

# the Spotlight

## Newsletter

Issue 3 - Fall 2016

## Spotlight on a Shared Sense of Purpose

*By Dr. James Bell, Dean of Faculty*

While the phrase “a rising tide lifts all boats” is most commonly associated with JFK and economics, this aphorism—which Kennedy speechwriter Ted Sorensen confirms did not originate with him or the president—has applications far beyond economics. In fact, the phrase came to mind as I read through this fall’s Spotlight and noted how many stories center on collaboration and interaction among faculty (within and among departments), students, administrators, alumni, and our community. Despite financial and practical challenges that we have faced in recent years, I believe we are experiencing a rising tide gen-

erated by the close connection that we share.

Of course, some of this interaction is a consequence of our small size and limited faculty and student population, but those factors don’t account for the genuine camaraderie that characterizes life at Northwestern. Look at student Charlie Wylie and instructor Dawn Allen playing whatever that is they are playing on page 7, check out Northwestern student teachers posing with high school students as part of a grant-funded initiative that brought the students to our campuses on page 27, and note the diverse mix of volunteers listed in the caption that accompanies the

picture on page 35. And those are only a few of the pictures.

Many of the stories in this semester’s newsletter describe efforts and events that brought us all together to celebrate and labor and play. They also highlight the role of alumni and community members who use their talents and resources to support our students’ efforts. And—as always—they showcase the skills and knowledge that our faculty members bring to their classes each day.

We have many things to celebrate, from a new DNP program to existing programs that continue to do what they do well. We have students and faculty whose achievements continue to be recognized nationally. Most of all, we have a multi-campus community that understands the importance of Northwestern in all of our lives. That shared commitment is the tide that lifts us all individually and enables our successful journey, even when the waters get turbulent.

As always, I am grateful to be a part of the Northwestern effort!

In the  
Spotlight

A Sense of Common Purpose

# Research Day has record number of entries

Students and faculty members from Northwestern Oklahoma State University recently participated in Ranger Research Day. With 32 projects from 61 participants, 22 poster projects, six artwork displays with accompanying posters, and four conference-style papers, the 11th Annual Ranger Research Day event reached its highest record of entries.

Student poster entries were critiqued and eligible for awards. Winners with hometown, classification, research project name and sponsor include:

First place in the psychology category went to Janet A. Faakye, senior psychology major from Accra, Ghana, West Africa, for the project “Background Music during Studies: Does It Impact Concentration, Comprehension, and Retention?” Faakye’s sponsor was Stephanie Widick, instructor of psychology.

Biology first place went to senior biology majors from Accra, Ghana, West Africa, Fiifi Neizer-Ashun and Christian Agbola for the project “Chemical Communication in Earthworms.” Dr. Aaron Place, professor of biology, was their sponsor.

Second place for biology was the group of Abbie Tillman, senior biology major from Elk City; Willow Gahr, senior biology major from Carmen; and Riley Trousdale, senior biology major from Alva, for their project titled “Hot or Cold?” Place was their sponsor.

Third place for biology was Wisdom Baidoo Addae, senior biology major from Accra, Ghana, West Africa, for the project “Effects of Different Colors on Blood Pressure and Heart Rate.” Addae’s sponsor was

Dr. Steven Thompson, professor of biology.

In the category for chemistry, first place went to the group of Dalton Pannell, senior biology major from Longdale; Brady Fields, senior chemistry major from Seiling; and Yeboah Gyening, chemistry senior from Accra, Ghana, West Africa, for their project titled “Introductory Bioorganic Study of Firefly Luciferase—An Enzyme to Drive Bioluminescence.” Dr. Cornelia Mihai, professor of chemistry, was their sponsor.

Second place for chemistry was Austin Anderson, senior chemistry major from Beaver, with the project titled “Study of Iodine Gas Scrubber Efficiency and Iodine Distribution in Northwestern Oklahoma Brine Waters.” Anderson’s sponsor was Dr. Jason Wickham, associate professor of chemistry.

First place for the nursing category went to senior nursing majors

from Alva Riley Bryant and Brooke Ortiz for their project titled “Central Line Infection.” Dr. Leslie Collins, assistant professor of nursing and assistant chair to the Division of Nursing, was their sponsor.

Second place for nursing went to senior nursing majors Nissi Jordan from Grand Prairie, Texas; Jonathan Allotey and Cydni Phelps, both from Alva, for their project titled “Massage Therapy for Pain in Older Adults.” Collins was their sponsor.

Third place for nursing went to the group of Shanndi Boor, senior nursing major from Medicine Lodge, Kansas; post-graduates from Alva, Rebecca Ellis and Danielle Williams, for their project titled “Battle of the Biotics.” Collins was their sponsor.

Students taking Visual Arts classes also submitted works of art to be judged. Kyle Larson, assistant professor of art, was their sponsor.

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*First place for the nursing category went to senior nursing majors from Alva Riley Bryant (left) and Brooke Ortiz for their project titled “Central Line Infection.” Dr. Leslie Collins, assistant professor of nursing and assistant chair to the Division of Nursing, was their sponsor.*

# Hidden gem: Quiet student study space

On the 2nd floor of Vinson Hall is a hidden gem: the student study room. It is a quiet place where students can come to study or do homework without distraction.

Often, students can be found reading in comfortable silence on the couch, or spreading out their homework on the large table that gives students room to work without feeling crowded. The north wall is painted with chalkboard paint for those students who need a creative outlet during study breaks, or who want to share their favorite motivational quotes to spark inspiration in others.

Shelby Brown, an English Education student, says that for her the student study room is “a nice, quiet place to catch up on reading before class.”



*Continued from Page 2*

## ...Research Day

Winners with hometown, classification, and art project name include:

First place in Art (Natural History Drawing) went to Rachel Davis, mass communication major from Kingston, for her work titled “American Crow.”

Second place in Art went to Brianna McClure, sophomore biology major from Dacoma, for her work titled “Swanson’s Hawk, Herring Gull.”

Third place in Art went to Clay-

ton Hill, junior psychology major from Alva, for his work titled “Raccoon & Skunk Skulls, Bald Eagle.”

Student conference paper entries also were critiqued and eligible for awards. Winners with hometown, classification, research project name and sponsor include:

First place went to Chandler Steckbeck, senior English major from Enid, for her work titled “The Apparitional Presence: From Shakespeare’s *Richard III* to Rowling’s *Harry Potter and the Order of*

*the Phoenix*.” Dr. Jennifer Page, assistant professor of English, was her sponsor.

Second place went to Ashley Wilson, graduate student from Alva, for her work titled “McTeague Doesn’t Go to College: *McTeague* and the Historical Perspective of the Dental Profession in the United States.” Dr. Shawn Holliday, associate dean of graduate studies and professor of English, was her sponsor.

Third place went to Sydnie Lowe, senior biology major from Neosho, Missouri, for her work titled “The Role of Women in the Home.” Dr. Kathryn Lane, chair of the English, Foreign Language, and Humanities Department and associate professor of English, was her sponsor.

All participants received a certificate of participation, and researchers were encouraged to enter their research projects in the upcoming Oklahoma Research Day that takes place in March 2017 at the Central National Bank Center in Enid.



*Students in the Visual Art department’s Natural History Drawing class participated in the Ranger Research Day competition.*

# Nolan to serve on NASW-OK board

Dlonra (Dee Dee) Nolan, Enid senior, was elected as the undergraduate student representative to serve on the Oklahoma Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers' (NASW-OK) 2016-2017 Board of Directors.

NASW is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world and works to enhance the professional growth and development of its members, to create and maintain professional standards, and to advance sound social practices.

"I am incredibly honored to have been selected to serve as undergraduate student representative for the NASW Board of Directors. I am also grateful to Northwestern's Social Work Department and, specifically, Dr. Kylene Rehder for her support, guidance and leadership.

"Social work was not my original major, but after learning about the advocacy and passionate service on behalf of those in need, I felt social work was the right path for me. At this juncture, I am not 100 percent sure what area specifically I'd like to become involved in within social work. There are so many opportunities and paths in this field, and I need to narrow down a focus area," Nolan said.

Nolan is majoring in Social Work with a minor in English. She is a graduate of Northern Oklahoma College and a veteran of the U.S. Navy. In 2014, she was a recipient of the Geraldine Burns English Award and Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges. During her tenure in the Navy, she was awarded three Navy Achievement Medals and Sailor of the Year.

In 2015, she served on the board of directors for the Enid YMCA and is a current member of the NASW.

"We are so proud to have a student from Northwestern elected to serve on the NASW-OK Board of Directors," Dr. Kylene Rehder, Department of Social Work Chair, said. "This is the fourth year a student from Northwestern will have the privilege to represent the interests of undergraduate students across Oklahoma. Ms. Nolan will make significant contributions to the social work profession through her service on the board."

Following graduation from Northwestern, Nolan plans to further her education and apply to the University of Oklahoma Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social

Work.

For more information on Northwestern's Department of Social Work, contact Rehder at (580) 327-8135 or kdrehder@nwsu.edu.



Dlonra (Dee Dee) Nolan

## Science art donated

Dr. Cynthia Pfeifer-Hill and former adjunct instructor Dr. Judy Pistole donated this signed lithograph of "The Sword of Herschel" by Arizona artist Kim Poor for display



in the Natural Science department.

Poor has become one of the world's best known space artists. His unique style and dramatic use of color and perspective has won best-of-show awards at art shows and science-fiction conventions across the country. He has been published in many science magazines and commissioned by the National Air and Space Museum.

This piece shows an unusual view of the rings of Saturn as it would be seen from Mimas, the first major moon of Saturn. Voyager maps of the moon show a huge crater named Herschel at 2 deg. S and 90 deg. W - exactly the position to get this view. It is believed that some day future explorers will see this view.

# Clark receives Honorary American FFA Degree

Mindi Clark, assistant professor of agriculture at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, was recently selected to receive the Honorary American FFA Degree.

This award is given to those who advance agricultural education and FFA through outstanding personal commitment.

The National FFA organization works to enhance the lives of youth through agricultural education. Without the efforts of highly dedicated individuals, thousands of young people would not be able to achieve success that, in turn, contributes directly to the overall well-being of the nation.

“I was very honored as only a select few are nominated for this award from each state,” Clark said. “There are numerous people who give their time and effort to help agricultural education and FFA, and to be selected from such a large number of supporters was truly an honor.

“I have loved agricultural education and FFA since I enrolled in my first agriculture class as an eighth grader. I spent my time in middle and high school taking advantage of the opportunities they provided and served as a state FFA officer my freshman year of college. After graduating college, I taught agricultural education in eighth-12th grades at Fairview. Then, I took advantage of the opportunity to work at Northwestern in its agricultural education program. As such, I have been involved with it in multiple facets, and this award serves as a wonderful reminder of my love for the profession and the importance of my service to it because it has truly helped shaped

me into the person I am.”

The Honorary American FFA Degree is an opportunity to recognize those who have gone beyond valuable daily contributions to make an extraordinary long-term difference in the lives of students, inspiring confidence in a new generation of agriculturists.

“I don’t teach for the awards that sometimes come as a result of teaching,” she said. “However, this award does serve as a reminder that we as faculty are impacting agricultural education on the national level, and we should always work hard to help produce the highest quality teachers we can. As a result, those teachers will impact the profession and their students.”

Members of the National FFA organization’s board of directors ap-

proved the nomination for Clark.

She received the award at the 2016 National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis, Indiana.

All recipients received a medal, and their names were permanently recorded.

The National FFA organization provides leadership, personal growth and career success training through agricultural education to 629,367 student members who belong to one of 7,757 local FFA chapters throughout the United States, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

For more information about Northwestern’s agriculture degrees contact Dr. Dean Scarbrough, professor of agriculture and chair of the Department of Agriculture, at (580) 327-8487 or [dascarbrough@nwsu.edu](mailto:dascarbrough@nwsu.edu).



*Taylor McNeel (left), National FFA president, presents the Honorary American FFA Degree to Mindi Clark (right), assistant professor of agriculture.*

# *Barton Communication Lectureship established*

The Barton name is a familiar one around Alva and Northwestern from 1966-1995, John Barton shaped the minds of young men and women in the university's speech department. In honor of the impact he and his wife, Margaret, made at Northwestern, their daughter Cheryl (Barton) Listen, with her husband Herb Listen, established the John and Margaret Barton Communication Lectureship for Academic Enrichment to provide additional funds for Communication faculty and staff development.

Both John and Margaret graduated from Northwestern, John in 1964 with a degree in speech and Margaret in 1963 with a degree in office administration. John taught at Northwestern for almost 30 years and held the positions of instructor of speech, chair of the speech department, dean of men and director of educational outreach.

He served as associate professor of speech and dean of the School of Humanities, Fine Arts and Language upon his retirement in October 1995. He was honored as an Outstanding Graduate in 2003 and remains a dedicated supporter of Northwestern. John and Margaret have three children, Cheryl, Paul Barton and Tamara (Barton) Brown, who currently is an assistant professor of speech and the interim chair of the Communication Department at Northwestern.

"The Barton family has been associated with Northwestern for over 50 years," said Cheryl, who graduated from Northwestern in 1989 with a degree in psychology. "My family members have been students, faculty and staff at various times. We

expect that relationship to continue with the next generation."

Cheryl said her parents placed a strong emphasis on education in her and her siblings' lives while growing up in Alva.

"Through the example our parents have set, we learned the importance of investing in others and the importance of supporting higher education," said Cheryl. "My husband and I would like to honor them for their longtime dedication to both encouraging and supporting higher education."

Cheryl said she recognizes the communication field can be complex because it is constantly changing. She hopes this lectureship will help the communication program at Northwestern stay up to date with technology and industry trends to maintain a quality education for its

students.

"It is great to see John and Margaret honored by their children with this personal investment in the department that the Barton family has influenced with two generations of teaching at Northwestern – first with John and now with Tamara," said Skeeter Bird, Northwestern Foundation & Alumni Association CEO. "This permanent endowment sustains the family's positive impact on the department indefinitely and will be a lasting legacy to their commitment to language arts."

For more information on the John and Margaret Barton Communication Lectureship for Academic Enrichment, or about investing in Northwestern students, call Skeeter Bird, Northwestern Foundation CEO, at 580-327-8599 or email him at [aebird@nwosu.edu](mailto:aebird@nwosu.edu).



**Margaret and John Barton**



*On Aug. 30, the English, Foreign Language, and Humanities department majors, minors, and faculty met in Vinson Hall to kick off the semester with a pizza party. Students had the opportunity to connect with other EFLH majors, as well as time to get to know the professors of the department. A good time was had by all, as evidenced by the photos. Above, Dawn Allen and Charlie Wylie have some fun. Right, Kathy Earnest and Roxie James enjoy the festivities.*

## *Pianist presents Masterclass, Recital*

Northwestern's Fine Arts Department played host to pianist Dr. Hyunsoon Whang in September.

Whang gave a Masterclass with several local piano students and later performed a recital featuring works by Ravel, Mozart and Chopin.

Whang, who serves as the McMahan Endowed Chair in Music at Cameron University in Lawton, began her piano studies at the age of 4 and started playing public concerts at age 12. Since then she has delighted audiences in hundreds of concerts across North America, Europe and Asia.

Critics have praised her as “the kind of player who appears to immerse her entire being in the music,” and as one who has “always delivered with grace and beauty.”

She has appeared as a soloist with Leonard Slatkin, Joel Revzen, Miriam Burns and Nicholas Harsanyi. Her recent engagements have included solo and chamber music appearances and master classes in California, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Utah, Toronto and Reykjavik.

Her live videos have been airing on PBS television stations throughout the Midwest. Whang serves on



the Touring Artists Roster of the Oklahoma Arts Council and the Mid-America Arts Alliance's Artist Roster.

A passionate educator, Whang has taught and nurtured generations of students. Her students have won competitions on a state and national level, and received scholarships and fellowships from prestigious graduate schools. She presents mini-recitals for public school children each year introducing and fostering the love of music in young people. She received the Oklahoma Governor's Arts and Education Award in 2010.

Whang studied at the North Carolina School of the Arts, the St. Louis Conservatory, and The Juilliard School, and earned a doctorate from Indiana University.

# Success, Retention Workshop provides tools, strategies

Northwestern's faculty and staff were invited to a two-day Student Success and Retention workshop through On Course in July at the Alva campus.

The psychology department, with the support of Dr. Bo Hanaford, vice president for academic affairs, and the Northwestern Marvel/Smith Academic Enrichment Series endowment, brought the workshop to Northwestern, which taught about the On Course principles of Dr. Skip Downing. The workshop was led by trainer Therese Nemec from Wisconsin and served 38 faculty and staff from Northwestern.

Nemec is creator and director of the Center for Instructional Excellence from Fox Valley Technical College in Appleton, Wisconsin. She has a background in psychology and extensive experience delivering training on topics related to instructional excellence and student success as well as relationship skills for the workplace. Nemec holds certifications in the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People, the Myers/Briggs Type Indicator, On Course and Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Leadership.

On Course is a program of student success principles and innovative learner-centered strategies for empowering students to become active, responsible learners. The learner-centered strategies can be selectively integrated into any subject and course to enhance student achievement and success.

Dr. Cris Gordon, assistant professor of psychology and chair of the psychology department, utilized this program at her previous

college and took the initiative to bring it to Northwestern. This was Gordon's third time to take the course.

"Every time I take it there is always something new because there is so much information," Gordon said. "There is always something new that sparks my interest."

She believes this workshop is useful for anyone regardless of their position within the university.

"It is a program built for retention and graduation of students, so what we learned are tools to help with both...It's a system that has been out there awhile...It is an excellent program and very successful."

Participants in the workshop included the following:

Dr. Richmond Adams, assistant professor of English; Dr. Kaylene Armstrong, assistant professor of mass communication; Ashley Barros, adjunct instructor of English; Dr. James Bell, associate vice president for academics and dean of faculty; Dr. Sheila Brintnall, professor of mathematics; Jana Brown, instructor of history; Tamara Brown, assistant professor of speech and interim chair of the communication department; Dr. Mary Brune, assistant professor of nursing; Brooke Ciolino, Title III project director; Amanda Clepper, instructor of nursing; Rebecca Cook, international student adviser; Koreen Culbert, adjunct instructor of English; Brooke Fuller, director of assessment and institutional effectiveness; Gordon; Milton Hicks; Kaylyn Hansen, director of students/housing; Shane Hansen, instructor of health and sports science;

Dr. Roger Hardaway, professor of history; Ken Kelsey, instructor of history and fine arts; Leigh Kirby, instructor of psychology; Mistie Kline, instructor of psychology; Debra Lehman, adjunct instructor of psychology.

Also, Dr. Tim Maharry, professor of mathematics and chair of the mathematics and computer science department; Dr. Steven Maier, professor of physics and chair of the department of natural sciences; Caleb Mosburg, dean of student affairs and enrollment management; Sandra Nigh, instructor of nursing; Dr. Jennifer Page, assistant professor of English; Dr. Aaron Place, professor of biology; Candace Reim, coordinator, student services at the Enid campus; Dr. Mary Riegel, assistant professor of mathematics; Dr. Jennifer Sattler, assistant professor of physics; Milissa Sturgill, campus coordinator of ITV/Events coordinator at the Woodward campus; Dr. Steven Thompson, professor of biology; Dr. Dena Walker, assistant professor of mathematics; Bailey Trammell, Title III academic adviser; Jean Wahlgren, coordinator of Ketterman Lab; Dr. Shelly Wells, associate professor of nursing and chair of the division of nursing; Kimberly Weast, professor of theatre arts and chair of the fine arts department; and Stephanie Widick, instructor of psychology.

Gordon plans to have a monthly follow-up with all of the participants and continue to provide them with On Course resources to help them utilize what they learned.

For more information contact Gordon at (580) 327-8447 or [mmgordon@nwosu.edu](mailto:mmgordon@nwosu.edu).





**Meet Your New Faculty Members**

Participating in this year's New Faculty Orientation were: (front) DeLana Hawkins, Amanda Clepper, Jennifer Pribble, Roxie James; (back) Karsten Longhurst, Shane Hansen, Taylor Randolph and Pat Thompson.

## English department sponsors discussion on O'Brien book

The English Department sponsored a book talk on Sept. 22 to showcase Tim O'Brien's book *The Things They Carried*.

During the talk, students and faculty were able to further explore the Vietnam War and how it impacted O'Brien through open discussion of the book.

Charlie Wylie, an English Education student (Sr.), led the discussion and asked insightful questions about characters, themes, and impressions of events in *The Things They Carried*.

# McFadden awarded CWPEP Stipend

Waukomis senior Chasity McFadden has been awarded the Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program (CWPEP) stipend for the 2017 spring semester from Northwestern's Department of Social Work. She was the recipient of the award last spring as well.

McFadden currently is majoring in social work with a minor in sociology.

CWPEP provides funds for students who plan careers in child welfare services in Oklahoma. The stipends are awarded to full-time students majoring in social work and provide money toward educational expenses to participating students. Students who receive the stipends complete educational internships in child welfare agencies within the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OKDHS). Upon graduation, students are as-

sured employment in the participating DHS programs.

"The social work program is proud to administer the CWPEP program and play an essential role in securing and retaining quality social workers in the public child welfare system," Dr. Kylene Rehder, Department of Social Work Chair and CWPEP coordinator, said. "CWPEP at Northwestern has graduated 14 students, resulting in over \$100,000 being awarded in educational assistance."

CWPEP is a Title IV-E partnership between the University of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, the US Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Council, and Social Work Education (CSWE) in accredited social work programs in Oklahoma. The University of Oklahoma man-

ages the child welfare consortium. Other partners along with Northwestern include East Central University and Oral Roberts University.

Funding for the educational program is provided by Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, called the Child Welfare Training program.

The CWPEP program at Northwestern is administered by Rehder.

For more information on Northwestern's Department of Social Work, contact Rehder at (580) 327-8135 or [kdreher@nwosu.edu](mailto:kdreher@nwosu.edu).



**Chasity McFadden**

# Concert Series brings culture, fun

Northwest Oklahoma Concert Series (NWOCS), an organization that seeks to bring cultural performances and entertainment to northwest Oklahoma, began its 2016-17 season in October and will continue into the spring.



*Ball in the House performing at Northwestern in October. They were the first concert in this year's Northwest Oklahoma Concert Series.*

The first concert of the series was a success with the R&B, soul, pop a cappella group Ball in the House, based out of Boston, Massachusetts. The concert was Oct. 25.

With the group's extensive tour schedule—nearly 150 shows a year—Ball in the House has performed all over the country at theaters, clubs, schools and festivals.

Jon J. Ryan, vocal; Dave Guisti, tenor; Aaron Loveland, tenor; Dan Szymczak, baritone; Ryan Chappelle, bass, make up the artistic group.

The second concert of the series, Link Union, performed Nov. 29. Link Union is a multi-award winning band from the Ozark Moun-

tains. The group has performed together as a family in more than 2,000 venues across the United States and Canada, entertaining thousands with their fusion of old-time musical instruments, stunning vocals, modern beats, and emerging with a

fresh new style.

The group includes Rachel Link

as the front woman who plays the mandolin, cello and penny whistle; Kyle Link, a multi-award-winning fiddler and lead male vocalist; Ashley Link, who plays the fiddle; Ben Link, who plays banjo and vocals; Aaron Link, lead guitarist and vocals; John Link, bass player; and Becky Link, vocals.

In 2017 the Enid Symphony and members of the Northwestern University Chorale will continue the series on March 7 at 7 p.m. in Herod Hall Auditorium.

The Chorale, which includes approximately 50 students and alumni, will be performing Mozart's *Coronation Mass* with the Enid Symphony. This is a 20 minute multi-movement work with soloists.

The rest of the program will include the Enid Symphony playing celebrated classics by Mozart, Handel, etc.

The mission of the Enid Sym-

*Continued on Page 11*



*Members of Link Union performing on Northwestern's stage in November as a part of the Northwest Oklahoma Concert Series.*

*Continued from Page 10*

## *Concert Series brings ...*

phony Association is to maintain a symphonic ensemble that will enrich the quality of life in the Greater Enid area and serve as a cultural ambassador to the region and state.

This is to be accomplished through the presentation of predominantly classical symphonic music to an ever increasing audience representative of the diverse population of the constituent community.

The final concert of the series will feature Donna Bella April 25 at 7 p.m. in Herod Hall Auditorium.

Bella Donna is influenced by the Ozarks, the creak of tree limbs in the winter, and the summer sounds of cicadas. The traditional music that flows through the hills and hollows of the area the group was raised in helped them form their sound called "Ozark Jazz."

Bella Donna is composed of Liz Carney on vocals and guitar; Matt Guinn as lead guitarist; Mike Williamson on bass and cornet; B.J. Lowrance on drums; and Jeremy Chapman on the mandolin.

Season tickets, as well as individual performance tickets, may be purchased online at <https://nwocs.ticketbud.com> or from Holder Drug or Graceful Arts Center.

Anyone interested in buying a contributor package or tickets can contact Kimberly Weast, chair of the Department of Fine Arts, by email at [kkweast@nwosu.edu](mailto:kkweast@nwosu.edu) or (580) 327-8462.



*Enid Symphony*



*Northwestern Oklahoma State University Chorale*



*Bella Donna*

## Psychology plays host to movie nights

The Psychology Department held two movie nights during the fall semester. The group watched *Ferris Bueller's Day off* in October and *The Birdcage* in November.

WATCH FOR  
MONTHLY  
MOVIE NIGHTS!!!



October Artist-In-Residence, Britynn Davis, leads a Weaving Workshop at the Graceful Arts Center in downtown Alva. Davis recently received her MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in Fiber and Material Studies, and in 2011 received a BFA in Graphic Design from the University of Central Arkansas. Exploring the psychology of place through video, sculpture, and drawing, Britynn is interested in the complexities of the mundane and how they influence our daily realities, identity, and sense of community. Looking at specific sites involved in her own personal history, the process of becoming is questioned through the subtle nuances of our simultaneous resistance and attraction to confinement, repetition, and structure.

## Hardaway presents paper in Spain

Dr. Roger Hardaway, professor of history at Northwestern, presented a paper at an academic conference in Europe this summer.

The 16th International Conference on Diversity in Organizations, Communities and Nations met at the University of Granada in Spain in late July.

Hardaway's paper was titled "Leigh Whipper: African-American 'Western' Actor." Hardaway noted that Whipper, who lived from 1876 to 1975, had an acting career that lasted more than 70 years. Most of his career was spent on the stage, including performing in several Broadway productions. Whipper also starred in several movies, mostly when he was in his 60s and 70s. Six of his movies were "westerns"—a genre of films that rarely featured black actors.

Four of the western movies in which Whipper acted were light-weight entertainment vehicles that were basically forgettable; these included three B-grade movies starring Roy Rogers. But two of Whipper's performances were as strong supporting characters in films that were nominated for "Best Picture" Academy Awards and have since become cinematic classics.

In 1939, Whipper starred in the first filmed version of John Steinbeck's novel *Of Mice and Men*. Whipper played "Crooks", a stable hand on a ranch in California in the early 20th century. Then, in 1943, Whipper was an itinerant preacher named "Sparks" in *The Ox-Bow Incident*, based on the novel by Walter Van Tilburg Clark. This movie is about a lynch mob run

amok in 1880s Nevada; Sparks tries unsuccessfully to prevent the mob from lynching three men suspected of murdering a rancher and stealing his cattle.

"I have been researching Whipper for several years," Hardaway said. "His career is significant for several reasons; the paper I presented in Spain highlighted his work in 'westerns' when such roles for black actors were few and far between. His performances in *Of Mice and Men* and *The Ox-Bow Incident* are dynamic ones in Oscar-caliber film masterpieces that deserve wider recognition than they have received.

"The paper I presented this summer," Hardaway continued, "is a first step in shedding some academic light on Whipper's talents."

# Malik receives Dorothy Day Spanish scholarship

Sadik Malik, Accra, Ghana, West Africa, senior, is the 2016-17 recipient of the Dr. Dorothy Day Spanish Scholarship from the Northwestern Spanish program.

Malik is the current vice president of the Spanish Club. He is majoring in biology and minoring in both Spanish and chemistry.

Dr. Francisco Martinez, professor of Spanish, is the club's sponsor.

Day, who is the founder of Northwestern's Spanish program and the person whom this scholarship honors, began her career at Northwestern in 1988. She was initially hired to teach foreign language and English, but she began the formalized Spanish program in the fall of 2001. She retired in 2003.

To be eligible for this \$500 award, students must be full-time continuing Spanish students with a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average. Applicants must be Spanish

minors who have completed three semesters of Spanish coursework. The scholarship may be applied toward university-related expenses, such as tuition, fees, room, board or books.

Various fundraisers are held by

students in the Spanish Club to raise funds for this scholarship.

To learn more about the scholarship, the club or the Spanish program at Northwestern, please contact Martinez at (580) 327-8466 or [fmartinez@nwosu.edu](mailto:fmartinez@nwosu.edu).



*Sadik Malik was presented the Northwestern Oklahoma State University Dorothy Day Spanish Scholarship by Dr. Francisco Martinez.*



*Sigma Tau Delta gathered on Saturday, Oct. 29, for a fun-filled movie night. They viewed the movie *Ghostbusters*, enjoyed candy and popcorn, and built spooky Halloween cookie houses. Seven Sigma members were present for the event.*

## Online minor degree, certificate open for grief, bereavement

The Psychology Department has developed a new minor and certificate program scheduled to start in the spring of 2017.

This minor and certificate will be offered fully online for students and professionals.

The course outline for both minor and certificate can be found in the 2016-2017 catalog.

# McKee, Rankin receive Ranson scholarship

Fairview natives Colton McKee and Rylee Rankin are the 2016-2017 recipients of the Dean Ranson Scholarship at Northwestern.

McKee, a sophomore criminal justice major with hopes of working as a federal agent in the future, says he greatly appreciates the financial support scholarships provide him. He says as a student living off campus and commuting back and forth between Fairview and Alva, scholarships – in a way – make that travel expense lighter.

Rankin, a senior special education major and active participant in intramurals and chemistry club, views her scholarships as opportunities from donors to help her succeed in life.

“I think it’s great these donors are willing to help students like me with our education,” said Rankin. “Without support from scholarships, I’d have to take out loans and have the stress of paying those loans back for the next 20 years.”

The Dean Ranson Scholarship was established at Northwestern in 2003 in honor of Ranson, of Fairview, by his daughters and their families, Rita and Jeral Cain, of Fort Worth, Texas, and Janis and Robert Johnson, of Montclair, Va. The scholarship provides financial assistance to full-time continuing Northwestern students with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point average. First preference is given to applicants from Major County.

Ranson grew up on a family farm southwest of Fairview and graduated from Longdale High School in 1938. On Dec. 23, 1942, he married Ethel Martin, who preceded him in death in July 1989.

He graduated from Northwestern State College in 1943 with a degree in physics and mathematics. Following graduation, he served 34 months with the U.S. Army Signal Corps during World War II. After receiving his military discharge, he taught high school for one year at Zenda, Kan.

In 1947, he returned to Fairview to begin his 55-year career with the Farmers and Merchants National Bank. Ranson served the bank in various positions before being elected president in 1972. In 1985, he

was elected chairman of the board and in 1988 became CEO.

During his banking career, he provided leadership to many civic and community organizations. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation. In 1990, he married Mary Teske. In 2002, Ranson received the Fairview Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award, and he retired from Farmers and Merchants National Bank that same year. He passed away in 2007.

## Life, contributions of George Mason topic of Constitution Day presentation

The Northwestern Institute for Citizenship Studies and Department of Social Sciences presented the annual Constitution Day event on Tuesday, Sept. 13. This year’s topic was “George Mason: The Man Who Would Not Sign.”

The program took place in the Education Center, room 109, on the Alva campus and featured Scott Stroh III, who serves as the executive director of George Mason’s

Mansion Gunston Hall located in Mason Neck, Virginia.

The program explored the life and contributions of George Mason (1725-1792) as a leading revolutionary, founding father and anti-federalist.

For more information, please contact Dr. Aaron Mason, professor of political science in Northwestern’s Department of Social Sciences, at (580) 327-8522 or email at [mason@nwosu.edu](mailto:mason@nwosu.edu).



Aaron Mason and Scott Stroh III visit with audience members during the Constitution Day presentation, “George Mason: The Man Who Would Not Sign.”

# Gahr completes internship in Costa Rica

After spending two weeks volunteering for a summer internship in the tropical paradise of Costa Rica to observe the nesting habits of Green Sea Turtles, Willow Gahr returned to Northwestern this semester with a new-found respect for those who work with conservation projects.

The senior biology major from Carmen spent two weeks in Tortuguero at the Sea Turtle Conservancy Tortuguero, which was virtually in the middle of the jungle – complete with its humid environment and variety of wildlife – a far cry from the flatlands of northwest Oklahoma.

“The jungle was gorgeous,” she said. “On the conservancy we were in the middle of it. We were on a strip of land, not quite an island but more of a peninsula. The river ran on one side, and the ocean was on the other, but it was 10 miles long. It was maybe a quarter mile in width, but it was really long.

“There are 14 [known] jaguars in that area. There are all kinds of lizards from iguanas to the ‘Jesus’ lizards that run on their back feet. They had these bright blue butterflies, and when you first saw them they looked like a blue-glowing light. When they would flap up you would see the underside of their wings, and you could tell it was a butterfly.”

Within a 10-mile radius on the beaches where volunteers from all over the world were working, Gahr’s job included spending her days and nights helping to check for turtle

nesting sites, documenting new nesting sites, helping make sure the turtles reached the ocean, and collecting various data.

“If you walk in front of them or if they see you, it’s over,” Gahr said about the turtles. “They’ll turn around and go.”

It wasn’t long before she dove right into the data-collecting process, crediting her wildlife conser-

additional monitoring of the nest. Since she conducted most of the data-collecting on the particular nest, she described it as having her own nest on the beach.

“When you look at them on TV you think ‘oh sea turtles are so pretty,’ but you don’t really take into account how big they are and how strong they are,” she said.

Some of the workers had been there for months while others came in after Gahr’s arrival. They all found that they faced more challenges than keeping up with the turtles. The language barriers eventually created an unspoken understanding between fellow researchers and Gahr because of the common need to help the turtles.

Gahr may have only spent two weeks working on the conservancy, but in that amount of time, she found a new respect for the lifestyles that come with conservation projects.

“The passion people have for these animals is incredible,” she said. “I see why it’s working; I see why it takes a special person to want to go out there, months on end...I have a whole lot of respect for these people. It’s a lot of hard work.”

She has also gained a new perspective on the value of conservation projects.

“I understand more the importance of conservation,” she said. “I know they say to conserve water, watch out for animals, conserve nature, but it’s more than just that. We say it all the time, but until you see the need for it and actually have to



*Willow Gahr*

vation classes with Dr. Aaron Place, professor of biology at Northwestern, with preparing her for putting that knowledge into action.

She explained that the turtles would come in at all hours of the day and night, dig their nests with their back flippers and take their time laying their eggs. The process from digging the nest to laying eggs could take hours or not happen at all, with the sea turtle coming back another day to try again.

Gahr was tasked with counting the eggs as they fell, marking the longitude and latitude of the nest and staying with that turtle until it finished, then staying afterwards for

**Continued on Page 16**

# Carnes receives Westerners International scholarship

Eric Carnes, a graduate student from Enid studying in Northwestern's Master of Arts in American Studies degree program, received a \$1,000 scholarship from Westerners International, a non-profit foundation that stimulates interest and research in the history of the North American West.

Dr. Shawn Holliday, associate dean of graduate studies, recommended Carnes for the scholarship from the research he conducted for his AMST 5103/Introduction to American Studies course.

*Continued from Page 15*

## Gahr

work out there and put effort into it, you don't really understand it. It's brought to life really what it means to work out there...and try to save a species that's dying."

The conservancy asked Gahr to come back to be a research assistant next summer. Her duties would change slightly with more responsibilities being added, but she is still considering it.

"It's total exposure," she said about her internship. "It's best to be exposed to the different cultures, people and things like that. It keeps you well-rounded, and humble. I think if you have the opportunity or can go on an internship [you should]."

For more information on Northwestern's biology program or the Natural Science Department contact Dr. Steven Maier, department chair and associate professor of physics, at (580) 327-8562 or sjmaier@nwosu.edu.

Carnes is the second Northwestern student to receive the scholarship. Alumna Rebekah Wagenbach received the first graduate scholarship offered by Westerners International in 2014.

For Carnes' major research project, he discussed steam beer as it is used by author Frank Norris in his 1899 novel, *McTeague: A Story of San Francisco*.

As Carnes notes, "The most likely brand drunk by the character McTeague is called Anchor Steam Beer or better known at the time the novel was written as California Common. The history of American Steam Beer dates back to the American gold rush days of the West Coast mining camps. Toward the end of the 19th century, steam beer had become one of the most popular beverages along the West Coast, especially in San Francisco."

Later, Carnes connects the

character's penchant for drinking with spousal abuse, an activity common in 19th Century America. This was especially true of men who drank steam beer since it served as a "cheap substitute for the more expensive alcoholic beverages available to the characters," all of whom are members of America's working class.

Westerners International's home office is based at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. It offers not only scholarship opportunities but also a place to publish papers and research projects for its graduate student members. It is because of these opportunities that Northwestern's Graduate Studies Office has partnered with Westerners International.

For more information on Northwestern's Graduate Studies program contact Holliday at (580) 327-8589 or spholliday@nwosu.edu.



*Northwestern's Department of Fine Arts presented Rehearsal for Murder Oct. 13-15 in Herod Hall Auditorium. Directed by Kimberly Weast, professor of theatre arts and chair of the Department of Fine Arts, this production was written by D.D. Brooke and from the television play by Richard Levinson and William Link. This is a thrilling "theatrical" mystery that is set in an empty theatre in New York City. Cast members shown are: Richmond Adams, assistant professor of English; Crosby Dunbar, Arthur Bohlmann, Zach Frische and Shaden Foresman.*



# Starkey presents on German POWs in the States

The Northwestern Institute for Citizenship Studies and Department of Social Sciences were proud to welcome Kyle Starkey as part of the Annual Cultural Heritage Lecture Series at the Graceful Arts Gallery in downtown Alva.

Starkey, currently a doctoral graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Department of History, presented on the topic "Life Behind Barbed Wire: Recreation and German POWs in the States."

His talk was based on extensive research on the German POW camp system in Oklahoma and across the United States during the Second World War.

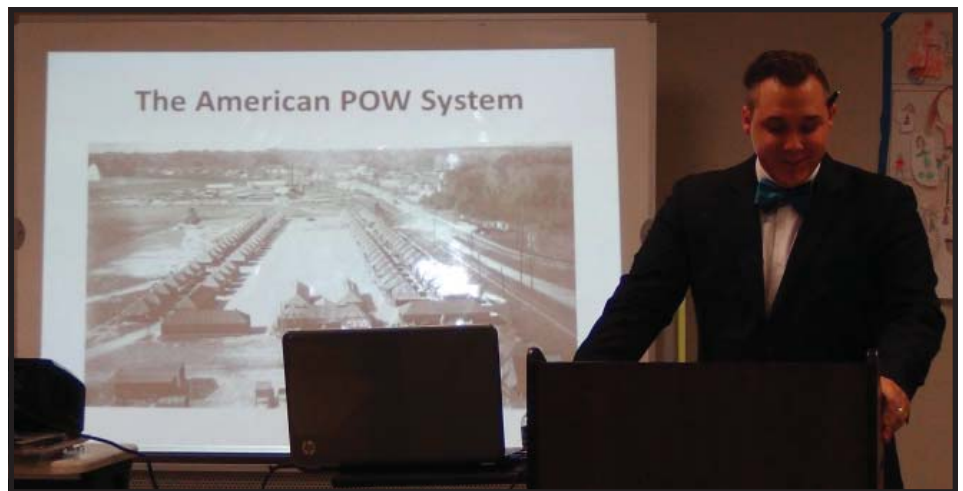
Camp Alva, which was located in the vicinity of the Woods County Fairgrounds south of Alva, was at the time one of several major POW camps in the nation.

In early 2015, Northwestern hosted Starkey while he was conducting field work on the subject.

For more information, contact Dr. Eric Schmaltz, professor of history in the Department of Social Sciences, at (580) 327-8526 or [ejschmaltz@nwosu.edu](mailto:ejschmaltz@nwosu.edu).



*The Alva Prisoner of War camp began receiving German prisoners in July, 1943. Prisoners arrived by rail and were marched 2 1/2 miles to the camp, which was located on the south edge of town. The mural was painted by Don Prechtel and Robbie Pierce in 2012.*



*Kyle Starkey discussed "Life Behind Barbed Wire: Recreation and German POWs in the States" at the Graceful Arts Gallery in downtown Alva.*

# Dirks is Oxford grad, 2 accepted into programs

Three Social Sciences department alums are progressing in graduate studies with one graduate and two acceptances.

Hannah Dirks has completed her masters degree in War, Society and Media Studies at Oxford, Eng-

land.

She is now employed as a Staff Liaison for Congressman Steve Russell, R-Oklahoma in Washington, D.C.

Jose Martinez has been accepted into the Public Administration

Masters Program at the University of Texas, Arlington.

Edem Attor, Social Sciences Department Alumnae has been accepted into the Global Studies Masters Program at George Washington University.



*The Ranger band leads the annual Homecoming Parade in downtown Alva. Many area bands were able to participate in this year's parade. The majority of public school student musicians were able to join the Ranger band to kick off the Homecoming football game at Ranger Field.*

## Many bands participate in Homecoming activities

Seventeen bands from across Oklahoma and Kansas marched around Alva's downtown square during Northwestern's Homecoming Parade.

The Ranger marching band joined with the junior high and high school bands for a massed band performance on Ranger Field prior to the Ranger vs. East Central University football game.

Northwestern band director Dr. Marc Decker is thrilled to have more bands participating this year.

"I'm delighted to share that we had nearly 740 students marching in our Homecoming parade this year," Decker said. "In addition, almost all of them were able to stay for the football game and participate in a special pre-game performance playing alongside the Ranger marching band in what was a memorable and enjoyable performance."

Five of the directors leading their bands in the parade are Northwestern alumni. They include Cara Bradt and Adam Stuart, class of 2007; Daci Crockett, class of 2004; Amy Freeman, class of 2001; and Sherri Lohmann, class of 2000.

Northwestern's Homecoming Parade competition and Massed Band performance were made possible by a generous donation from the Charles Morton Share Trust. The Ranger band and all the participating students wish to thank the trustees for their support.

"The students in the Ranger band were thrilled to provide this experience and outreach to these schools," Decker said.

To see more information about Northwestern's Homecoming events, please visit [www.nwosu.edu/homecoming](http://www.nwosu.edu/homecoming).

## Northwestern, social workers host event

Northwestern partnered with the National Association of Social Workers Oklahoma Chapter (NASW-OK) to play host to a category II, two-hour Northwest Helping Professional Network event during November.

The event, "Today, I'm Thankful For..." took place on Monday, Nov. 14, in Woodward.

"We were ecstatic to be partnering with NASW-OK to provide quality continuing education events to the Northwest region," said Dr. Kylene Rehder, department of social work chair.

"In addition to this networking event, NASW-OK is also partnering with our social work department to establish a Phi Alpha Honor Society chapter at Northwestern. Benefits from this event will go towards start-up costs for this organization."

Phi Alpha Honor Society is a national organization that helps provide a closer bond among students of social work and promotes humanitarian goals and ideas.

Phi Alpha fosters high standards of education for social workers and invites into membership those who have attained excellence in scholarship and achievement in social work.

For more information about Northwestern's department of social work or the networking opportunity, contact Rehder at (580) 327-8135 or [kdrehder@nwosu.edu](mailto:kdrehder@nwosu.edu).

# Hardaway article published in book

Dr. Roger Hardaway, professor of history at Northwestern, is the author of an article in a book published this fall by the University of Oklahoma Press. The book, *Black Cowboys in the American West: On the Range, On the Stage, Behind the Badge*, was edited by Professors Bruce Glasrud of Sul Ross State University in Texas and Michael Searles of Augusta State University in Georgia.

Hardaway's article, "Oklahoma's African-American Rodeo Performers," was first published in the summer 2011 issue of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*. The essay explores the great number of black Oklahomans who have excelled in rodeo arenas at all levels of competition. These include not only men and women who have competed in rodeos but also others—like clowns, bullfighters, pick-up men, and trick riders—who are also crucial to the success of any rodeo performance.

"The editors asked me to contribute to their book because I have been studying African-American rodeo personnel for several years," Hardaway said. "I have given numerous presentations on black cowboys at historical conferences, and I have published several articles and books on the black experience in the American West."

When Hardaway first began researching cowboys, his focus was on "working" cowhands—those who labor on ranches. Just as rodeo per-

formances grew out of ranch work, his interest in black cowboys began to shift from those who worked on ranches to those who seek to entertain audiences in rodeo arenas.

"Black cowboys and cowgirls participate in all aspects of the sport of rodeo," Hardaway said. "While many of them rodeo mostly for fun in their spare time, others are professional athletes who earn their livings going down the rodeo road.

And, since Oklahoma has a rich Western heritage and was once a territory that sanctioned slavery, it is no accident that the Sooner State has produced numerous successful African-American rodeo performers at all levels of competition and in all rodeo events.

"I was also happy to be able to give some notice to two of my former Northwestern students who have been professional rodeo contract personnel," he said.

## Weast judges 6A state meet

Professor Kimberly Weast was asked again to adjudicate and present verbal critique at the 6A State One Act Competition in Choctaw.

## Bowen gives workshop

Alumnus Grant Bowen, 2006 speech/theatre major, presented a workshop about his professional scenic design company and career.

Bowen also served as set designer

Hardaway's former student Jeff Rector is the only African-American pick-up man working in Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA) events. Rector has just been chosen to work the PRCA's National Finals Steer Roping competition being held in Kansas this fall.

The other student, Sam Gress, has been an award-winning bullfighter (those who protect bull riders) in several professional rodeo associations.

"I was extremely pleased with the article when I wrote it," Hardaway concluded, "and I am doubly happy to have it reprinted in such a quality work edited by two outstanding historians and published by one of the most distinguished university presses in the United States."

For more information on Hardaway's research, contact him at (580) 327-8520 or rdhardaway@nwsu.edu.

Weast observed 9 one-hour plays during the day. "It is always an honor but nerve wracking to be one of three judges who determines the best in the state," she stated.

for the 2016 presentation of "Rehearsal for Murder," a play in which he was featured as the male lead in 2006. In this way, Grant and Professor Weast came full circle on this production.

# Wells recognized by ONA for service, dedication

Oklahoma Nurses Association (ONA) recognized one of Northwestern's division chairs recently.

Dr. Shelly Wells, associate professor of nursing and chair of the Division of Nursing, was awarded the Nightingale Award of Excellence.

This award is presented to an ONA member, who during their career has provided service and dedication to the association, exemplified the characteristics of the professional nurse, implemented unique strategies to fulfill professional and community role responsibilities, and been engaged in a variety of roles that enhance the image of the nursing profession.



“My initial response was one of surprise—it is quite humbling to be recognized for one’s work by peers and mentors,” Wells said. “Looking out at that crowd and seeing nurses who are recognized around the state for the work they have accomplished and knowing that they are standing up in response to me winning the

award was thrilling.

“While this award is given to one nurse annually, it actually belongs to more than me. It is because of great nurses throughout the state that I am able to do what I do. I am only one nurse, but I want to see all nurses succeed, and whatever I can do to assist another nurse to be successful actually steers me towards meeting my goals of touching the lives of many patients and helping them to be the best that they can be and live the best lives possible.”

ONA is the professional association for all registered nurses in Oklahoma. It is a community of nurses across all specialties and practice settings working to promote the profession of nursing.

This community of nurses is working to address the issues that face nursing on a daily basis, as well as other issues of importance – nurse-force numbers, workplace safety, standards of care, scope of practice and patient safety. ONA focuses on practice, educational, political and professional issues that impact registered nurses in Oklahoma.

Dr. Bo Hannaford, vice president for academic affairs, is grateful to have such a dedicated division chair to be helping Northwestern’s students.

“We are very excited about Dr. Wells receiving the Nightingale Award of Excellence,” Hannaford said. “She is very deserving of this award. Her dedication to Northwestern and the profession of nursing has been nothing but outstanding. Under her leadership



and the hard work of our faculty, our Division of Nursing continues to excel.”

Wells looks forward to more progress in Northwestern’s new Doctorate of Nursing Program (DNP).

“Winning this award only makes me want to work harder at Northwestern as nursing pursues opportunities to improve the health of the citizens in our region,” Wells said. “Rural healthcare has many deficits, but nursing has a real chance to make a difference in the lives of our people. The graduates of our BSN program provide a good foundation to improve the healthcare situation in northwestern Oklahoma. The new BSN-to-DNP Family Nurse Practitioner program with its emphasis on the health needs of the rural communities will only lead to healthier improvements for our area.”

For more information on Northwestern’s nursing program, contact Wells at (580) 327-8489 or [scwells@nwsu.edu](mailto:scwells@nwsu.edu).

# Riley shares journey to receiving doctorate

Earning a degree at any level is a process, and Northwestern's Christie Riley has experienced a journey of her own while earning her doctorate.

Riley, director of teacher education and assistant professor of education, recently earned her doctorate in Educational Leadership from Northcentral University in Arizona after completing her dissertation titled "High School Graduation Rates in Oklahoma after the Implementation of End-of-Year Testing Requirements."

Riley earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from Northwestern and has taught in the school system for nearly 20 years. Her experience includes elementary

education, as well as counseling and administration, and she has taught within the Division of Education at Northwestern since 2007.

She began working on her doc-



Christie Riley

torate in 2008 and said it was a journey of endurance to complete the credential that has benefited her students' experiences and brought new light to her time at Northwestern.

"I think it affected my teaching from when I started working on my doctorate; it makes you look at things through a different perspective," Riley said. "It encouraged me to make my courses a little more rigorous because the expectations have changed. As you work on your doctorate, you find out more information and how things are looking forward."

She said she believes this experience also has provided her with em-

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## Adams publishes Sherlock Holmes portrayal article

Northwestern's Dr. Richmond Adams, assistant professor of English, recently published an article concerning various cinematic and television portrayals of Sherlock Holmes.

In Adams' work titled "No More Greed and Grab: Sherlock Holmes and the 'Decency' of Gentlemen," he explores Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's great detective through the Victorian lens of a "gentleman" in three quite different, yet interestingly similar ways across the 20th and 21st centuries.

Adams first uses the Basil Rathbone films made during World War II, then shifts to Jonny Lee Miller's portrayal in the post 9/11 American drama television show "Elementary." Adams argues that despite the dramatic shifts in cultural assumptions from the Victorian era through the hopes of World War

II and now Miller's guilt-ridden, angry-postmodern view, the notion of Holmes as a "gentleman"—specifically defined through various etiquette manuals from Conan Doyle's century—continues to guide the character's sense of himself as a detective and as a man.

Adams concludes his article by using Christopher Plummer's 1979 portrayal of Holmes in *Murder by Decree* as a Janus-like cinematic bridge between the hopes of Rathbone from World War II and the pessimism of Miller in post 9/11 America. As Plummer's Holmes investigates the murders committed by Jack the Ripper in Victorian England, he comes to question the efficacy of his cultural institutions, and does so through the worldview of a "gentleman." By doing so, Plummer's Holmes offers a way not only

to examine the traumatic changes in Western society from World War II through the late 1970s, but the ongoing preconceptions about, as Dr. Watson reflects at the film's end, the concept of "decency" as well as fairness and concern for others.

"Sherlock Holmes, as most critics agree, continues to hold a place within Western imagination about not only the solving of crimes but the manner and style by which he did so," Adams said.

Adams' work was published in spring 2016 in *Cinematic Codes Review* by the Anaphora Literary Press. This publication marks the fifth scholarly article by Adams since his arrival at Northwestern in the fall of 2014.

For more information on Adams' work contact him at (580) 327-8428 or rbadams@nwosu.edu.

# Choral groups have busy semester

The Northwestern choirs, led by Karsten Longhurst, director of choral activities, had many performances this semester.

Concerts included the Fall Con-

cert, first High School Holiday Festival led by Dr. Daniel Hall, and annual Holiday Gala with the band, but the group capped off the semester with a performance for Alva Mu-

nicipal League hosted by the Alva Chamber at the Cherokee Strip Annex.

But, the highlight of the semester was singing at the Homestead, the Share Convalescent Home, and the Senior Citizen Center to help bring in the holidays.

The Chorale and Singers are busy preparing for their collaboration with the Enid Symphony and an international tour this summer. It's possible members have been seen busily fundraising at Sonic or McDonalds. The group is thrilled to share its music on tour in Austria and Czechia this summer!



*The University Chorale directed by Karsten Longhurst, director of choral activities, along with the other choral groups presented A Jubilant Song concert at the Methodist church in November. Susan Duell, piano, and Pax Myers, violin, accompanied the group on this number.*

Continued from Page 21

## Riley shares journey

pathy and understanding for her students, and she is able to apply what she has learned to her coursework.

Riley said she thinks of the time spent working on her doctorate “as a long professional development class, and everything you learn in that classroom you’re now able to share with your students and encourage them to want to pursue a higher or advanced degree.”

She encourages her students to do well in the classroom and continues to be encouraged by them.

Some of Riley’s biggest supporters through this educational jour-

ney were members of her family. She said her husband and daughters provided endless encouragement to complete the degree.

Riley also is appreciative of the support received from her peers.

“Everyone at Northwestern was very supportive in my process and helped me with any insight possible...although I think I am the same person from when I started, it’s an accomplishment that no one can take away.”

For more information about the teacher education program at Northwestern, contact Riley at [clirley@nwosu.edu](mailto:clirley@nwosu.edu) or (580)327-8694.

## Banned Book

## Reading has

## Halloween theme

On Thursday, Oct. 26, Sigma Tau Delta held their annual Banned Book Reading to celebrate freedom from censorship.

This year’s theme was “Halloween edition,” so participants read selections from their favorite horror, mystery, or thriller works. Excerpts varied widely from classics such as *Dracula* to the current king of horror, Stephen King, and even included a classic comic book.

There were eleven readers in all, and approximately 30 people attended the event.

Costumes were encouraged and everyone enjoyed the event’s signature candy buffet at the end of the evening.

# Fine Arts plays host to Holiday Festival

The first High School Holiday Festival choir event took place at Northwestern on Monday, Nov. 21, in Herod Hall Auditorium.

The Fine Arts Department sought out interested high school choir groups and individuals to attend from surrounding schools in Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas.

Karsten Longhurst, director of choral music at Northwestern, co-

ordinated with high school teachers the registration of their choir groups or interested individuals.

Members of the Northwestern Chorale and University Singers, along with guest clinician Dr. Daniel Hall, worked with the students throughout the day, starting rehearsal at 8:30 a.m. The day ended with a concert at 6 p.m. in Herod Hall Auditorium to showcase the

talents of the high school and university students.

Hall, who is the director of choral activities and assistant professor of music at Ohio University, has traveled worldwide sharing his music with others. He has conducted choirs and taught undergraduate and graduate courses in conducting, voice methods, composition, choral arranging and music education.

Longhurst said the music performed was an in-depth variety of holiday festival music that was both rhythmic and challenging to give an enriching experience with other cultures and customs. Hall also conducted one of his own compositions.

Longhurst said by attending the festival, the high school students gained insight into the university's Fine Arts Department, as well as learned more about their craft.

This festival also gave high school choirs an opportunity to take what they learned and add to their own school Christmas choir concerts.

"Our goal was to give students an awesome experience, and expose them to a lot of different styles of music," Longhurst said.



*Dr. Daniel Hall, guest clinician and director of choral activities and assistant professor of music at Ohio University, works with high school and university choral students at the first High School Holiday Festival held on Nov. 21 on campus. Susan Duell served as accompanist.*



*University and high school students joined together for the culminating Holiday Festival Concert after a day of workshops on campus.*

Have a  
Wonderful  
Spring  
Semester!

# Bit & Byte entertains nearly 1,800 students

Nineteen Northwestern students took to the Herod Hall Auditorium stage Nov. 17-19 for the annual children's production, "Fairy Tale Bits and Bytes" by Christopher Gieschen.

Nearly 1,800 elementary students from surrounding schools attended four shows just for them Thursday and Friday, Nov. 17-18. A

show was open to the public on Saturday, Nov. 19.

Kimberly Weast, professor of theatre and chair of the Department of Fine Arts, was the director.

According to Samuel French, Inc., play publishers, the production is about an evil computer virus named Virus who has invaded a disk containing beloved children's stories, fairy tales and nursery rhymes. The virus causes all of the story characters to become

mish-mashed together. Byte and Bit are computer chips who try to set things right and defeat the evil virus before he infects other computers.

Twelve of the 19 Northwestern students serving as the cast and crew in this production were fulfilling class requirements for Weast's Principles of Acting class.

To learn more about this production or Northwestern's theatre program, contact Weast at (580) 327-8462 or [kkweast@nwosu.edu](mailto:kkweast@nwosu.edu).



*Above: Children in attendance from area towns reacted to the performance of Bit & Byte.*

*Right: Bit and Byte cast members try to figure out what to do about the Virus that has attacked their world of children's stories, fairy tales and nurse y rhymes.*



## Oswald completes capstone; earns doctorate

Dr. Jen Oswald, assistant professor of education at Northwestern, completed and presented her dissertation over the summer to earn her doctorate in education.

She currently holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies from Oklahoma Panhandle State University, a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education from Northwestern, a Master of Education Reading Specialist from Northwestern and now her Doctorate of Education focused on reading and literacy from Capella

University.

Oswald started her degree in October 2012 and finished August 5 of this year. Capella University offers an online doctoral program that fit her needs of reading and literacy. Since Oswald was already educated as a reading specialist, Capella's program helped her build on her knowledge and create new challenges in the areas of reading and literacy.

Oswald's program required a capstone over a dissertation. She originally started a dissertation research-

ing on the topic of membership in professional reading associations. Unfortunately, it didn't fit into Capella's quantitative required research guidelines.

"So I worked on that about a year and I couldn't go any further. It didn't fit in that [guideline] little box so I had to fix it, choose a new topic or change to a different degree course to fit a different capstone degree requirement," she said. "I think I read a figure that said 75 percent of people

*Continued on Page 25*



## Oswald earns doctorate

who start their doctorates don't finish, and I can see why," she said.

Although Oswald had to change her original qualitative capstone topic, she didn't abandon the original research entirely. After a break Oswald plans to return and finish the research for her original topic.

Her new and soon-to-be-published capstone research topic is over "best practices aligning to new English language arts standards."

"I knew my capstone frontwards and backward. I purposefully chose something I was weak in, as far as the strategies. To align to the standards I chose multi-modal literacies and writing specifically in multi-modal literacies, so there was a lot of research that went into that," Oswald said. "Any time you go into ed tech it's like taking a sip of water from an open fire hydrant: there's just so much there that you really have to narrow it down. It was easy to get lost in that research, but I knew what I had focused on and why I had focused on it, so it was really easy to defend why I chose this technology over all the ones that are out there."

Oswald gathered the information and research with the help of Pam Davidson, collection services assistant in the J. W. Martin Library, and other colleagues.

"[Davidson] was wonderful about getting me articles on short notice and the research I needed to complete that," Oswald said. "I just have amazing reading colleagues, so any time I needed something I could ask them for anything; when I say colleagues, I mean from across the state."

During her degree, Oswald felt the content she was learning and the research she utilized through her capstone aligned very well with what she teaches in the classroom at Northwestern.

"I teach the reading methods courses for education so it's always contributed to my teaching. They aligned really well: what I was studying was what I was teaching and vice versa."

Oswald understood that in order to help others in her field, she needed to become an expert on her topic. Her next move is to start being considered for state literacy and leadership positions. Currently, she serves as regional coordinator on the Board of Directors for Oklahoma Council of Teachers of English (OCTE) and is on the committee with the State Department of Education to help revise the state's literacy plan.

Although Oswald will be adding more leadership roles to her plate, she still has a strong love for Northwestern and the students she teaches.

"I love the challenge that they represent and the passion they have," she said. "I love the fact that they can be gone for five years and when they come back to town they pop into my office and say hi. I love that connection...I just love the fact that you build good relationships here."

Oswald lives outside of Alva in the country with husband, Nick, and their 3-year-old son, Rett.

"My son just turned 3, and my goal whenever I started [my degree] was to always finish before he was 3, and I made it by about five days!" Oswald said. "Even with pregnancy complications, I knew that if I sat

out [a quarter] it would be too hard to come back, so I just kept going. I was blessed with good teachers who understood that. I worked hard to get ahead."

"It's tough, the whole family gets the degree. Everybody has to make sacrifices, and I sure couldn't have done it without my husband and also both sets of our parents...It's the hardest thing I've ever done."

She will receive her diploma after her capstone project is published through Capella University.

After getting her doctorate Oswald has big plans within the Division of Education at Northwestern.

"I'm in the process of starting a literacy center here on campus; it's in the beginning stages of coming around," she said. "It would offer tutoring from our teacher candidates to public P-12 students. They don't necessarily have to be from Alva; they can be from anywhere, and it serves the entire family, not just the student who is struggling. Not everyone has an educational background, so you get these calls that say 'my son's teacher is telling me to get an app to help with reading.' But have you looked at how many apps there are? [The literacy center] would help serve the student by showing them and their parents this is what we are focusing on and what you can do at home. You can't beat that personal relationship."

For more information on Northwestern's School of Education contact Dr. Christee Jenlink, associate dean and professor of education, at (580) 327-8450 or [cljenlink@nwosu.edu](mailto:cljenlink@nwosu.edu).

# 93 participate in Writing Marathon

Northwestern's English program played host to 93 writers in its second Writing Marathon workshop in downtown Alva on Friday, Oct. 7, at the Graceful Arts Center.

"This event is called a 'writing

wrote another round or moved to a new location for more inspiration.

This continued until 1 p.m., when everyone reconvened at the Graceful Arts Center for a "read-around" where writers could share up

to two minutes of their work. There was no requirement for participants to share their work.

Dr. Lane told the writers they could join the marathon at any time. They just had to check in with her at the Graceful Arts Center, where they would be placed with a writing group. They could leave as their schedule dictated.

She encouraged all to participate, even for a little while. A writing marathon is a writing experience that has to be tried to be fully appreciated.



*Left: Alva Middle School Writers*

*Below: Writers working in one of many groups at the Graceful Arts Gallery.*

marathon' but requires no running," Dr. Kathryn Lane, associate professor of English and chair of the English, Foreign Language and Humanities Department, joked. "The goal of a writing marathon is to allow the writer to commune with a location furthering their sense of place and comradery. It takes the concept of writer from solitary to communal. Frankly, it's fun."

The day kicked off at 10 a.m. at the Graceful Arts Center with the entire group writing one round together. From 10:30-10:40 a.m. participants broke into groups of no more than four and headed out into downtown Alva to see writer-friendly locations. Each group picked its first destination and decided how long they wanted to write, then shared their work among the group. From there, participants either



# Northwestern plays host to ‘Teach Oklahoma’ students

The Division of Education at Northwestern-Alva recently played host to high school students from Enid and Woodward in the “Teach Oklahoma” program.

A grant funded the opportunity for this program through the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. This allowed for members in Northwestern’s Division of Education to work with the high school students to provide immer-

sive teacher-education activities to enhance their high school curriculum program.

The day served as an opportunity for high school students who are interested in a teaching career to have firsthand experience of taking Northwestern’s classes, including education classes, and meeting with Northwestern student teachers who are majoring in education.

This event also provided prelimi-

nary information for an investigative research study in which the high school students asked the question “why teach?” The collaboration on this project between Northwestern education faculty and the respective high schools promises to bring important research findings to the “why teach?” question. Students were also able to enjoy lunch with Dr. Janet Cunningham, university president, and Dr. James Bell, associate vice president for academics and dean of faculty.

The culminating event for this project will be the students presenting their findings at the Oklahoma Higher Education Research Day in Enid in March 2017.

“This event, and the overall grant project, is ground-breaking as a collaboration among Enid High School, Woodward High School and Northwestern,” Dr. Christee Jenlink, associate dean of the School of Education and professor of education, said.

## Castle Players party has costumes, scavenger hunt

The Castle Players club hosted its annual Halloween party on Oct. 29. The party consisted of a costume contest judged by Fine Arts faculty Kimberly Weast and Marc Decker and librarian Shawna Gilbert, as well as a scavenger hunt. The scavenger hunt was an accumulated list of items that could be found on campus and around Alva. The students had a one hour deadline to find as many as they could and take a picture with them before they had to come back.



*Top: Enid High School participants along with NWOSU Student Teachers.*

*Middle: Dr. Janet Cunningham visits with high school participants during a lunch meeting.*

*Bottom: Woodward High School participants with NWOSU Student Teachers.*

# Workshop featured American Revolutionary War, early Constitutional Republic

The Northwestern Department of Social Sciences and Institute for Citizenship Studies, in association with a major grant from the Oklahoma Humanities Council, recently conducted a summer teachers' workshop on the American Revolutionary War and early Constitutional republic.

The summer workshop covered the period from George III's accession to the British throne in 1760 to Thomas Jefferson's transformational presidential victory in 1801.

It brought 12 teacher-participants of diverse backgrounds and experiences to Northwestern-Alva from June 6-9. Teachers came from all corners of the state of Oklahoma, as well as participants and presenters from Kansas, Iowa, Virginia, and Idaho.

The event was designed to enhance the knowledge base of middle school and high school social science teachers regarding this formative period in early American history. Several members of the local and university communities also attended some of the workshop sessions. The expressed goal is that this shared passion and commitment to learning and teaching will better enable today's educators to serve in the very important capacity of cultivating America's next generation of informed and responsible citizens.

Workshop organizers included Dr. Aaron Mason, associate professor of political science, and Dr. Eric Schmaltz, professor of history, while Dr. Kay Decker serves as chair of the Department of Social Sciences and professor of sociology. Mason and Schmaltz also presented on Revolutionary era topics.

Other workshop contributors sharing their insights and perspectives included Dr. Roger Hardaway, professor of history; Dr. Shawn Holliday, associate dean of graduate studies and professor of English; Kenneth Kelsey, instructor of history; J. W. Platt, instructor emeritus of history; Dr. Jennifer Page, assistant professor of English; Dr. Justin Quinn Olmstead, assistant professor of history at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond; and John Schmaltz, professor emeritus in social sciences from North Iowa Area Community College in Mason City.

This multi-faceted workshop featured lectures, Power Point presentations, group discussions and art displays of the Revolutionary War. Other activities included a field trip to the Helmerich Center at the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, where teacher-participants enjoyed the rare privilege of viewing one of the few surviving original copies of the Declaration of Independence.

Moreover, the workshop conducted an evening "virtual tour" of George Washington's Mount Vernon residence by holding a live Skype session with staff members of Educational Resources and Outreach with the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington, Mount Vernon, Virginia.

Workshop speakers covered a wide spectrum of subjects on the Revolutionary War and early Constitutional republic eras, ranging from politics, diplomacy, women, African-Americans, literature, economics, and global legacy to the British perspective on the war itself.

The workshop organizers

thanked the Oklahoma Humanities Council for its generous support. Additionally, the enthusiasm and quality of the teacher-participants quite impressed the organizers. Mason and Schmaltz reported that the teacher-participants gave the workshop highly positive evaluations overall.

In summer 2012, the Department of Social Sciences and Institute for Citizenship Studies, through the financial support of the Oklahoma Humanities Council, had played host to a similarly successful teachers' workshop on the American Civil War. The organizers said that they hope to hold another teachers' workshop in the future, perhaps on the topic of the Cold War era (1945-1991), something in which many of the teacher-participants have expressed considerable interest.

For more information about Northwestern's Institute for Citizenship Studies, contact (580) 327-8525 or [nwics@nwsu.edu](mailto:nwics@nwsu.edu).

## Weast is speaker at Kiwanis weekly meeting

On Wednesday, Nov. 16, Professor Kimberly Weast was invited to speak at Kiwanis meeting.

Accompanying her was Dr. Decker of instrumental music, Kyle Larson of visual arts and the November artist-in-residence, Anna Valdez.

At the meeting Weast discussed upcoming fine arts events and the Northwest Oklahoma Concert Series.

# 10 Endowed Chairs funded by Wisdom Family Foundation

The Division of Nursing at Northwestern recently was gifted 10 endowed chairs by the Wisdom Family Foundation in order to support its newly established Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program announced earlier this year.

The Wisdom Family Endowed Chairs for Nursing, in honor of the late C.W. and Grace Wisdom of Alva, will provide funds for teaching positions in the area of nursing. A gift total of \$2.5 million will ensure strong leadership for Northwestern's Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program.

"The establishment of 10 endowed chairs through the support from the Wisdom Family Foundation is the result of one of the most impactful gifts in the history of Northwestern," Dr. Janet Cunningham, university president, said. "The creation of the Doctor of Nursing Practice program is a potential game changer for Northwestern. Not only does it raise the academic standing of the University, but it will impact the quality of health care in Oklahoma for generations to come."

C.W. and Grace Wisdom were married in 1946 in Kansas City, Missouri, and had three daughters, Peggy J., Dianna Sue and Cindy. The couple and their family moved from Okeene, Okla., to Alva in the 1950s. The couple's commitment to education at Northwestern led to the establishment of the Wisdom Family Foundation to support education in the arts, agriculture and health/medicine.

"The Wisdom Family Foundation, through the leadership of Dr. Peggy Wisdom, has been visionary

in its support of Northwestern, acting as a key partner in the creation of the DNP program, and earlier, the agriculture education program," said Cunningham. "The members of the Foundation deserve and have our sincere gratitude for their support of our students."

Dr. Peggy Wisdom, daughter of C.W. and Grace and Professor/Vice Chair of Neurology at the University of Oklahoma



College of Medicine, says it often can be difficult for rural areas to recruit physicians to their communities due in large part to a common observation that once a resident is ready for practice, they often practice in the area where they were trained.

"The Board of Directors of the Wisdom Family Foundation recognized Northwestern had a valuable resource for northwest Oklahoma in the nationally recognized School of Nursing," said Dr. Wisdom. "As many of the nurses who graduate from its nursing program establish families and remain active in nursing in their community, an expanded program which would train nurse practitioners would likely increase the number of

licensed independent practitioners in northwest Oklahoma."

As Interim Medical Director for OU Physicians Neurology Clinic, Dr. Wisdom says she has no doubt Northwestern's DNP program will benefit the community.

"Through a collaboration between the Wisdom Family Foundation, the Share Trust and the leadership of Northwestern, the development of a DNP program was conceived. This program, using the established resources of the Northwestern nursing program

and expanding nursing faculty and rural community preceptors, will begin to provide additional educational opportunities to all nurses of northwest Oklahoma," said Dr. Wisdom. "Nurses who were interested in expanding their skills in diagnosis and management of rural community patients will now have an opportunity to remain active in nursing and care for their families while pursuing their DNP."

For more information on the Wisdom Family Endowed Chairs for Nursing or about investing in Northwestern students, call Skeeter Bird, Northwestern Foundation CEO, at 580-327-8599 or email him at [aebird@nwosu.edu](mailto:aebird@nwosu.edu).

# Gugelmeyer, Mayhall compete at NATS

Two Northwestern students competed recently against hundreds of student singers from New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma in the annual National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Regional Conference and Student Audition competition in Canyon, Texas.

Northwestern music majors Naicee Gugelmeyer (pictured left), Hardtner, Kansas, senior, and Chance Mayhall (pictured third from left), Ponca City junior, attended the auditions held at West Texas A&M University.

The event began with a preliminary round in which students sang for a panel of judges. Finalists performed again for everyone present.

To sing in the NATS competition, a student must study with a current member of NATS. Lawana Newell (pictured second from left), Northwestern's director of vocal studies who accompanied the students to the event, is a member of NATS. Susan Duell, adjunct instructor of class piano and choral accompanist, also attended (pictured far right).

NATS celebrates the art of singing through a series of competitions and programs that are designed to showcase the talented singers and performers who are soon to be rising stars in the profession.

Mayhall and Gugelmeyer performed four pieces of music, 12 minutes in length. The pieces had to



*Naicee Gugelmeyer, Lawana Newell, director of vocal studies, Chance Mayhall, and Susan Duell, adjunct instructor and choral accompanist, at NATS Conference and Competition in Canyon, Texas. Gugelmeyer and Mayhall sang in the competition.*

be a composite of English and foreign language.

Northwestern students have done well at this competition in the past, and this year Mayhall made it to the semifinal round.

"I'm extremely pleased with their performance and with the experience that they gained from these auditions," said Newell. "It was a wonderful experience for our students."

Mayhall treasures the experiences he received from attending the NATS competition.

"NATS is such a treat to get to attend let alone compete at," Mayhall said. "You get to hear the caliber of classically trained singers your age and make professional connections. We sing in front of

three judges, and they score us and give us great feedback, which is invaluable to our growth as young musicians."

Gugelmeyer said this was a great event, and she enjoyed getting feedback from the judges.

"NATS is an amazing opportunity for music students simply because of the many opportunities to listen to a variety of performances," Gugelmeyer said. "My favorite part is getting to listen to other people in my division and being able to take home ideas to add to my own performances."

For more information on vocal studies at Northwestern, contact Newell at (580) 327-8689 or [linewell@nwsu.edu](mailto:linewell@nwsu.edu).

# Valdez has culminating art show

Students and Assistant Professor of Art Kyle Larson enjoy the work of Anna Valdez, artist-in-residence at her culminating show at the Graceful Arts Gallery in December. The exhibition included her work from her month-long residency.

NWOSU Visual Arts would like to thank Anna Valdez for her time as Artist-in-Residence at NWOSU.

Larson said her dedication and work ethic has had a great impact on the the community and students.



*Brianna McClure, Rachel Davis, Abbie Haskins, Kyle Larson, Anna Valdez and Princess Adenuga have a good time during the December First Friday event. Valdez' work was on display.*



*Painters work from Christmas-themed still life during Anna Valdez' painting workshop.*

## Artist offers Christmas workshop

On Saturday, Dec. 3, Artist-In-Residence Anna Valdez led a holiday-themed observational painting/drawing workshop at the Graceful Arts Center.

The event was open to the public and for Northwestern students.

## Student teachers get hands-on experience

Students leave Northwestern with the knowledge to succeed in a particular field. In their final semester, 22 senior education students have entered area schools to gain hands-on experience student teaching.

The students returned to campus for seminars in November and

their portfolio exit interviews in December. Graduation was held on Dec. 11.

Listed below are the students, their hometowns and teaching assignments.

English education – Derek Bishop, Ponca City East Middle School; Jade George, Aline-Cleo High

School (Aline); Kambria Witschi, Arnett High School; Charlie Wylie, Alva Middle School

Health and Sports Science education – Shelby Anderson, Alva Longfellow Elementary

Elementary education – Allison Summers, Ponca City Trout Elementary (Ponca City)

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# Students tour Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum

Northwestern students in the Leviathan Society paid a late September visit to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum in Abilene, Kansas. The trip was sponsored by the Northwestern

Institute for Citizenship Studies and the Department of Social Sciences.

Besides taking a tour of the various sites on location, they also were invited to a luncheon downtown hosted by Timothy D. Rives, deputy director of the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum.

Dr. Aaron Mason, professor of political science, and Dr. Eric Schmaltz, professor of history, who both serve as the Institute's co-executive directors, arranged for the visit and accompanied the students there. They wish to thank Rives for making this group tour special, particularly the supervised visit to the library's archives, where he discussed with students possible careers in public history.

For the past several years, Rives, who claims Oklahoma roots and whose grandmother graduated from Northwestern many years ago, has served on the Institute's board as well.

Established in early fall 2009 under Mason and Schmaltz, the informal Leviathan Society encourages students interested in topics on government, politics, and history to participate in campus-sponsored activities and go to significant historical sites and off-campus cultural events. It consists of students majoring in political science and history, though membership is open to students of all majors.

For more information about the Leviathan Society, Institute, or Department of Social Sciences, contact Mason at (580) 327-8520 or [mason@nwsu.edu](mailto:mason@nwsu.edu) or Schmaltz at (580) 327-8520 or [ejschmaltz@nwsu.edu](mailto:ejschmaltz@nwsu.edu).



Those attending the field trip to the Eisenhower Presidential Library were: Corey Shirey, Jacque Ruhl, Deputy Director Timothy D. Rives, Dr. Aaron Mason, Dr. Eric Schmaltz, and Mahmoud Taleb.

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## Student Teachers...

Early Childhood education – Kylea Buller, Northwestern Pre-K and Garfield Elementary School (Enid Public Schools); Bobbie Dewald, Sharon-Mutual Elementary School in Sharon; Kayla Diel, Pioneer-Pleasant Vale Elementary School in Enid; Anna Hickman, Mooreland Elementary School; Kori Howard, Buffalo Elementary School; Tiffany Martin, Chisholm Elementary School; Elizabeth Patterson, Liberty Elementary School in Ponca City; Megan Phillips, Woodward Early Childhood Center and Horace Mann Elementary School, both in Woodward; Morgan Renbarger, Alva Washington Elementary and Alva Longfellow Elementary; Lupe Reyes, Woodward Early Childhood Center; and Taylor Watham, Timber Creek Elementary

School in Moore.

Special education – Morgan Woodruff, Waynoka Elementary School

Music Education (vocal music) – Bryce Lewis, Alva High school and Alva Middle School; Kenneith McIntosh, Putnam City North High School; Isileli Ofiu, Enid High School

History education – Justin Schanbacher, Chisholm High School

Special Education – Morgan Woodruff, Waynoka Elementary School

For more information on Northwestern's teacher education program, contact Dr. Christee Jenlink, professor of education and associate dean for the School of Education, at (580) 327-8450 or [cljenlink@nwsu.edu](mailto:cljenlink@nwsu.edu).



# Amin is first Fulbright Scholar

This fall, Northwestern welcomed its first Fulbright Scholarship student into the Master of Arts in American Studies program.

Riskariyani Amin, from Indonesia, currently has a bachelor's degree in English literature from Universitas Hasanuddin (Hasanuddin University) in Makassar, Indonesia, and through the Fulbright Program will earn her master's degree from Northwestern.

The Fulbright Program is the flagship international exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government and is designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. On the U.S. side of the program, there are close to 3,000 fully-funded grant opportunities for students and scholars to have an international experience.

Currently, the Fulbright Program operates in more than 160 countries worldwide, but it has operated in more than 180 throughout its life-span. Program alumni include 33 current or former heads of state or government, 54 Nobel Laureates, 82 Pulitzer Prize winners, 29 MacArthur Foundation Fellows, 16 Presidential Medal of Freedom recipients, and thousands of leaders across the private, public and non-profit sectors.

Amin started preparing and applying for the Fulbright Program in April 2015, but was familiar with the program as early as 2011.

"Fulbright is how we become good leaders and good influences or persons in our society and our community," said Amin on her overall desire to join the program.

The process begins with passing administration selection through the Fulbright committee, then being invited to an interview, followed by participants sending a paper describing their area of study, future studies and future departments. After that they complete the online form and wait until a candidate is announced.



*Riskariyani Amin*

Amin was notified in March 2016, slightly less than a year later, that she received the scholarship.

"It was a very unbelievable moment because Fulbright is very hard to achieve it in my country," she said. "It's a very prestigious scholarship in my country; I couldn't believe I passed."

After the Fulbrighters receive their status, they are invited to take admissions tests such as the GRE or others for individual university requirements.

"I believe the small universities are better for me to improve my

experience and my skills," she said about Northwestern.

Northwestern was one university that piqued her interest due to the American Studies program. In Indonesia, Amin was the program coordinator of the American Corner, a program under the U.S. Embassy, where students are taught about American culture and how to speak English, and are given overall information on the U.S. Before leaving to study abroad, Amin was part of Education USA. "[I have] Two years to get my degree, but if I get an opportunity to do any internships then I get to stay for that then go back to my country."

Amin said the lecturers that come to teach American Studies in her country don't typically come from America, coming instead sometimes from Australia or England. She believes it will be a more enriching educational experience for her and other students to learn from someone who has seen and understands the culture firsthand.

She came from a smaller village but moved to the larger city of Makassar during her undergraduate program because she sees the value of education.

"Undergraduate degrees are very common already so we need to improve in higher education life," Amin said about graduate degrees. "So taking a master's in higher education is very important because a lot of people are going to get a better position and a better life."

Since being on Northwestern's campus, Amin feels that she will be able to focus well on her studies and be able to easily get involved in the

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# NAS offers store, photos for kids

Children of all ages were welcomed to come visit with Santa and have their photo taken with him during the seventh annual Photos with Santa and Holiday Gift Store for Kids event at Northwestern-Alva on Saturday, Dec. 17 in the Student Center. Members of the NWOSU Art Society (NAS) sponsor this annual event.

Many photos were taken in Santa Land and available for immediate view-

ing at one of three selection stations.

“Although the weather was a bit of a challenge, we had a great turnout of kids and their families for our event,” Angelia Case, NAS sponsor, said.

Right next door to Santa Land was the Holiday Gift Store for Kids. Children were able to shop for loved ones, friends, teachers and even pets.

Case said that NAS had a number of volunteers on hand to help

each child with their selections and to stay on budget. Only a few children are allowed in the store at one time to make it a positive experience for everyone.

“We had a wonderful group of volunteers who braved the weather to come out and help. We had students who stayed after finals to help, plus faculty and staff members, a re-

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## Fulbright Scholar...

community.

“The people are very friendly,” she said about Northwestern. “I went to the Mexican restaurant here, only my second visit, and I was impressed that they already knew my name.”

She chose Northwestern for the degree program that fit her needs but also the “small-town with a big-city atmosphere” for the opportunities to have real-world experience in American culture.

Although she’s been in Alva a semester, she’s looking for volunteer opportunities and other ways to get involved with the community to fulfill her experience of learning more about American culture.

“[I want to meet] more people in the U.S., learn about their culture, customs, habits; I need it for my future career and job.”

Dr. Shawn Holliday, associate dean of graduate studies, director of Master of Arts in American Studies program, and professor of English, started communicating with Amin in February this year, answering any questions she had about the university, Alva and the degree program. Hol-

liday also is serving as the Fulbright Program adviser and scholar liaison.

“I thought ‘I’m going to do my best to get her to come here,’” he said. “She sent me a lot of questions, and I sent a lot of answers back trying to be as helpful as I could be.”

Eventually Amin was approved and, through the help of the Fulbright Scholarship, Holliday and Rebecca Cook, Northwestern’s international student adviser, were able to complete the process with Amin.

Holliday and Amin have been looking to the Alva community, businesses, and organizations for potential volunteer work to help with her overall experiences while here.

“It would be good for her, good for us and good for the program,” Holliday said about Amin. “I appreciate her being here, and I feel we have a lot we can offer her that a larger university wouldn’t; the friendliness of the community, the people, and especially if she wants to do the internships and free work to get the experiences. I think people around town are more willing to help and give her a chance.”

Holliday indicated that Fulbright students are academically and socially gifted, so it speaks highly of Northwestern’s academic programs for Amin to want to be a Ranger. Holliday is appreciative of the university’s reputation within the state and is now hoping to build on its international reputation.

This year marks the program’s 70th anniversary, with more than 360,000 Fulbrighters total participating in the program, and approximately 8,000 grants awarded annually.

Northwestern students may apply for a Fulbright Scholarship to study abroad while the university’s administrators and professors may apply to become a Fulbright scholar to teach or conduct research abroad.

For more information on how to apply for a Fulbright Scholarship go to [www.nwosu.edu/fulbright-program](http://www.nwosu.edu/fulbright-program) or contact Holliday at (580) 327-8589 or at [spholliday@nwosu.edu](mailto:spholliday@nwosu.edu).

Businesses and organizations in the Alva community that can offer volunteer hours for Amin also are asked to contact Holliday.

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## NAS Store, Photos...

tired staff member and community members who served as volunteers. We can't thank these people enough for their help," Case said.

*Right: Volunteers for this year's NAS Holiday Store and Photos with Santa event included: Ryan Metcalf, Megan Metcalf, Shawna Gilbert, Rylan Castleberry, Jenny Sattler, Hannah Horn, Dena Walker, Amanda Metcalf, Bill McDonald, Jennifer Page, Rita Castleberry, Valarie Case, Angelia Case, Mary Riegel, Haylee Bates, Lorraine Case, Nick Villalobos, Morgan Villarreal, Nicole Marema, Ali Gavitt, Kathy McDonald and Lois Hudgins.*



## English program awards scholarships to 6 students

Six students received scholarships from Northwestern's English program for the year 2016-17.

Shelby Brown, junior English education major from Beaver, received the Gladys Bingham Dotter Scholarship. This scholarship was established in 1997 in honor of their mother by Dr. and Mrs. Dale Dotter of Okeene and Dr. and Mrs. Richard Dotter of Oklahoma City. Mrs. Dotter obtained her teaching certificate in 1917 from Northwestern State Normal School and taught in rural grade school at the age of 16. After her marriage in 1920, she resumed teaching in Oklahoma, where she taught English and drama. In 1935 the Dotters came to Alva and purchased Noah's Ark No. 3, and in 1935 the family opened Dotter's Restaurant. Mrs. Dotter later returned to teaching and in 1967 operated the new Alva Public Library. This scholarship honors an upperclassman majoring in English.

Jade George, senior English education major from Blackwell,

received the Judy Jenlink Language Arts Scholarship. This scholarship was established in 2013 in honor of Judith (Williams) Jenlink, a 1971 alumna of Northwestern. She was a dedicated and accomplished student, earning numerous awards. She taught English in various school systems and had a passion for both the subject and her students. The scholarship benefits English education majors at Northwestern.

Sydney Bowers, senior English major from Ringwood, received the Lebeda Writing Scholarship. Established by Dr. Agnes Lebeda, a 1935 Northwestern graduate, in 1984 after her retirement as a professor in business at the University of Northern Iowa, Lebeda served with distinction as a trustee on the executive committee of the Northwestern Foundation. The recipient of this scholarship must have a 3.5 GPA and be an English major.

Rachel Reardon, senior English major from Woodward, received the Fran Wadley Slack Scholarship. Mary Frances "Fran" Wadley Slack

was born in 1934 to Frank K. and Garnet Wadley. Fran was born in Evanston, Illinois, and moved to Alva in 1935 when her father received his Ph.D. and subsequently became a member of the then Northwestern Oklahoma State College faculty. She died in May, 1996, after a 33-month battle with cancer. Fran was raised in Alva; she graduated from Alva High School in 1951 and then attended Northwestern for two years. She later completed her education at Oklahoma A&M with a major in vocational home economics and a minor in English. In December, 1954, she married John D. Slack, a 1958 Northwestern graduate. While John was stationed in the Far East, Fran returned to A&M for her teaching certificate and taught one semester at Welch. In 1961, John, Fran and family moved to Arlington, Texas, where she devoted her life to raising her family, church work and other organizations. She was a founder of the Arlington Literacy Group. The scholarship is

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# Schmaltz presents of German-Russian foodways

Dr. Eric Schmaltz, professor of history at Northwestern and co-executive director of the endowed NWOSU Institute for Citizenship Studies, presented in October on the foodways of Germans from Russia, before the Golden Spread Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR) at the Senior Citizen Center in Shattuck.

The Great Plains, including northwestern Oklahoma, claim a significant number of descendants of this group who immigrated in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Schmaltz made introductory remarks aided by Power Point before showing the long popular 2000 Prairie Public Broadcasting ( Fargo) video documentary, *Schmeckt Gut: The Food Ways of the Germans from Russia*.

“We Americans today in particular often seek convenience when it comes to eating,” Schmaltz said. “With the rise of standardized fast food culture in recent decades, we are often forgetting or moving away from many of the culinary practices of our

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## English program awards

awarded to full-time Northwestern junior or senior English majors or minors with a CGPA of 3.0.

Charles Wylie, senior English education major from Ponca City, and Sydnie Lowe, double majoring in biology and English from Neosho, Missouri, are sharing the Gloria Piersall English Education Scholarship. Gloria Piersall was a lifelong educator, dedicated to her students and their success. She served as an educator for 40 years, a decade of which was spent as an instructor of English at Northwest-

ancestors. This modern cultural phenomenon is now also happening across the globe, above all with the Americanization of foodways.”

Schmaltz observed that eating typically represents a communal or family activity.

“The consumption of food is a basic and essential survival instinct, but it can also mean something more,” he said. “It offers a more intimate way of communing with others, especially family and friends. Foodways can become personal and emotional for people, whereby individuals often relive memories when they see, but especially smell and taste, foods from their formative years and special occasions. In a way, it can bring people ‘back home’ to one’s beginnings. Childhood memories particularly play a role in how we regard food. Often these communal eating activities were or still are associated with holidays, religious traditions and special occasions, whether Easter, Christmas or weddings.”

Schmaltz added that “the traditions of gardening and canning also

ern. With her positive attitude and passion for education, she was an inspiration to her students. With funds left by Gloria in her estate, The Gloria Piersall English Education Scholarship benefits English education majors at Northwestern.

For more information on Northwestern’s Department of English, Foreign Language, and Humanities scholarships contact Dr. Kathryn Lane, assistant professor of English and chair of the department, at (580) 327-8470 or kelane@nwosu.edu.

tie in with foodway practices. In the 19th and 20th centuries, the canning of foods became an important activity of preserving and storing food reserves during the long winter months.”

Since this immigrant group had first migrated into parts of the Russian Empire during the late 18th and early 19th centuries, Eastern European and even Turkish or Central Asian influences on the Eurasian steppes helped influence and shape some of their foodways. Different culinary traditions were adopted along the way.

“My German-speaking paternal great-grandfather, who emigrated from Russia in 1898, and his sons in south-central North Dakota were butchers by trade with their own family-run businesses. My grandfather was a great cook and sausage maker,” Schmaltz recalled. “With lots of calories, and sometimes deep fried, many of these foods today might not always be the best for the arteries in a more sedentary society!” Schmaltz said. “But at the time they provided vital daily nourishment for farmers, laborers and pioneers.

“It remains quite important to document and preserve these traditions, practices and memories,” Schmaltz said. “Some of these foodways, though not all, are fast disappearing with the passage of time. Indeed, foodways constitute a more direct and immediate way of staying connected with one’s heritage. It can cut across generations and be enjoyed by family, friends and others. It also permits some variety.”

For more information on Schmaltz’s presentations contact him at (580) 327-8526 or ejschmaltz@nwosu.edu.

# Fishers establish scholarship for education students

While some things may change, education remains a constant theme in the lives of Dr. Deena Fisher, Dean for Northwestern's Woodward campus, and Tom Fisher, former Assistant Superintendent of Woodward Public Schools. The passion the couple has for their profession has led them to establish the Dr. Deena and Tom Fisher Scholarship at Northwestern Oklahoma State University to support students pursuing a degree in education.

"Tom and Deena have dedicated their lives to public education and



*Dr. Deena Fisher, Dean of Northwestern's Woodward campus, stands with the deSERVING Ranger Award student recipient, Shelby Lamberth (left) at Spring Reunion 2016.*

improving the lives of students, so it is no surprise they would choose to financially support students at Northwestern," said Dr. Janet Cunningham, university president. "To their core, they believe in the power of education. We are very appreciative of their gift, but even more importantly, we are grateful for their life's work in touching the lives of students at multiple levels."

With more than 30 years' ex-

perience in education, Dr. Fisher holds her master of education degree in both social science and school counseling and her doctorate in higher education administration. She understands the important role education played in her life as a first-generation college student.

"I am the first member of my family to graduate from college," said Dr. Fisher. "I want to help other students experience the doors that are opened to them with a university degree."

Tom, a 1966 alumnus, returned to Northwestern to receive his master's in secondary school administration in 2005. He was honored in 2016 as Northwestern's Outstanding Graduate in Education with more than 50 years of experience. He says education has made a tremendous impact on his life.

"My education experience and degrees earned from Northwestern have opened doors that otherwise would have never been opened," said Tom. "These opportunities have allowed me to advance from a beginning teacher to the position of Assistant Superintendent. Since Northwestern has given so much to me, it is only fitting for me to give back to Northwestern and its students."

Serving as the Dean of Northwestern's Woodward campus since 1996, Dr. Fisher sees education impacting the lives of her students on a daily basis. She especially loves graduations, held in the winter and spring each year.

"I always look forward to the excitement from students as they celebrate their graduation. It is a joy as students take the time to email me, write me, or tell me in person what getting their degree has meant to them and has helped them to be-

come a business manager, bank vice president, nurse, psychologist, detective or case worker."

The couple hopes this scholarship will help a new teacher emerge as debt-free as possible, "so they can concentrate on their studies without the distractions of heavy debt," said Dr. Fisher.

The recipient of the Dr. Deena and Tom Fisher scholarship must be a full-time, continuing student at Northwestern and maintain a minimum CGPA of 2.5. The recipient also must be an education major. Candidates will be chosen by the North-



*Tom Fisher speaks after being recognized as Northwestern's Outstanding Graduate in Education at Spring Reunion 2016.*

western Scholarship Committee based on recommendations from the Education department. The scholarship may be applied toward university-related expenses, including tuition, fees, books, room and board.

For more information on the Dr. Deena and Tom Fisher Scholarship or about investing in Northwestern students, call Skeeter Bird, Northwestern Foundation CEO, at 580-327-8593 or email him at [aebird@nwsu.edu](mailto:aebird@nwsu.edu).

# Choirs, Bands combine for Annual Holiday Gala

The traditional Northwestern Oklahoma State University Holiday Gala Concert was held on Saturday, Dec. 10 in Herod Hall Auditorium, followed by the annual tree lighting ceremony.

Dr. Janet Cunningham, university president, continued the annual

lighting of the university Christmas tree outside on the Herod Hall lawn at the Bell Tower immediately following the concert. This year the members of the Student Government Association (SGA) served hot chocolate and hot apple cider at the lighting ceremony.

SGA members also made this concert a “Pack-the-Auditorium” event for Northwestern’s students. They passed out free t-shirts to the first 50 Northwestern students in line.

The University Singers and University Chorale presented holiday favorites led by Karsten Longhurst, director of choral music. The University Singers performed “This Little Babe,” “Carol of the Bells” and “Silent Night.” The University Chorale presented four songs including “Angels from the Realms of Glory” and “Noel.”

The choirs are accompanied by Susan Duell, adjunct instructor of music, and Lawana Newell, director of vocal studies.

Numerous students were featured soloists, including Naice Gugelmeyer, Hardtner, Kansas, senior; Chance Mayhall, Ponca City junior; Paxton Myers, Ponca City freshman; Aaron Pierce, Alva sophomore; and Sadik Malik, Accra, Ghana, Africa, senior.

The Northwestern jazz ensemble and symphony band led by Dr. Marc Decker, director of instrumental music and music education, then took the stage. The jazz ensemble performed “Three Guys,” “The First Noel” and “Feliz Navidad.”

The symphony band performed “The Nightmare Before Christmas” and “Fanfare for Christmas,” directed by guest conductor Arthur Bohlmann, Hooker graduate student.

To end the concert the band and choirs combined to perform “Salvation Is Created” and “Holiday Favorites.”

For more information about the Northwestern music program contact Longhurst at (580) 327- 8692 or [krlonghurst@nwosu.edu](mailto:krlonghurst@nwosu.edu) or Decker at (580) 327-8189 or [mddecker@nwosu.edu](mailto:mddecker@nwosu.edu).



## Rehder is one of 100 selected for Zarrow Social Work honors

Dr. Kylene Rehder has been chosen as one of 100 honorees in the field of social work from the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work at the University of Oklahoma. She was chosen because of her outstanding contributions to the profession of social work, demonstrated leadership and contributions to her community or field of practice.

Rehder is being honored as part of the 100th anniversary celebration of the Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work.

The 100 selected individuals will be honored in two main ways. The first includes a year-long tribute on the school’s website that will showcase those selected. This will include a photo and short biography that will be highlighted on the website. The second will be at the 100th Anniversary event to be held on September

15, 2017. During the event, the 100 honorees will be recognized. The honorees are social workers, former faculty, directors, alumni, and other friends and supporters of the school.



*Kylene Rehder*

# Schmaltz gives talk on Soviet-era letter exchanges

In the last half of 2016, Dr. Eric Schmaltz, professor of history at Northwestern Oklahoma State University and co-executive director of the endowed NWOSU Institute for Citizenship Studies, presented at a number of conferences from coast to coast.

Following discussions related to national minority policies in the former Soviet Union at international conferences held this past summer in Concord, California, and Rapid City, South Dakota, Schmaltz presented in mid-November at the Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) hosted in Washington, D.C. His paper titled “Letters to Pauline (Schlegel) Lehl: Family Correspondences from Russia to Oklahoma, 1913-1937” was invited as part of a special academic panel concerning early Soviet-era letter exchanges from Russia and the Soviet Union to North America.

Schmaltz has been investigating a large corpus of 180 handwritten letters mailed between 1913 and 1937 from Russia’s Saratov Province in the Volga Region and elsewhere to rural Ingersoll and Alva.

“Though now virtually forgotten, Ingersoll, which was Volga German immigrant Pauline (Schlegel) Lehl’s initial place of residence,

claimed a post office until 1942,” he explained. “Original envelopes stamped and delivered from Russia show that her relatives’ early letters arrived in Ingersoll, and later on in Alva after she was married to her husband, William.”

This large body of correspondences from family and friends spanned the period preceding the First World War’s outbreak to Soviet Communist dictator Joseph Stalin’s Great Terror. The preserved letters offer a glimpse into daily life during one of the most transformative and violent eras in modern world history. Sometimes through subversive writing techniques and coded language to avoid official censors, they related to the outside what was happening inside the old country.

Schmaltz noted that part of the family story is tied to the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

“Between 1988 and 1992, this branch of the Lehl family in Kansas was able to enlist the professional services of Dr. Eugenia Felton, a noted Russian linguist of Estonian background who had worked for many years at the university and who is now passed away,” he said.

“In 1994, the family reproduced her handwritten translations on typewriter for a self-publication. Around this time, after the Cold War, the family had the good fortune through a Russian pen pal to reconnect with surviving relatives in the former Soviet Union. After both sides of the family reunited, most of the original

letters were returned as a gift to family in Russia.”

In October 2013, immigrant Pauline (Schlegel) Lehl’s granddaughter, retired educator Ella Marie (Lehl) Frederick of Wichita, Kansas, generously donated to Schmaltz one of only two original typed sets of the entire letter collection for the expressed purpose of historical preservation. He has now completed a digital scan of all original typed and translated manuscripts, as well as the handful of remaining original documents such as envelopes and letters, for further editing as part of an anticipated published book compilation and related projects.

“This collection represents one of my larger, long-term projects,” Schmaltz said. “It is an enormous honor and privilege to be involved with sharing to the public this incredible family treasure that still bears witness to major historical events nearly one century ago and that embodies the enduring power of the human spirit across space and time.”

During spring term and beyond, Schmaltz plans to present other talks on the Lehl letter collection, including at the Cherokee Strip Regional Heritage Center in Enid and the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) held at the Cherokee Nation’s Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Catoosa. He also hopes eventually to publish his findings as an article in the Society’s quarterly journal, *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*.

For more information on Schmaltz’s upcoming talks contact him at (580) 327-8526 or [ejschmaltz@nwsu.edu](mailto:ejschmaltz@nwsu.edu).



*Volga German immigrant Pauline (Schlegel) Lehl (1893-1982) from Russia in 1913.*

# Theatre Reunion held on Homecoming

Anyone associated with the Northwestern theatre program was welcomed and encouraged to return for Homecoming as “50 Years of Theatre” was celebrated.

Dr. Linda “Doc” Stewart served the speech and theatre program at the university for 35 years before her retirement and returned as this year’s Homecoming Parade Marshal. Current director Kimberly Weast is in her 15th year of leading the program.

The Northwestern Alumni Association provided free Homecoming t-shirts to registered theatre alumni attending the reunion.

After the football game, a reunion reception dinner was held in the Student Center Ballroom on the Northwestern campus. Guests enjoyed pizza and other items.

Additional theatre reunion information, as well as discussion among several theatre alumni is still available on the theatre Facebook page at [www.facebook/nwosu-theatre](http://www.facebook/nwosu-theatre).



*Linda Stewart, 2016 parade marshal, and her entourage, riding through the Homecoming parade.*



*Kimberly Weast and Linda Stewart*



*Past and present theatre directors, Linda Stewart and Kimberly Weast, take a few moments to talk after the theatre reunion.*



*Linda Stewart and current Castle Players members pose for a group photo at the end of the theatre reunion.*



*Kimberly Weast visits with alums Travis Hamilton, Lisa Hamilton and Dennis Carrell during the tours given on Homecoming.*



*Many of the theatre alumni gathered in the Student Center Ballroom to celebrate with Linda Stewart and Kimberly Weast*



# First Story Walk is successful

Two Northwestern academic programs came together to serve as guides and readers for the first Story Walk event in Alva's downtown Arts and Shopping District.

English education majors, as well as students in a children's literature class within the elementary education program, worked with the young readers in Alva and the area.

This event was held in conjunction with the Graceful Arts Gallery and Studio's October First Friday Art Walk. The story walk started at the Washington School gazebo, located on 7th Street across from the public library.

The next stop was the Pocket Park at the Alva Public Library, followed by the courthouse stage as the third stop, then the fourth stop was at the "Lemon Drops" bronze at the corner of 4th and Barnes Streets.

The final stop was inside the Graceful Arts Center for Oktober-

fest treats.

Children from pre-school through first grade and their parents were encouraged to attend this first-time event. The Story Walk was about the book *Mr. Duck Means Business* by

Oklahoma author Tammi Sauer.

The Northwestern students were under the leadership of Dr. Kathy Earnest, assistant professor of English, and Dr. Jen Oswald, assistant professor of education.



*A portion of the group attending the Story Walk sponsored by the English education majors and children's literature class walks back to the Graceful Arts Center. The Story Walk centered around the book *Mr. Duck Means Business* by Oklahoma author Tammi Sauer.*

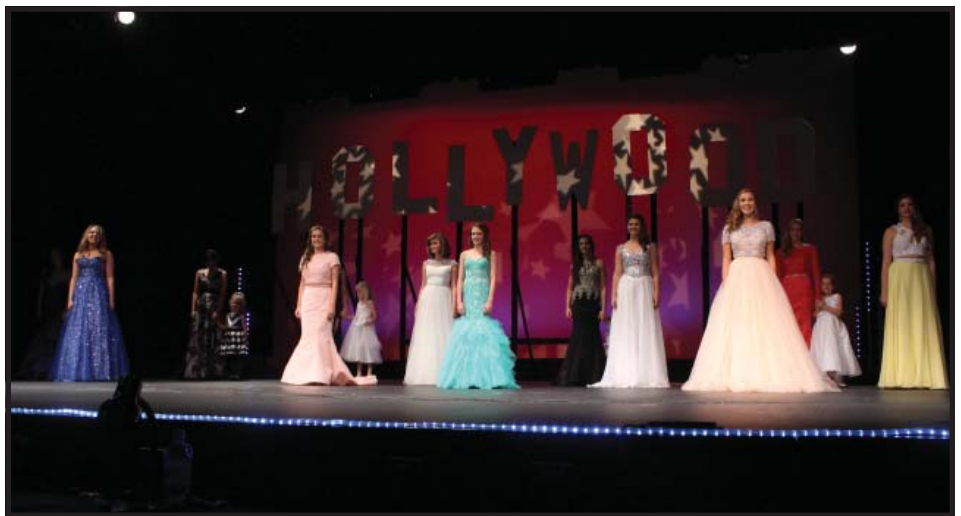
## *Theatre Production class work together on campus pageants*

The Theatre Production I and II classes combined their efforts with technical theatre staff and Castle Players to produce two pageants on campus.

The first pageant was Miss Cinderella, held in conjunction each year with Homecoming, on Sept. 29 and 30 in the Herod Hall Theatre.

Next was the Miss Northwestern and Outstanding Teen Pageant held on Oct. 30.

Students learned about running lights and audio, plus working as backstage crew members. Others worked as ushers and bouncers.



*2016 Miss Northwestern contestants on stage during this year's pageant. Lighting and set design were part of the jobs for the Theatre Production classes, technical theatre staff and Castle Players.*