawn the careers of many well-known performers including Kathy Bates, Susan Sarandon and Peter Boyle. Before moving on with his career, Campbell gave a one night only farewell performance Wednesday, May 4th at the NSU Playhouse in Tahlequah. He performed Pounding Nails in the Floor With My Forehead, an edgy script by Off-Broadway's infamous Eric Bogosian. The play is a one-man show where Jamie Campbell tackled the roles of twelve different characters. The dark comedy covers a complete gambit of topics including extreme politics, skewed consumerism, sex and gender roles, enlightenment, warped cultural values, starving children in Africa and anything else that might incite a



Jamie Campbell, NSU's Outstanding Senior in a scene from Pounding Nails....Photo by Nathan Gwartney.

politically charged riot. The twelve character rant, directed by NSU alumnus Alex S. Newby was originally produced for Off-Broadway audiences in 1994, and is still incredibly relevant eleven years later.

Jamie Campbell, graduated with a Bachelors of Arts in Theatre. He was recently nominated for NSU's Hall

of Fame and the winner of the University's Outstanding Senior Award. Mr. Campbell has had the opportunity to work with Tony nominee Joe Sears, who directed him in the Trail of Tears Drama in 2001. Campbell returned to do Trail of Tears again in 2002, but went down south to Texas in 2003 where he performed in America's "most well attended outdoor theatre" in the world premiere production of Texas Legacies. In college, Jamie Campbell was nominated for an Irene Ryan award at the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for his portrayal of Rope Burns in Laddy Sartin's Twilight. He was also the recipient of the University's 2003-2004 "Best Supporting Actor" award and the 2001-2002 Outstanding Theatre Student of the Year. He begins work at the Wayside Theatre in Middleton, VA this May and can be seen starring at Theo Maske in Steve Martin's The Underpants beginning in June.

ROTC Ranger Team Wins Against Midwest's Best

In a thrilling ending to a grueling day, the Army ROTC Ranger Team won an event and placed two teams in the top ten overall standings at the University of Kansas Ranger Buddy Competition on April 24th. NSU was represented by two teams; Team one included Ryan Nelson, Oologah senior and Arthur Clymer, Edmond freshman and Team two was Garrett Claxton, Coweta freshman and Skyler Hargrove, Big Cabin freshman.

The contest included seven events and each two-man team had to compete in all seven. Team coach Maj. Mike True said that the key to winning the over-all championship is to be consistent in each event.

"Winning the over-all title takes a lot of skill and a little luck, if you finish in the lower half in more than one event, you can pretty much kiss the title good-bye," said True.

A field of 108 teams converged on Lawrence, Kansas to compete. The competition was open to any university with an Army ROTC department. These teams are the best that ROTC has to offer; they are physically fit, mentally strong, and are good leaders. The field included teams from 24 schools from Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Colorado and South Dakota.

The day began as all competitors lined up in the cold for the 4.5-Mile Ruck Run. Each contestant carried a 30-pound pack, load-bearing equipment and an M-16 rifle. This year's course was packed with challenges. Only half a mile of the course was flat and that

did not play into NSU's favor.

"We did not train for hills since the course last year was relatively flat," said Nelson, team captain.

In the Ruck Run the team of Nelson-Clymer placed 25th and Hargrove-Claxton placed 48th.

"This was not our stron-

gest event, but we knew that going in," said Hargrove. score a 4:52 which was strong enough to earn them 2nd place in that event. Nelson-Clymer were able to score a 6:26 to propel them to a 10th place finish.

The Compass Course was another new event to be added for this year's competition. Each team was given a dis-

relatively unchanged from last years contest. Hargrove-Claxton had this event early in the day and scored a 1:57, which stood as the 1st place time for most of the day until the last group rotated to that event late in the afternoon. The Redman team of Nelson-Clymer was in that last group. As the last group ran through the event the 1st place time went from 1:57 to 1:48, then 1:47, and then in the second to last heat to go the previous best time was eclipsed by one second to a 1:46.

"We knew the time to beat was a 1:46 and we just decided that we were going to find a way to beat it. We were disappointed with our 4th place in the weapons and 10th place in the knots and that motivated us," said Nelson.

With a small crowd gathering to witness the last runs of the day, Nelson and Clymer got off to a good start and were able to pick a good route through the terrain. In dramatic fashion, Nelson and Clymer finished with a time of 1:45 to win the event and take the first victory ever for an NSU team at this competition. The last event was the 10-Kilometer Run. In the final awards ceremony held only minutes after the last event, NSU came away with a win in the Litter Carry Event and 6 top ten finishes. This was enough points to propel both NSU teams into the top ten in the over-all standings. The Redmen squad was one of only two schools with two teams in the top ten. To find out more about the Ranger Team and the ROTC Department at NSU anyone can contact Maj. True at ext. 3066 .



The NSU Army ROTC Ranger Team (left to right): Coach Maj. Mike True, Arthur Clymer, Garrett Claxton, Skyler Hargrove and Team Captain Ryan. Courtesy photo.

gest event, but we knew that going in," said Hargrove.

A strong event for the Redman Team was the Knot Tying contest. The teams were given a set of 10 Mountaineering Knots graded by a Mountain Ranger Instructor. The teams were given a list of six of the 10 knots to tie as quickly as possible. Any knot tied incorrectly resulted in a time penalty. This event proved difficult for all teams; very few were able to make a run with no penalties. This was the first year for this event to be added to the contest. The freshman team of Hargrove-Claxton was able to

tance and direction to three points anywhere from 300 to 600 meters apart over varying rough terrain. The teams were not allowed to use a map, but had to rely on their ability using a lensatic compass for direction and their running pace count to measure distance. In a surprise finish the freshman team of Hargrove-Claxton was able to find 3 of 3 points in a time of 30:00 which was good enough to give them 13th in that event. Nelson-Clymer were able to finish in the fastest time in the entire field, but only one point was counted.

The Litter Carry event was

Students Attend National PR Competition

Dr. Rodney Osborne, associate professor of mass communication and students from the NSU mass communication department recently attended a national, public relations contest in Pittsburgh, Kansas. The contest, Mid-America Public Relations Competition 2005, was the second PR competition PSU has hosted.

momentum, when they conducted a national media blitz in January 2005, to combat what they saw as unfounded myths about Wal-Mart. The competition campaigns were to be constructed on a national scale and contestants were given a wide range of flexibility in creating their PR campaigns.

Each team presented their

The competition was very worthwhile because it helped prepare us for our futures in public relations," said Conner.

There was also an individual competition that dealt with crisis management. In this competition the participant would act as spokesperson for an organization or corporation and deliver a press statement concerning the crisis situa-

tion then respond to questions from a set of three judges.

The process was repeated with a new scenario for three different judges.

Conner was one of the top three contestants and presented her crisis management press statement to a panel of three judges. "It was quite pleasurable," said Webber.



At this year's Mid-America National PR Competition one group from NSU was awarded honorable mention. Courtesy photo.

This year's theme was "Taste the Real World." The students attending the competition from NSU were Summer Conner, Amber Cowan, Anna Crank, Teresa Davis, Lola Houchins and Matt Montgomery. There were two types of competition, group and individual.

In the group competition the goal was to develop a public relations campaign around information provided by a client. Sharon Weber, Wal-Mart communications manager, presented the contestants with their challenge and intended goals. One goal was to develop a campaign to "Continue the Momentum of Jan 13." Wal-Mart Inc., initiated this

campaigns to two sets of three judges. Each of the six judges could assign a score up to 100 points. The three teams with the highest overall score were awarded scholarships and plaques and the next five highest scoring teams were awarded honorable mention certificates.

There were two teams representing NSU. Honorable mention was awarded to the team of Conner, Cowan, and Montgomery.

"I feel like the hands on activities that we do in class helped prepare me for the competition. Our instructors in the mass comm. department do an excellent job of giving us real world training.

Sing & Swing with NSU!
June 16 - August 6, 2005

River City Players
Shawnee Street Theatre
TWISTIN' MOVIE MAGIC
Thursday 8 PM & Saturday 8 PM
Friday 8 PM & Saturday 2 PM

Downtown Country
University Playhouse
OKLAHOMA, USA
Thursday 8 PM & Saturday 8 PM
COUNTRY COMES TO TOWN
Friday 8 PM & Saturday 2 PM

For Tickets & Directions call 918-458-2075
A Singin' & Swingin' Summer Showcase
NSU Campus, Tahlequah



A few cast members from The River City Players at the Launch 2005 Party. Support your local artists this summer. For more information, call The Sequoyah Institute at (918) 458-2075.

A Greeting From The Dean

As you read this we are nearing the end of another academic year. As faculty and staff we know that this is always a bittersweet time, when we celebrate the achievements of our graduates as we begin to separate from them and prepare for the students to come.

We will have at least three notable retirements from our College this year--Dr. Bruce Tibbetts leaves after many years of teaching English and serving in academic administration; Dr. Hershel Beaver retires from the Social Work program, where he was the Field Director and taught practice classes; and Ms. Zoe Ann Storer retires from the Dean's Office, where she made sure we met our deadlines, submitted our materials according to the proper formats, and only had one class meeting in a room at a time. They will all be greatly missed.

This semester has seen continued achievement from our faculty and students.

Many of those accomplishments are described in this newsletter. I wanted to give a special acknowledgement to John Baldridge, a Geography major, who was selected to a participate in a highly competitive program in Japan this summer.

Also worthy of note is Sarah Thomas, a student of Dr. Bill Corbett, who was chosen as the Outstanding Scholar in the College and who will present her work at this year's Undergraduate Research Day. Ms. Thomas' paper is "Dwight Mission: A Center for Cherokee Training and Teaching."

Among other curriculum advancements, we have two new programs which will begin in the fall. The bachelor's in edu-

cation in Cherokee education has received Regent approval. This will be the only program in the United States which leads to certification as a teacher of a native/indigenous language. Representatives of our College and the College of Education have worked closely with the Cherokee Nation in developing this degree.



We will also begin instruction

in Japanese Language. The University has contracted with the ALLEX program to bring a native Japanese speaker to NSU to take courses and to teach Japanese. We are one of approximately 40 universities hiring ALLEX trained teachers.

Megan White staged the

opening event for our summer musical shows with entertainers from the casts of Downtown Country and River City Players. Megan arranged for a live radio feed from KEOK, and drew a sizeable audience to the Shawnee Street theatre.

Finally, we have just announced the 2005-2006 season for the Galaxy of Stars. Performances will include an Ethel Merman tribute, Willy Wonka, the Second City Comedy Troupe, A Hometown Christmas with the Jack Daniel's Silver Coronet Band, Rhonda Vincent, a Celtic Evening with Cathie Ryan, and Sourdough Slim a cowboy poet and yodeler. Should be something for all tastes.

I believe the first year of the College of Liberal Arts has been quite an adventure. Next year promises to be just as exciting.

Paul Westbrook
Dean
College of Liberal Arts

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