Among the ambitions articulated in Northwestern's mission statement is the cultivation of “ethical leadership and service.” This priority informs much of the content and many of the activities in the classrooms and laboratories and stages of the School of Arts and Sciences, and more broadly, in classrooms across the university.

As you will discover in this issue of the Spotlight on the Arts and Sciences, the value placed on ethical service and leadership by our students and faculty extends well beyond the classroom and the campus. Whether it’s a band competition, a science fair, or an event to provide prom dresses, our faculty and students serve the schools in our surrounding communities.

Moreover, they enrich the lives of the residents of our service area through their performances, outreach, volunteerism, and knowledge. In meaningful ways, our faculty enhance the discourses in their disciplines through their research, presentations, and publications.

Because of this commitment to service and the strong work ethic that is pervasive at Northwestern, our students and faculty emerge as leaders.

In small and large ways, they are recognized for their impact on the world around them. Among the students featured in this Spotlight are a Newman Civic Fellow, legislative interns, honor band members, and award-winning journalists. Among the faculty are leaders who serve as policymakers and experts in their fields.

And this issue represents a single semester, a single glimpse of the life of the School of Arts and Sciences.

I hope that you enjoy this celebration of the accomplishments of our students and faculty, and I wish you all a relaxing summer ahead.
Northwestern’s English program played host to the first Alva Writing Marathon in downtown Alva on Friday, April 1, at the Graceful Arts Center.

The event was called a “writing marathon” but it required no running, Dr. Kathryn Lane, assistant 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,” she added.

The day kicked off at 10 a.m. with 64 participants at the Graceful Arts Center with the entire group writing one round together. From 10:30-10:40 a.m. participants broke into groups and headed out into downtown Alva to see writer-friendly locations. Each group picked its first destination and decided how long it wanted to write, then members shared their work with the group.

From there, participants either wrote another round or moved to a new location for more inspiration.

At 1 p.m. everyone reconvened at the Graceful Arts for a “read-a-round” where writers can share up to two minutes of their work. There was no requirement for participants to share their work.

Participants for the event included 10 children and 2 faculty members from the middle school.

Writers had the opportunity to write at a number of downtown businesses, including Holder Drug, the Rialto, the Runnymede, Brown’s Shoe Store, the Pocket Park, and of course, Graceful Arts Gallery.

Another writing marathon is in the works for the fall semester.
Natural Science Department plays host to 80 for Regional Science Fair

More than 80 junior high and high school student projects from Aline-Cleo, Fairview, Gage, Shattuck, Taloga, Vici and Waynoka were on display at Northwestern for the Annual Regional Science Fair filling the Student Center Ballroom and Ranger Room on Thursday, March 3.

Students qualifying for state took their projects to the Oklahoma State Science & Engineering Fair held March 31-April 1 at East Central University in Ada.

Beatriz Penaflor of Shattuck was scheduled to present her project, “Alcohol Based and Non-Alcohol Based Hand Sanitizer,” at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix, Arizona, May 8-13. Only students in grades 9 through 12 are eligible for the International Fair.

The students are broken down into Division I for grades 10 through 12, Division II for grades seven through nine and Division III for grade six.

Dr. Steve Maier expressed thanks to NWOSU staff, faculty, alumni and emeritus “for helping us judge the regional science fair—we could not have done it without them!”

A list of all winners can be found at this link: http://www.nwosu.edu/northwesterns-natural-science-department-plays-host-to-regional-science-fair-winners-announced.

Grand Champion Beatriz Penaflor of Shattuck was scheduled to present her project at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix, Arizona, May 8-13.

Northwestern Senior Scholarship Winners are (left to right) 1st place, April Kendrick of Fairview; 2nd place, Shanna Lamle of Fairview; and 3rd place, Darian Nance of Vici.

Bell speaks to inmates

Dr. James Bell served as Keynote Speaker at the April Graduation exercises held at Bill Johnson Correctional Center in Alva.

The theme of his address centered on building on success.

BJCC Graduation
April 2016

courtesy Lynn Martin

James Bell
Social Work students attend state conference

Northwestern's social work faculty and students recently attended the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) 40th Annual Oklahoma State Conference held at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Norman.

Northwestern was represented by social work seniors, as well as Dr. Kylene Rehder, social work program director and chair of the department of social work. Students in attendance included Chasity McFadden of Waukomis; Jynelle Martin, Marcie Sierra and Brittany Stewart, all of Enid.

The keynote speaker for the conference was Dr. Angelo McClain, NASW’s chief executive officer, who presented “Social Work: Paving the Way for Change.”

During the conference, social work practitioners and students had the opportunity to attend more than 20 different workshops covering topics such as ethical technology, treatment of substance abuse disorders, self-care, Oklahoma health care, risk management, narrative therapeutic approaches, intimate partner violence, suicide prevention, crisis intervention, community development, mental illness, co-occurring disorders and traumatic treatment modalities.

Professional social workers are found in every facet of community life and help people overcome some of life’s most difficult challenges: poverty, discrimination, abuse, addiction, physical illness, divorce, loss, unemployment, educational problems, disability and mental illness.

According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), professional social workers are the nation’s largest group of mental health services providers.

Two inducted into Hispanic honor society

Two Northwestern students were inducted into a national Hispanic honor society Friday, March 25, on the Alva campus during an initiation ceremony.

Chandler Steckbeck, Enid junior majoring in English, and Abubakar Sadik Malik, Accra, Ghana, senior majoring in biology, are now members of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Society.

“This society recognizes students for their efforts in the study of the Spanish language,” Dr. Francisco Martinez, professor of Spanish, said. “Our chapter is Psi Sigma.”

Active members receive support at the national level through exclusive awards and scholarships given annually. To receive that honor, students must have a minimum of 3.00 GPA and have completed three semesters of Spanish.

During a recent initiation ceremony, Chandler Steckbeck (center) and Abubakar Sadik Malik (right) became members of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Collegiate Hispanic Society. Conducting the ceremony are Dr. Francisco Martinez and Dr. Claudia Yo.

3 students selected for Honor Band

Three Northwestern music students were selected to participate in the Oklahoma Music Educators Association’s (OMEA) Intercollegiate Honor Band in Tulsa.

Earning a spot in this band were Arthur Bohlmann, Hooker graduate student playing trombone; Autumn Detamore, El Reno freshman playing saxophone; and Amanda Metcalf, Enid sophomore playing clarinet.

“This intercollegiate honor band is an elite ensemble comprised of students from dozens of universities throughout Oklahoma,” Dr. Marc Decker, director of instrumental music and music education, said.
Kay Decker accepts prestigious award

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Oklahoma recognized outstanding Oklahomans at its award ceremony March 5 in Norman.

Under the leadership of Dr. Kay Decker, social sciences department chair and professor of sociology at Northwestern, Freedom West Community Development Corporation (Freedom West CDC) in Alva was recognized this year as Social Services Organization of the Year.

Decker is the executive director at Freedom West CDC where the organization's mission is to “revitalize the rural communities of its five county service region in Northwest Oklahoma to increase community sustainability through pro-active social and economic change efforts.”

“Freedom West CDC was founded over 16 years ago with the primary purpose of developing additional affordable housing options in the five county service region that it serves,” Decker said. “Since that time, Freedom West has built and preserved over 170 housing units, and has worked diligently to focus attention on the region's arts and cultural heritage as economic drivers for communities.

“It is a multi-million dollar non-profit that maintains its focus of assisting communities with revitalization efforts, improvements in housing options, and increased sustainability. The Freedom West CDC staff and board are to be commended for their hard work and dedication to providing non-profit leadership and creative solutions to problems facing rural northwest Oklahoma.”

Decker thanked Dr. Kylene Rehder and the NASW Oklahoma Chapter for recognizing the organization's efforts at this year's annual awards ceremony.

Bands present concert with Cajun theme

The Northwestern Jazz Ensemble and Symphony Band presented “Cajun Folk Songs” at Herod Hall Auditorium Sunday, May 1. Music performed was centered around a piece by Frank Ticheli titled “Cajun Folk Songs.”

The band was guest conducted by student directors Arthur Bohlmann, Alva graduate student; Amanda Metcalf, Enid sophomore; and Daniel Pacula, Alva junior.

“The three student conductors have spent a tremendous amount of time studying the music,” Dr. Marc Decker, director of bands, said. “They taught the band every technical aspect of the piece and challenged them with a unique musical interpretation.”
Three Northwestern Chorale singers performed George Bizet’s “Carmen” with the Enid Symphony Orchestra in April.

Naicee Gugelmeyer, a senior from South Barber, Kansas, majoring in vocal performance; Chance Mayhall, a junior from Ponca City, majoring in vocal education; and Alexandria Skinner, a senior from Burkburnett, Texas, majoring in vocal performance, were selected to perform following an audition process.

The students had to prepare an aria and a song in French for the audition because the opera’s dialog is in French.

“One of the goals of the Enid Symphony Orchestra is to provide opportunities for emerging young artists to perform with veteran singers,” said Douglas Newell, music director. “Stage Director Zac Engle and I selected Alex, Chance and Naicee to perform supporting roles in ‘Carmen’ after a series of auditions. They competed against students from OU, OCU, UCO and SNU in the audition process.”

Engle echoed the comments of Newell saying how important it is for their production to have found and cast the talents of students in this region.

“As one can imagine, it is difficult to find any talent involved with opera in this area of the United States,” Engle said. “It is even more rare to find a well-qualified and highly talented group of singers such as these fine musicians that we have cast in our show. They are diamonds in the rough of this region.”

Cast as gypsies, Skinner played Mercedes, and Gugelmeyer played Frasquita. Mayhall played El Remendado, a smuggler.

All three of the students took advantage of their vocal lessons and one-on-one time with their professors at Northwestern to prepare for their roles.

“Professor Newell has probably helped me prepare for this the most,” Skinner said. “As my private teacher she has helped me improve not only the quality of my voice, but my vocal health, my range, and the control I have over it.”

Mayhall also benefits from Newell’s private lessons, but mentioned how supportive the entire music faculty has been.

“Northwestern really gives you the opportunity to get to know your professors,” Mayhall said. “So, when I am needing help, I can just pop my head into their office, and they are always willing to lend a helping hand.”

Opportunities to be in a professional production often do not come along this soon in a career. Through networking and the desire to step outside their comfort zones, these students are excited to see where this production will lead them.

“This opportunity is helping me with my future career, not only performing but also learning the different languages and stylistic approaches to singing in an opera,”
More than 140 social workers from across the state gathered at the Oklahoma Capitol for the National Association of Social Workers, Oklahoma Chapter (NASW-OK) Legislative Day.

Social work students and faculty from Northwestern Oklahoma State University were in attendance to learn about legislative issues impacting the social work profession and the populations they serve. Legislative Day provides an opportunity for social work students and practitioners to engage in macro-level practice and learn effective ways to advocate on the behalf of others. This day assists the students in learning to analyze and formulate policies that advance social well-being and develop ways for effective policy action.

“Legislative Day provides the opportunity for participation in public policy issues and social justice advocacy, both key components of social work education and practice” said Dr. Kylene Rehder, chair of the department of social work.

“The NASW-OK Legislative Day was a fantastic experience,” said Dlondra Nolan, a social work major. “I was able to meet with other social work majors in Oklahoma, as well as state legislators. Wandering the beautiful halls of the capitol and engaging with some of our state leaders face-to-face has encouraged me to explore politics more and to get involved.”

Two Northwestern students will spend their summers at the state capitol.

Riley Pearce, Garber sophomore and political science major, will be interning with Sen. Bryce Marlatt at the Oklahoma Senate. Stefan Simpson, Frederick senior and political science major, will be interning with Rep. Jeff Coody in the Oklahoma House.

Opportunities such as these internships are made possible through the Northwestern Social Sciences Department Legislative Internship Program.

“The Social Sciences Department began its Legislative Internship Program several years ago, as a means of rewarding worthwhile students, and as a means of helping our younger generation understand, first-hand, how laws are made,” Dr. Kay Decker, social sciences department chair and professor of sociology, said.

Both Pearce and Simpson plan to attend law school after they graduate from Northwestern.
Rehder elected as Secretary for Oklahoma State Board

Dr. Kylene Rehder, chair of the Department of Social Work at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, has been elected for a two-year term to serve as the board secretary for the Oklahoma State Board of Licensed Social Workers (OSBLSW).

In 2015, Rehder was appointed to serve on this board by Gov. Mary Fallin. Rehder holds a doctorate in higher education leadership from Northcentral University, a Master of Social Work from the University of Oklahoma, and a Bachelor of Social Work from Northwestern. She is a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) with the Oklahoma State Board of Licensed Social Workers and specializes in child abuse and neglect, disaster mental health, and technology in social work education and practice.

Rehder is credited with leading the social work program to external accreditation by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and was presented the John Barton Distinguished Teaching and Service Award in 2013.

Rehder is an active member of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and a member of the Oklahoma Medical Reserve Corps (OKMRC), where she serves as a disaster mental health responder. She currently serves as a board member on Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program (CW-PEP) that works to strengthen child welfare services in Oklahoma and a board member of Freedom West Community Development Corporation, a non-profit development entity in Northwest Oklahoma that works to revitalize rural communities. Rehder also serves as the Jake and Jayne Lindsay Endowed Chair in Social Work.

The OSBLSW is a seven-member board charged with safeguarding the welfare of the public of the State of Oklahoma by establishing, promoting and enforcing high standards of practice for licensed social workers.

The state board’s vision is to have strong public awareness of social work practices within the state, maintain high standards that reflect best practice in the profession of social work, and ensure that qualified professionals are available to the citizens of Oklahoma.

Earnest presents paper to diverse panel members

Dr. Kathy Earnest, assistant professor of English, attended the Southwest Popular Culture/American Culture Association Annual Conference in Albuquerque in February. Earnest presented a paper titled “Uncomfortable in their Skin: Geeks Who Freak Us Out.”

Her paper was an exploration of Jane Doe in the new TV series “Blindspot” as a geek character, particularly the geek defined as an outrageous character who goes to extremes to achieve a purpose.

The first panelist included in Earnest’s group traveled from the University of Warsaw, Poland, to discuss his paper on geeks, jocks, and gaming and where these interests intersect.

Another panelist traveled from Brazil, the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul, and spoke about geeks as characters in meta-fiction; this was the topic of his dissertation.

Another young man from Southern Illinois University Carbondale discussed the characterization of the Black geek and also the young Black geek girl.
Decker presents, chairs regional group, reviews grants

Dr. Kay Decker, Chair of Social Sciences, presented a session at the Oklahoma State Arts Conference in Tulsa on Oct. 21. Her presentation discussed the “Economic Impact of the Arts on Community and Regional Economies.” She chairs the “Americans for the Arts—Arts and Economic Prosperity Study #5” for the Northwest Region of Oklahoma.

This national study focuses on the economic impact of the visual and performing arts on local, regional, state, and national economies. Data collection began Jan. 1, and will continue through the year.

The study’s results will be published in 2017 as the “AEP5 Impact Analysis” by the Americans for the Arts. Ultimately, the results of the national study will provide concrete evidence for continued support of the arts and cultural activities as a vital aspect of economic development and community vitality.

Decker has been selected to serve as a grant reviewer for ArtPlace 2016. ArtPlace is a national consortium of philanthropic organizations, including the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations and other partners, whose purpose is to support the development of creative place-making projects across the United States.

Adams set to publish work in journal; plans next article

Dr. Richmond Adams, assistant professor of English, is set to publish an article in the journal “Film International: Thinking Film Since 1973” in its February issue.

Adams’ article, “Cannibalized Chaos: Iago, The Joker and the ‘Good Sport’ of Post Modernism,” explores the links, despite their 400-year gap, between Iago in Shakespeare’s play “Othello” and the portrayal of The Joker by Heath Ledger in the film “The Dark Knight” as directed by Christopher Nolan. Adams argues that both villains lack a clearly discernible motive for the chaos they bring upon their fellows.

For approximately five years, he has been developing this publication. It will be his fourth published article since joining the Northwestern faculty. He plans to publish an article titled “‘They Taught Us to be Men’: Cigarettes, Westerns and (mostly) John Ford” in a collection of essays titled “Iconography and Archetypes in Western Film and Television” through MacFarland Press.

Pfeifer Family establishes art scholarship

The Bobette Buchanan Pfeifer Scholarship was established in 2014 by her family, which includes Dr. Cindy Pfeifer-Hill, professor of biology. The scholarship was designed to allow Northwestern students to pursue their love of the visual arts.

It is awarded to a Northwestern student majoring or minoring in Art with a cumulative GPA of 3.0.

Pfeifer’s lifetime of creative talents ranged from bread dough creations, stained glass, glass fusion beads and photography. Since 1983, she has been an award-winning photographer for her excellence in unique creativity and processing styles in both digital and film format and specializing in nature photography. She has been recognized and awarded at all levels of competition at local, state-wide, and international levels.
Evans named Newman Civic Fellow

Few students across the United States earn the prestigious Newman Civic Fellows Award from Compact Connect.

Jordan Evans, a graduating history major from Edmond who has served as the 2015-16 treasurer for Northwestern’s Student Government Association (SGA) and the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, is among that select group. He is captain of the men’s cross country team and was named as Academic All-Conference for the Great American Conference. Evans served as an intern for State Senator Bryce Marlatt and was selected to Attorney General Scott Pruitt’s Student Leadership Council.

The Newman Civic Fellows Award honors inspiring college student leaders who have demonstrated an investment in finding solutions for challenges facing communities throughout the country. Through service, research, and advocacy, Newman Civic Fellows are making the most of their college experiences to better understand themselves, the root causes of social issues, and effective mechanisms for creating lasting change. These students represent the next generation of public problem-solvers and civic leaders. They serve as national examples of the role that higher education can—and does—play in building a better world.

Newman Civic Fellows are recommended by college and university presidents to acknowledge motivation and ability in public leadership. The awards are made in memory of Dr. Frank Newman, who dedicated his life to creating systemic change through education reform. Frank Newman’s leadership was selfless, optimistic, and determined, spanning an incredible career of more than five decades. Frank Newman had a tremendous impact on American education and its role in the development of citizens who want to make a difference. The Newman Civic Fellows are reflections and affirmations of his life’s work.

“[Evans] … is a very positive influence on campus,” Dr. Janet Cunningham, university president, said. “After he graduates, he plans to continue his education and public service work. Jordan is an individual who not only exhibits leadership, but seeks out opportunities to serve.”

Evans submitted a written statement for the award: “My passion for service stems from the City of Alva and the Northwestern campus. The people of this community have adopted me in and have provided so much to me and my education; giving back is the best way I can repay them. I have worked to become involved in many different aspects of the university and community. Continued to Page 11…..

Continued from Page 6

...Professional Opportunity

Gugelmeyer said. “With performing comes voice lessons. I can take all this that I’m learning now and apply it to later when I am teaching lessons to other people.”

Each student said without their experiences and growth in the music department at Northwestern, being a part of this opera would not have been possible. Gugelmeyer and Mayhall said looking back at their decision to attend Northwestern they wouldn’t want to be anywhere else.

“The quality of education you will get by being a part of the music department from this school is one that not a lot of people see at a smaller school,” Mayhall said. “You have all the opportunities to be involved in the school, plus go out in the real world and figure out what you want to do with your major.”

Naicee Gugelmeyer and Chance Mayhall were available for an on-camera video piece (link below), and Alex Skinner was able to provide information for the written piece.

To watch the video interview, click the following link: https://youtu.be/jcbWaQORILQ
‘Primp for Prom’ helps area students

Students from 13 northwest Oklahoma schools were able to pick out a prom or formal dress at no charge during the “Primp for Prom” event in Shattuck and Woodward. The annual event is sponsored by Northwestern’s Department of Social Work, Woodward High School Key Club and Shattuck Public Schools.

Approximately 200 of the nearly 300 dresses donated were given away, and more than 70 pairs of shoes were donated for the event.

“They were fun-filled days where dreams emerged for young women in the form of gorgeous fabric and sparkles,” Shelby Lamberth, social work senior and volunteer from Sharon, said. “I was thrilled to be a part of the events.”

The Department of Social Work expressed appreciation to the following, which contributed to the success of Primp for Prom: Woodward High School Key Club; Anjanette Laverty, Woodward High School counselor; Shattuck Public Schools; Gina Huenergardt, Shattuck Public School teacher and counselor; High Plains Technology Center and its students; Northwestern student volunteers; Shattuck and Woodward community member volunteers; and all the generous dress donors from across northwest Oklahoma.

“The Department of Social Work is honored to sponsor this event for young women in northwest Oklahoma because we believe it embodies our mission to build a sense of community and provide service to others,” Dr. Kylene Rehder, Department of Social Work chair, said.

Continued from Page 10

...Newman Civic Fellow

“My service as the treasurer of the Student Government Association has allowed me to assist in organizing and executing events for student body at the university. Volunteering at the local elementary schools as a tutor and mentor allows me to leave a positive impression on the next generation of this community. Civic engagement has connected me with this small city. Seeing the impact that I make on those around me has been the greatest pleasure of my college experience. I continue to gain experience on how to better my community through the Leadership Northwestern class, taught by the university’s senior administrators. I look forward to continuing my life of civic engagement into the Peace Corps and someday running for public office.”

“Evans has been an integral aspect of our department for the past three years,” Dr. Kay Decker, professor of sociology and social sciences department chair, said. “He has worked in our main office, participated in the Legislative Internship Program and currently serves as the treasurer for SGA. He is always engaged, always willing to take on extra jobs, and always gives of himself to others. I believe that the Newman Civic Fellows Award is a very fitting award for Jordan. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors.”

The Newman Civic Fellows Awards are made possible through the generous support of the KPMG Foundation and Newman’s Own Foundation.
The comedy theatre production “30 Reasons Not To Be in a Play” by Alan Haehnel was presented in Northwestern’s Herod Hall Auditorium April 15 and 16. A description of the play reads: “Stage kisses, pinkeye, inciting World War II – these are only a few of the many things that can go wrong during the production of a play. In a series of hilarious examples, this play proves that drama can be a very dangerous thing, and it must be avoided at all costs.”

Northwestern’s Department of Fine Arts presented “Special Guest” in the Herod Hall Auditorium in February. The play, written by Donald Elser, is about a young couple looking toward the future by planning their wedding, but the grief of an old farm couple stuck in the past weaves the stories into a web of mystery and revenge.

“The audience was definitely treated to a revenge tale that was guaranteed to leave them on the edge of their seats,” said Director Tren-ton Judd, Sapulpa senior majoring in speech-theatre.

Judd directed this play during the last semester of his college career to fulfill a capstone requirement of speech-theatre majors. He chose “Special Guest” because he enjoyed the storyline and was anxious to bring the complex characters to life.

The Special Guest cast: Nora was played by Michelle Penner, Cherokee grad student. John was played Ken Kelsey, a Northwestern instructor of history and fine arts from Fairview. Edward was played by Micah Roberts, Newkirk senior majoring in English. Elaine was played by Taylor Morris, Pacoima, California, junior majoring in mass communication. Robert was played by Mickey Jordan, Iowa Park, Texas, junior majoring in speech-theatre.

The crew included stage manager Tori Hurley, Sheffield, Iowa, sophomore majoring in speech-theatre, and the members of the Theatre Production class.
Members of Northwestern’s English, Foreign Language and Humanities Department played host to the Visiting Writer’s Series in March.

Special guest Marcia Kay Preston, writing as M.K. Preston, read from recent works and discussed the changing face of publishing.

Preston is the author of an Oklahoma mystery series featuring Chantalene Morrell, daughter of a Gypsy mother and a redneck father. Her novel, “Song of the Bones” (2003), won the 2004 Mary Higgins Clark Award for suspense fiction, and also the 2004 Oklahoma Book Award in fiction. The first book in the series, “Perhaps She’ll Die” (2001), was nominated for the 2002 Mary Higgins Clark Award, and for Macavity and Barry awards in the Best First Mystery division.

Preston earned degrees from the University of Central Oklahoma, taught in public high schools for more than a decade, and worked for a time as public relations and publications director for the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

The Visiting Writer’s Series is a way to bring Oklahoma Writers to northwest Oklahoma every spring to discuss writing and the publishing industry and to share their work.

Author M.K. Preston speaks at Visiting Writer’s Series event

At her Visiting Writer’s reading and reception, Marsha K. Preston read excerpts from a number of her works including The Butterfly House and The Wind Comes Sweeping. The event was well-attended with more than 40 in attendance at her evening reading.

Northwestern plays host to Red Carpet Honor Band, alumni

Nearly 300 middle and high school students from 33 northwest Oklahoma schools participated in the annual Red Carpet Honor Bands Jan. 15-16 at Northwestern.

The students who formed three different bands – Junior High A Band, Junior High B Band and High School Band – rehearsed all day Friday and Saturday morning prior to a concert performance in Herod Hall Auditorium Saturday afternoon.

“The concerts were so well-attended that we didn’t have an empty seat in the house,” Decker said. “It was a complete success.”

Six of the directors whose students participated in the honor bands are Northwestern alumni.

Bringing students to participate included John Arnbrecht (1977), Cherokee; Cara Bradt (2007), Alva; Byron Conner (2002), Buffalo; Daci Crockett (2004), Woodward; Sherri Lohmann (2000), Pioneer-Pleasant Vale; and Adam Steuart (2007), Cimarron and Hennessey.

The two-day clinic and concert are held each January. Next year’s honor band is scheduled for Jan. 13-14, 2017.
Student artists, alumni show work at Graceful Arts

Seventeen Northwestern visual arts students are exhibiting their work at the Graceful Arts Center through the month of May. The kickoff of their show was May 6 during the First Friday Art Walk event. Joining them in the show are three Northwestern alumni.

The students’ work was created during the spring 2016 semester of art classes offered by Kyle Larson, assistant professor of art. The classes include Fundamentals of 2 Dimensional Art, Life Drawing and Painting.

“The exhibit is a showcase of Northwestern visual arts students’ research, investigation and exploration of drawing and painting over the course of the semester,” Larson said. There is an abundance of paintings and drawings that explore various mediums and methods, and work that demonstrates students’ search for specificity in what they see and create.

There was an ongoing slideshow of photos showing students working in class so gallery visitors could see what it’s like to take visual arts courses at Northwestern.

The students who are showing their work, their hometowns, classifications and majors or titles include:

Audrey Amissah, Alva freshman, biology; Gladys Bradford, Dacoma post-graduate; Rachel Davis, Kingston freshman, undecided; Crystal Fraile, Hooker junior, biology; Naicee Gugelmeyer, Alva senior, vocal performance; Rhyann Hagel, Estevan, Canada, senior, history; Abbie Haskins, Medford junior, psychology; Clayton Hill, Alva junior, psychology; Laura Hughes, Riley, Kansas, senior, biology; Tori Hurley, Sheffield, Iowa, sophomore, speech/theatre; Mickey Jordan, Iowa Park, Texas, junior, speech/theatre; Brianna McClure, Dacoma freshman, psychology; Tiffany Phillips, Alva post-graduate; Dr. Mary Riegel, assistant professor of mathematics; Dr. Jenny Sattler, assistant professor of physics; Alexandria Skinner, Burkburnett, Texas, senior, vocal music; and Ashley Urban, Enid senior, elementary education.

Nine of the above students showing their art from the spring classes are art minors. Those students include Amissah, Bradford, Davis, Haskins, Hill, Hurley, Jordan, McClure and Phillips.

The Northwestern alumni who are showing their artwork include Angelia Case, academic projects assistant/media specialist at Northwestern; Rod Dunkin from Alva; and Cuma Heronemus from Wichita, Kansas.
Kyle Larson, associate professor of art, announced the Artists-in-residence for the Spring 2016 semester in the Visual Arts Program.

The February/March Artist-in-Residence was Roeya Amigh. She developed a body of work in the art department, assisted in teaching Visual Arts courses, provided feedback to Visual Arts students, and conducted a workshop for the community of Alva.

A culminating exhibition of the work she created at Northwestern was displayed at the First Friday Art Walk on April 1.

Amigh is from Khuzestan, Iran, and graduated from the Science and Culture University, Tehran with a BFA in 2007. She received an MFA from Central Azad University, Tehran in 2010, and an MFA in Painting from Boston University in 2012.

She has been a part of many prestigious residencies in recent years, such as the ArtHub Residency in Kingman, Arizona; the Vermont Studio Center in Vermont; the Drop Forge and Tool Residency in Hudson, New York; BetterArts Residency in Redwood, New York; the Contemporary Artists Center at Woodside in Troy, New York; the League Residency at Vyt in Hudson Valley, New York; the Can Serrat Art Residency in Barcelona, Spain; and the Elsewhere Studios Art Residency in Ponia, Colorado.

Her artwork can be seen at: www.cargocollective.com/roey-aamigh

April-May Artist-in-Residence was Gloria Shows.

Shows is a printmaker from Angeles, City Philippines. Her upbringing overseas in Japan and England has had a profound influence on her as an artist. Through illustration, painting and printmaking, Shows explores identity and how it relates to home and a sense of belonging. She has learned about her own cultural influences by combining figures with her personal iconography.

Shows has exhibited work in numerous galleries in Oklahoma City, including Individual Artists of Oklahoma, DNA Gallery, and the Nursery. This fall, she will begin her journey as a graduate student at the Visual Arts MFA program at Ohio State University.

Shows began her residency at Northwestern on April 1, and developed a body of work in the art department. She assisted in teaching Visual Arts courses, provided feedback to Visual Arts students, and conducted a workshop for the community of Alva.

A culminating exhibition of the work she created at NWOSU was displayed on Friday, May 6 at Graceful Arts.

View Show’s artwork at: www.gloriashows.com
Northwestern News, staffer earn awards

Northwestern’s campus newspaper and staff recently received awards through the Oklahoma Collegiate Media Association (OCMA).

The Northwestern News won at least three awards in the annual contest; however, judging, which is conducted by another state’s media association, was not completed for each category this year, including several categories the newspaper had entered.

In the categories that were judged, Natalie Sacket, graduating English major from Aline and Northwestern News feature editor, placed first in column writing for four-year small schools and honorable mention for review writing. The Northwestern News placed third in front page design.

“This was actually the first year since I’ve been at Northwestern that we entered the annual OCMA contest,” Sacket said. “We decided as a team at Northwestern News that we’d like to start entering contests again and bringing in some recognition for the work we do.”

Sacket described her passion for writing, which influenced her decision to join the newspaper.

“I’ve enjoyed writing since middle school, which is why I wanted to become a member of the Northwestern News. Since then, I’ve found I really enjoy column writing. It’s a form of news writing that allows you to break more rules and get a little more creative. Column writing provides an opportunity to get a little more personal with the readers.”

Northwestern News staff members grow and learn from one another as they take on different roles.

“We serve so many roles at Northwestern News,” Sacket said about the student media. “My title this year was feature editor, but that means I’m also a reporter, columnist, photographer, layout/graphic designer and editor. We wear many hats!

“I’m just so proud of the Northwestern News team and all we’ve accomplished this year. Under the leadership of Dr. Kaylene Armstrong, we’ve been pushed to create better, more thorough, more entertaining, more creative editions of the paper each week. I’m sad to be leaving the team, but I’m excited to see what they continue to do.”

Sacket encourages other students to be a part of the Northwestern News staff.

“I joined the Northwestern News as a creative outlet, but I’d no idea I was joining a family. Our team -- Nick Villalobos (Oologah junior), Jordan Evans (Edmond senior), Rachel Emerson (Enid senior), Charles Boldes (Laverne senior), Ryan Shumaker (Denison, Texas, senior), Osam Sakamoto (Japan senior) -- has become a little, crazy family. Northwestern News will help you grow, not only in experience but as a person as well. It’s a really fun group to be a part of!”

Sacket graduated this spring with honors of summa cum laude, given to students with a 3.90 grade-point average and higher. She described the impact of the award, her time spent at Northwestern and how it served her future.

“I don’t know that one certificate or award will ever be something to influence one’s life,” Sacket said. “However, I can say without a doubt that being a part of the Northwestern News team has made an impact not only on my collegiate career, but on my life as well. It’s been one of my Continued to page 17...
Northwestern’s Social Sciences Department played host to the initiation ceremony for the history honor society Phi Alpha Theta and the political science honor society Pi Sigma Alpha in April.

Phi Alpha Theta is a professional society with a mission to promote the study of history through the encouragement of research, good teaching, publication, and the exchange of learning and ideas among historians. Phi Alpha Theta seeks to bring students, teachers and writers of history together for intellectual and social exchanges that promote and assist historical research and publication by its members in various ways.

To be a member in Phi Alpha Theta, undergraduates must have an overall 3.0 grade-point average (GPA) while graduates must have a 3.5 GPA. Students must have a 3.1 GPA in history courses along with 12 hours of history courses completed in their degree.

Initiates for 2016 Phi Alpha Theta include Wyatt Carter, junior unspecified major from Okarche; Jordan Evans, senior history major from Edmond; Connor McGee, junior history major from Cherokee; Stefan Simpson, senior political science major from Frederick; RaLyssa Taylor, senior political science major from Alva; and Rebekah Wagenbach, graduate student in American Studies from Kiowa, Kansas.

Pi Sigma Alpha is the National Honor Society for political science, founded in 1920. Membership recognizes outstanding academic achievement in political science and promotes excellence in political awareness and civic engagement.

To be a member in Pi Sigma Alpha, students must have a 3.0 GPA in political science along with 12 hours of political science courses completed. Students must also be within the top third of their senior class.

Initiates for 2016 Pi Sigma Alpha include Jack Nicholson, senior political science major from Mooreland, Simpson and Taylor.

Dr. Aaron Mason (far left) associate professor of political science, and Dr. Eric Schmaltz, professor of history (far right) stand with new Phi Alpha Theta and Pi Sigma Alpha initiates: (second from left continuing to right) Rebekah Wagenbach, RaLyssa Taylor, Connor McGee, Stefan Simpson, Jordan Evans and Jack Nicholson.

History, political science honor groups welcome new members

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... Northwestern News, staffer

favorite experiences.

“At Northwestern, I was able to participate and be involved in ways that would be impossible at any other institution. Because of this, I have gotten practical, hands-on experience that has helped me move on to the next stage of life. Northwestern has, without a doubt, given me the tools needed to pursue my dreams.”

Villalobos, who was elected as the Student Government Association president for the 2016-17 school year, also serves as the editor-in-chief for the newspaper. He said he, looks forward to implementing new ideas in 2016-17.

“My expectations for this coming year are to take what we had this semester and to build on it,” Villalobos said. “That means constantly coming up with new, fun, innovative and interesting designs for the newspaper. Our vision for the Northwestern News is to craft a quality newspaper through the use of hard work, determination, perseverance and most importantly, a news team.”

Armstrong, who was in her first year as the newspaper adviser and assistant professor of mass communication at Northwestern, recognizes the staff’s dedication and professionalism.

“The students were very serious about it,” she said. “They spent a couple of afternoons and an entire Saturday going through everything to find pieces for submission.

“We had a really good staff this year that was very cohesive. They worked together really well. It gives a lot for the next staff to live up to and many of our staff will be returning.”

Armstrong believes being a part of a team, like the Northwestern News, has life-long benefits for all students and their majors.

“It prepares students for the real world,” she said. “It doesn’t matter if you go into print journalism, public relations, business, agriculture or whatever, learning to work with others, deadlines and completing projects are all skills that every single job requires. This is a great place to practice it and a fun place to work.”

“We would like to encourage anybody on campus to join the paper; you don’t have to be a mass communication student to work for the newspaper,” Armstrong said.
Northwestern’s local chapter of Oklahoma Broadcast Education Association (OBEA) returned with an award from the annual Student Day Awards conference hosted by the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters (OAB) that took place in Tulsa at the Hard Rock.

Victoria Schnaufer, Boise City junior and secretary of OBEA, partnered with Michael Collins, Hooker senior and president of OBEA, to create an assignment for a mass communication class that was eventually entered into competition.

Schnaufer and Collins took first place in the 60-Second Radio Commercial category for their work titled “Pepsi Man.”

“I know I speak for the entire communication department when I say we are proud of Tori and Michael for earning their first place award,” Matt Adair, instructor of mass communication, said. “Students like Michael and Tori who join the mass communication program at Northwestern get the opportunity to discover their creative talents, explore their interests and eventually learn to grow their skills into careers.”

Along with the award ceremony, the OAB conference participants take part in attending lectures from motivational speakers, sessions created to enhance students’ knowledge going into their specified field, and a job fair with radio and television stations looking to recruit new talent after graduation or for those seeking an internship.

OBEA local chapter advisers are Adair and Instructor of Mass Communication Allison Zimmerman. Mass communication majors who attended the conference included Schnaufer; Cody Rader, Alva senior; Joselyn Gonzales, Medford senior; Adriana Becerra, Patterson, California, junior; Melissa Noland, Coffeyville, Kansas, sophomore; and Haylee Bates, Woodward junior.

Many faculty members took time from their schedule to meet with several of our incoming freshmen!

Many are not pictured. Thanks to all!
One Northwestern Oklahoma State University student will get to spend her summer volunteering for a conservation project in Costa Rica to aid Green Sea turtles.

Willow Gahr, Carmen senior and biology major, will leave at the end of July for a 10-day stay in Tortuego, Costa Rica, to learn about the sea turtles’ nesting habits and help the reserve.

Within a 10-mile radius on the beaches of Costa Rica, Gahr will work day and night to help check for nesting sites, document new nesting sites, help make sure the turtles get to reach the ocean, collect data on sea turtles and more.

“This opportunity will help me with my degree for doing research in the classroom, doing independent studies and working with my professors,” Gahr said.

Gahr is open to the whole experience and believes it will be more than just saving sea turtles.

“Yes, I am going out to help sea turtles, and it’s a wonderful conservation project,” Gahr said. “But, I feel like the benefits I am taking home from this are worth more to me in the long run. I will be able to work outside my comfort zone along with being able to grow on my leadership and communication skills. I will need those later in life for graduate school interviews and things like that that it will definitely come in handy. It will be experience with new-found skills that will last a lifetime.”

She also explained how her education at Northwestern has helped her prepare for this experience.

“I feel like my education at Northwestern has helped prepare me greatly,” Gahr said. “We have done a lot of hands-on experience with animals in some of my classes. I have an idea already of how the animals behave and how they live life in general…I am as prepared as I can be.”

Gahr said the language gap is a concern but referenced that she had taken Spanish at Northwestern, which will help with this experience.

In an effort to defray the financial costs of traveling out of the country, Gahr has started a Crowdrise page to help with hotel stay, amenities and daily expenses while she is away. Those interested in helping Gahr reach her Crowdrise goal can find the information here: www.crowdrise.com/saving-the-sea-turtles

Gahr to spend summer with sea turtles

Lamberth shows outstanding spirit; earns ‘deSERVING’ Ranger Award

The deSERVING Ranger Award is designed to recognize an outstanding Northwestern student serving within the Northwestern communities and campuses. This year's recipient is Shelby Lamberth, Sharon senior, for her work and commitment to “Primp for Prom” and Woodward Public Schools.

Lamberth was instrumental in developing and supporting the Primp for Prom project. For the past two years, she has worked extensively in collecting formal dress donations and providing them to high school girls in the region free of charge. This year, Primp for Prom served students from 13 Northwest Oklahoma schools and provided more than 200 free dresses. While in her service learning in social work course, Lamberth worked with the school-based social worker at Woodward Public Schools and supported their clothing closet.

“I’m truly honored to receive this award and proud to know I upheld the mission of the university and the core values of the social work profession,” Lamberth said.

The criterion for the deSERVING Ranger Award are that a student must demonstrate a dedication to service and a sense of responsibility to the Northwestern Service Learning/Civic Engagement (SLICE) vision; serve as a community service model for other students; and illustrate exceptional leadership and organizational skills.

Dr. Kylene Rehder, chair of Northwestern's social work department and associate professor of social work, gave praise to Lamberth's work.

“Lamberth is so deserving of this award based on her unwavering commitment to social justice through service in our region,” Rehder said. “I’m so impressed with her ability to address community challenges in creative, thoughtful and purposeful ways.”
Dr. Ed Huckeby, a former music department chair, director of bands and administrator at the university, returned to Northwestern in February to be the guest conductor during a concert of the Community Band and Northwestern Jazz Ensemble.

Dr. Marc Decker, current director of instrumental music and music education, said the concert featured music from composers who lived in Northwest Oklahoma including Andy Clark, Jr., a former administrator and music professor at Northwestern who retired from the university in 1975; Andy’s son - Andy Clark - who grew up in Alva and is a 1967 Northwestern graduate; and Huckeby.

“Trish and I are looking forward to returning to Northwestern and reconnecting with friends and former students,” Huckeby said. “I’ll be conducting the Ranger Band on two of my recent publications, ‘El Arco de Los Cabos’ and ‘Sunrise Over Kilimanjaro.’ The jazz band is also playing one of my jazz charts.

“I appreciate Dr. Decker extending the invitation for us to come back ‘home’ to Alva,” Huckeby said. “We look forward to seeing everyone at the concert.”

Huckeby, who holds the title Emeritus Professor of Music at Northwestern after serving for more than two decades in the music department and as dean of the Graduate School, currently is an arts consultant and freelance composer, arranger, conductor and clinician.

His career has included roles in higher education and arts administration, most recently serving as president of Southwestern Christian University (SCU) in Bethany until his retirement in 2014. Prior to his appointment at SCU, he was associate vice president for academic affairs and professor of music at Northeastern State University-Broken Arrow. Huckeby also served as an arts administrator for Tulsa Ballet Theatre, Inc.

He has created more than 50 commissioned works and has served as a clinician, adjudicator and conductor for instrumental ensembles around the world, including Japan, Australia, Canada and across the United States.

Huckeby lives in Broken Arrow with his wife, Latricia. They have two daughters, Angela and Amanda, both Northwestern graduates.

Student leaders are chosen for 2016-17 band

The Northwestern band will be under new student leadership for the upcoming school year.

The drum major is Madison Hofen, Dacoma freshman majoring in vocal music; the woodwind section leader is Amanda Metcalf, Enid sophomore majoring in instrumental music; the brass section leader is Aaron Pierce, Alva freshman, vocal music major; and the Hooker graduate assistant and pep band director is A.J. Bohlmann, instrumental music major.

Dr. Marc Decker, assistant professor of fine arts and director of bands, said choosing these students was not an easy decision.

“There are a lot of great leaders in the band,” Decker said. “Just because someone wasn’t selected for a title or role doesn’t mean they are not an important leader in our ensemble.”

The band’s goal for the upcoming marching season is to put on musical entertainment that entices the audience to cheer louder and the players to play hard.
Gutierrez has great Fleming Scholar experience

David Gutierrez from Northwestern was one of 12 Oklahoma students that were hand-picked by the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation (OMRF) to attend the organization’s annual summer internship program last summer in Oklahoma City.

Gutierrez, a Woodward sophomore at the time, was a member of the 60th class of Sir Alexander Fleming Scholars taking part in a program that attracts about 100 applicants each March. The students spent their summer in a rigorous eight-week research intensive experience performing laboratory research at the foundation.

Each worked side-by-side with senior medical researchers on an in-depth, individual research project. At the end of the summer, the students wrote scientific papers and presented their research results in formal seminars for OMRF’s scientific staff.

Gutierrez said, “As a Fleming scholar, I was given the opportunity to work under the guidance of Dr. Mike Kinter, in the Metabolism and Aging Department. Our laboratory was interested in the effects of a high fat diet, rich in polyunsaturated fats, on the peroxisomal proliferation of the heart. A mouse model of high fat feeding was used. The mice were fed a fish oil diet for 1, 3, and 4 weeks. At the end of each period, the samples were homogenized and properly analyzed through the use of various assays and sophisticated instruments and techniques, such as HPLC and quantitative mass spectrometry. He added that as statistically significant differences were found at the conclusion of the eight weeks between the control and the high fat diet groups.

“This program is intense by any standards, and it takes a lot of determination for young people at this age to give up an entire summer to be a part of it,” said OMRF President Dr. Stephen Prescott. “But when they’re finished, they all agree the payback is incredible.”

According to Dr. Cindy Pfeifer-Hill, professor of biology, “This is a very competitive program to get in and it was so unusual for a sophomore to get a spot. David is very interested in nutritional effects on the body and so this research experience with Dr. Mike Kinter of UCO was a perfect fit.”

Since the Fleming Scholar Program began in 1956, more than 500 Oklahoma students have had their first taste of laboratory research under the guidance of OMRF scientists. Many have gone on to careers in medicine and research. Pfeifer-Hill added, “David is very proud to be a Ranger and pursues every opportunity to continue to learn and help others. He plans to apply to medical school after graduation.”

“As Fleming Scholars, these students get a close-up look at what it’s really like to do research,” said Carlisa Curry, program coordinator. “This experience can tell them early on if they enjoy it and have an aptitude for it.”
The Northwestern Computer Science Club, along with other colleges, high schools, and middle schools across the state of Oklahoma, spent last weekend developing video games & competing with other gamers at the Heartland Gaming Expo in Tulsa.

The Heartland Gaming Expo kicked off in 2013; the first two expos were held at the University of Tulsa, and both drew large groups. The expo this year was held back at the University of Tulsa at Reynolds Center. Dr. Mailer, the founder of the Heartland Gaming Expo, hopes for further growth in the next few years, and is pleased with the turnout this year.

Experts were on-hand to help those wanting to learn how to create games, as The Heartland Gaming Expo promotes creativity and growth in the ever-growing gaming industry. This year’s attractions at the Heartland Gaming Expo featured demonstrations, guest speakers, vendor exhibits, game trucks, gaming tournaments, food trucks, live action role play, laser tag, and a Microsoft Hall.

Many of the Gaming Tournaments this year were sponsored by Tokyo in Tulsa, which is a three-day annual anime convention held at the Cox Business Center in Tulsa. They held a numerous gaming tournaments including a “Super Smash Brothers Melee,” “Super Smash Brothers WiiU,” “Street Fighter V,” “Mortal Kombat XL,” “Call of Duty Black Ops 3,” and “Halo 5.”

Day one of the Heartland Expo started with the 24-hour code jam, where teams from colleges, high schools, and even independent developers were asked to build a game based on a theme chosen by the organizers of the Expo that would be given to them once the event started. This year’s theme was “Ice.” Matt Day, a junior at NWOSU and a second time attendant at the Heartland Expo, said, “The Code Jam was an interesting experience this year. Being able to work with a bigger team allowed us to do more for developing a video game than we ever have before. Even though it was still stressful, I plan on going back with our team and representing the NWOSU Computer Science Club again.” The Code Jam team brought home an award for Outstanding Concept this year.

Garett Logan, a senior at NWOSU and returning attendee, said, “Code Jam this year went a lot smoother this year, unlike last year where it was very stressful. I’ve learned a lot from last year, and over this past year. It was really fun to do, especially with the bigger team.” Mahmoud Taleb, a junior at NWOSU, attended for the first time and partook in the Code Jam this year, “It was a great experience and I’m grateful for the opportunity. There was some cool technology like Virtual Reality mbeing used by some of the teams. It was a long stressful 24 hours, and we were pushing till the last minutes. I would do it again next year, I hope to be more prepared next year.”

When asking other members of the club if they would want to do both the 24-hour code jam and the game showcase again, Austin Mount a sophomore at Northwestern said, “I’d probably stick with just the game showcase. I’d do the Code Jam also, but as long as we have a big enough team. The dedication from doing both is stressful, but can be manageable with a good team like we had this year. Hopefully by next year we will have a bigger team. I’ve already been talking with a friend, and we hope to have a game ready by next year.”

Richard Fischer, a sophomore at NWOSU and first time attendee at the Heartland Expo, said, “It was really amazing to see the time, effort, and imagination that were put into the project here. It really inspired me to up my game next year.”

This year’s special guests included Greg Rahn, an Audio director who is a veteran in the video game industry with more than 200 soundtracks.

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...Rangers dominate Heartland Gaming Expo

He most recently led an audio team in San Francisco best known for “Star Wars: Uprising,” “Marvel: Contest Of Champions,” and “The Hobbit: Legends Of Middle Earth.” Also appearing were Todd DeMelle, Art Director for the award winning MMORPG “The Lord of the Rings Online,” Rachael Messer, a professional voice actress who has made a living voice acting. She has voiced in popular games like “Warframe,” “Heroes of Newerth” and many other games. One of the most popular guest speakers that most students wanted to see was Jason Gregory, the lead programmer for Naughty Dog, who helped develop engine and gameplay software for popular games like “Uncharted 4: A Thief’s End,” “The Last of Us,” and Chance Glasco Graphic Artist for “Infinity Ward,” widely known for the Call of Duty Franchise and a Tulsa native.

This year the Heartland Gaming also hosted their first Collegiate StarLeague sanctioned Invitational League of Legends tournament. The tournament was open to college teams only this year, with a $1,000 prize pool. They were unable to find eight teams so the tournament was opened to the public so the last two spots could be filled. The tournament kicked off with a single elimination tournament, where teams would compete in a best-of-three set. The final two teams faced off against each other in a best-of-five set for the title of Champion for this year’s Heartland Invitational. NWOSU brought in their own League of Legends team this year, but lost during the best-of-three set. Austin Anderson, a junior at NWOSU, said, “It was an interesting experience. This was my first time at the Heartland Gaming Expo, and my first tournament with my new team.

I haven’t been playing League of Legends for long, and even though we lost, we did learn a lot from that loss. I hope that for next year, NWOSU will have a stronger team.”

Scott Bartley, a senior at NWOSU and returning attendant at the Expo, said, “It was a whole new experience to go from a supporting role last year to a solo entry this year. There was so much more on my mind about presenting my music scores compared to last year, where I made music that I was told to make.” Bartley also brought back second place in the Gallery showcase, where he designed his own music composition.

Computer games can represent one of the best displays of technological expertise and artistic expression. Evan Vaverka, instructor of computer science, said, “The computer science department is proud of everyone that competed. Many of the students will be returning next year and are already excited for the event.”

This year for the college category in the Game Design showcase, Bruno Miguel, a junior at NWOSU, won first place as a solo entry for his game Garuna Island. “The greatest and best feeling of winning is achieved when you hear your friends cheering when your name is being announced,” Miguel said.

“This year for the Heartland Expo, we wanted to try something new, and the committee decided on a raffle drawing. The prizes for this year included a gaming laptop, 1TB Xbox One Bundle, 500 GB Xbox bundle, and a PC Minecraft Bundle. It was the first time we tried pulling this off, and it went off without a hitch, Mailler said.

For anyone who wishes to start out in game developing or in any of their passions, it doesn’t matter whether they are young or old. Daniel Mooney, founder of Moomat, returned again this year as a judge, and showed off a new program he started off in a few elementary schools. He meets once a week with a few young minds that are interested in creating games to teach about simple coding and game design. He hopes to help jump start kids into skills that many other students wouldn’t have thought of learning when they were younger.

Mooney said, “Even though Moomat started off as a small company, we are slowly growing and we’ve never given up. Do what you love and just do it. Don’t let someone’s advice bring you down, take it with a grain of salt, always take their advice, and learn from it, but never give up on what you are doing. Think of it more as a push so you can do better.”

“Everyone had a fun time and did well at the competition. It was a great learning experience for the new attendants, and the students already seem eager to do it all again,” Vaverka said.

Mark Bagley, instructor of computer science, said, “This is three years in a row that NWOSU Computer Science students have placed or won in their categories at the Expo. It is very rewarding to see their commitment to excellence paying off in such dramatic ways. I am very proud of the 12 students who comprised this year’s six team entries.”

“The greatest and best feeling of winning is achieved when you hear your friends cheering when your name is being announced.”

-- Bruno Miguel

Spotlight 23
Cook gives voice workshop

When one thinks ‘voice,’ one usually thinks singing. However, the two-day workshop held on the stage inside Herod Hall theatre was directed towards the correct usage of one’s speaking voice.

A voice identifies you as a person. As an actor the voice is a primary tool to create a person other than yourself.

Rena Cook, world renowned professor emeritus in the University of Oklahoma’s Helmerich School of Drama, has a best selling book, “Voice and the Young Actor.” Cook demonstrated many exercises from the book with the students and faculty members. She also offered Master Classes with acting and vocal music students.

“I had tried to get Rena to our campus for 8 years to present a workshop,” Kimberly Weast, professor of theatre arts said. “I’m thrilled we were finally able to work out this opportunity.”

Rangers attend Minority Association Pre-Med Conference

Dr. Cindy Pfeifer-Hill, professor of biology, along with two Northwestern pre-med bound students, David Gutierrez (Hispanic) and Tyler McKinney (Native American Indian), attended the Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students Conference during January in Tulsa, OK.

The conference was organized and led by current minority medical students at Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (OSU-COM) and included mock group interviews with faculty, anatomy lab demonstrations, guided tours of the medical and graduate school and panel discussions with current medical students.

Pfeifer-Hill said, “David and Tyler were inspired and further encouraged and now have OSU-COM as a top choice for medical school applications!”

An overnight stay prior to the conference was supported by the Anna B. Fisher Endowment.
Dr. Eric Schmaltz, professor of history at Northwestern and co-executive director of the NWOSU Institute for Citizenship Studies, participated in three recent spring events and published a couple of articles as the 2015-16 academic year concluded.

In mid-April, Schmaltz discussed his paper, “Coming Full Circle: Twenty-First-Century Reflections on the German from Russia Diaspora in North America,” on a panel as part of the Rural and Agricultural Studies Section at the Western Social Science Association Annual Conference held in Reno, Nevada. Here he elaborated on particular cultural and scholarly trends affecting this significant diaspora community in recent decades across the United States and Canada.

In late April, Schmaltz also made introductory comments before showing the 2005 Prairie Public Broadcasting (Fargo) video documentary, “A Soulful Sound: Music of the Germans from Russia,” at the Golden Spread Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia at the Senior Citizen Center in Shattuck.

Schmaltz said, “Beyond more traditional musical forms, whether religious or secular, a number of famous musical luminaries in more recent times from this heritage have included late big band leader and television personality Lawrence Welk, late folk singer-songwriter and actor John Denver (previously Deutschendorf), and Randy Meisner, former bassist of the classic rock group the Eagles.”

Then at the end of April, Schmaltz served as session moderator for the topic “Homesteading in Oklahoma: Diverse Examples of Fortitude Applied on the Frontier” at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma Historical Society held at the Woodward Conference Center in Woodward.

Meanwhile this spring, Schmaltz published a couple of articles in three venues: “Other Immigrant Destinies: An Overview of South America’s Germans from Russia” in the spring issue of the “Journal of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia” in Lincoln, Nebraska; and “Personal Travel Report on New Hope (Neue Hoffnung/ Nueva Esperanza): A Traditional Mennonite Colony in La Plata Province, Argentina” in both the March issue of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society’s quarterly journal “Heritage Review” in Bismarck, North Dakota, and the forthcoming issue of the “Germans from Russia Oregon and Washington (GROW) Quarterly Newsletter” in Portland, Oregon.

Schmaltz has been invited to give a handful of convention talks later this summer as well. In July, he will be presenting on two topics concerning the ethnic German dissident and autonomy movements in the former Soviet Union (roughly from the mid-1960s to the early 1990s) at the 47th International Convention of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia held in Concord, California. Then in early September in Rapid City, South Dakota, he will be speaking at one session on a related topic at the 46th International Convention of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society.

Though reducing speaking commitments this coming academic year to focus more on teaching, editing and research-writing, in mid-November Schmaltz also has been invited to participate on a special academic panel on early Soviet-era (1917-1937) Russian letter correspondences sent to North America, including both Ingersoll and Alva in northwestern Oklahoma, at the Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies held in Washington, D.C.

**Students judge science fairs**

Northwestern natural sciences students enrolled in a science fair judging course provided judging assistance in several local science fairs involving more than 250 students. Dr. Steve Maier, professor of physics and chair of natural sciences, and Dr. Steve Thompson, professor of biology, led the course.

The group traveled to and judged local fairs at Aline-Cleo, Gage, Lincoln Elementary School (Alva), Shattuck, Taloga, Vici and Woodward Christian Academy.
Choirs present ‘Soundscapes,’ ‘Gladsome Light’

Northwestern’s Choirs, comprised of the University Singers, the University Chorale and the University Concert Choir, presented “Soundscapes” in April at the Alva Independent School armory.

The armory was chosen as the location of the concert by Karsten Longhurst, director of choral studies. The building includes a stage and unique sounds that amplified the choir members’ voices.

Department chair Kimberly Weast was excited to see the performance. She said that the old performance space has wonderful acoustics. Weast said that with the collaboration of music to be performed, the building lent itself to the music.

In March, the choirs, comprised of the University Singers and the University Chorale, performed their “Gladsome Light” concert at the First Christian Church of Alva.

The Singers and Chorale presented mostly a cappella works from the last 500 years to present day. Highlights included Susan Duell, adjunct instructor of music, accompanying Mendelssohn’s “Hear My Prayer” with Alex Skinner, Burkburnett, Texas, senior, as soloist, and “Saul,” by Norwegian composer Egil Hovland, performed by the chorale.

Sander gives talk on PA school prep

The Medical Science Club played host to Carmen Sander, Northwestern alumnus, on April 28 in the Science Amphitheatre. Sander is a 2015 graduate who completed a biology major and chemistry minor. She has completed her first year of the physician associate program at OU Health Science Center.

She came in the midst of her finals week to talk to prospective Northwestern students about PA school (how to apply, prepare, and survive once in the program). She spoke for nearly an hour and a half, but she was so engaging and gave such good and practical advice that all who attended were in rapt attention! Dr. Cindy Pfeifer-Hill said, 'Her dedication, loyalty and devotion is how she was when she was a student here.”

While at Northwestern, Carmen was president of the Medical Science Club.
Seven Northwestern students recently were inducted into the Alpha Nu Psi chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, English honor society.

The induction ceremony was broadcast from the Alva campus via ITV to Ponca City and Enid. Alva campus inductees are Princess Adenuga, junior English major from Lagos, Nigeria; Taylor Bailey, junior English major from Alva; Shelby Brown, junior English major from Beaver; Bailey Cook, sophomore English major from Mustang; and Don Tripp, junior English major from Alva.

DeeDee Nolan, senior English major from Enid, was inducted from the Enid campus, and Susy Smith, senior English major from Blackwell, was inducted from the Ponca City site.

Current officers who performed the induction ceremony are Natalie Sacket, senior English major from Aline, as the social media representative; Jade George, senior English major from Ponca City as the membership coordinator; Charlie Wylie, senior English teacher education major from Ponca City as the vice president; and Rachel Reardon, senior English major from Woodward as the president.

Sigma Tau Delta is an international honor society designed to provide students with enhanced educational experiences through interest groups, scholarships, professional meetings and collegial collaboration. With more than 600 active chapters in America, Europe and the Caribbean, this honor society encourages excellence in all areas of English language and literature and recognizes, through awards and scholarships, significant accomplishments among its undergraduate, graduate and professional members.

Chapters of Sigma Tau Delta have approximately 8,500 members inducted annually. Northwestern’s Alpha Nu Psi Chapter is sponsored by Dr. Jennifer Page, assistant professor of English.

Membership is by invitation from the faculty of the English program.

New inductees into the Sigma Tau Delta honor society are (left to right) Don Tripp, Princess Adenuga, Bailey Cook, Shelby Brown and Taylor Bailey. Not pictured are Susy Smith and DeeDee Nolan.

Corinelia Mihai, professor of chemistry, along with Northwestern chemistry students Dalton Pannell, Brady Fields and Yeboah Gyening gave the poster presentation Introductory Bioorganic Study of Firefly Luciferase – An Enzyme to Drive Bioluminescence at the American Chemical Society Pentasectional Meeting in Bartlesville in April. The objective of the proposed research project is to initiate a comprehensive bioorganic study of Firefly luciferase which will consist of extraction of luciferase from dry firefly lanterns, purification and analysis of luciferase. This introductory study will be used to develop new laboratory experiments which will be incorporated in the Biochemistry laboratory course currently taught in the Department of Natural Sciences at NWOSU.
Charcoal drawing workshop held at Homestead

The NWOSU Visual Arts program conducted a charcoal drawing workshop at the Homestead Retirement Community on May 10.

Led by Assistant Professor of Art Kyle Larson and assisted by Artist-in-Residence Gloria Shows and Visual Arts Minor Rachel Davis, participants were presented with an introduction to reductive charcoal drawing. This drawing exercise entails covering a sheet of paper with charcoal, and then using a kneaded eraser to make reductive marks that show how light plays across the surface of an object.

Through finding the balance of light and shadow, the object eventually emerges on the page. The residents made impressive work!

Special thanks to Homestead employee Suz Rosell Walter for helping organize the event.

Writer’s Roundtable presents work during Art Walk

April 1st was a busy day for the English department. In addition to the first ever Writing Marathon (see Spotlight article), the department’s student creative writing group, the Writers’ Roundtable, presented at Graceful Arts Gallery as part of the First Friday Art Walk.

Six student writers presented: Patricia Pixler, Charlie Wylie, Katrina Henning, Don Tripp, Nathan Sacket, and Zac Zook. It was a fantastic way to close out an exciting semester. Look for the Writers’ Roundtable Showcase events on the fall calendar to hear more student writing.
Earth, Space Science students have Moon Event for kids

Ten Earth and Space Science students along with Bobette Doerrie, adjunct instructor, played host to 57 fourth grade students and 40 adults from Mayo Demonstration School in Tulsa for a Moon Event.

The Northwestern students had several stations available for the children, including making craters by dropping rocks into a model Moon surface (flour), dough crater models, viewing craters with side light to show why seeing crater in a full moon isn’t good, using astronomical lasers and myths about constellations.

Other presenters were volunteers from Starcreek Astronomical Society. They showed the students Jupiter and the Moon with their telescopes.

Due to James A. and Lorraine Case’s long-time support of education, the Case family – along with the assistance of family and friends – has established a scholarship in honor of James and the Case family.

James and Lorraine of Waynoka, Okla. wanted their daughters, Angelia and Valarie, to earn college degrees.

Angelia graduated with a degree in art from Northwestern in 1984, and Valarie graduated with a degree in mass communications in 1985.

The scholarship will be awarded to a student either in the Department of Fine Arts or the Department of Mass Communication. The selection committee will alternate between the departments each year. The recipient must be a full-time student at Northwestern, maintain a minimum CGPA of 2.5, remain active in campus organizations and major or minor in Art or Mass Communications. First preference will be given to students from Waynoka, Okla. Second preference will be given to students from Woods County, Okla. Third preference will be given to students from northwest Oklahoma.

The scholarship may be applied toward university-related expenses, including tuition, fees, books, room and board.
Lowe selected as Brad Henry Scholar

Northwestern Oklahoma State University’s study abroad committee-nominated applicant was one of nine students from 11 regions in Oklahoma to receive the Brad Henry Scholarship for the 2016-17 year.

Sydnie Lowe, double major in biology and English with a chemistry minor from Neosho, Missouri, plans to go to Swansea, Wales, for Northwestern’s spring 2017 semester.

The international study program, which was established by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in June 2008, provides a $10,000 stipend for undergraduate students to participate in a semester-long study abroad program affiliated with Swansea. Academic credit for these programs will be awarded by Oklahoma regional universities.

Only one student per university in Oklahoma is nominated for the program by their institutions.

Dr. Kathryn Lane, Study Abroad Committee member who serves as an assistant professor of English and chair of the English, Foreign Language and Humanities Department, believes Lowe is in for an eye-opening experience.

“Sydnie is eager and organized,” Lane said. “Someone who is carrying a double major is someone that wants to learn. I think she will not only learn in the classroom but from the experience in general and gaining a more global perspective will help her future career.”

“I would like to eventually work for ‘Doctor’s Without Borders,’ and I need some experience abroad in order to do that,” Lowe said. “I also think that this experience would help me get into medical school. I am looking forward to the overall experience, really - being introduced to diversity and being able to expand my horizons.”

Lowe is a resident assistant on campus and a Ranger Connector. She also helps with the Wesley House and Northwestern Scholar Ambassadors.

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Dr. Steve Maier, professor of physics and chair of the natural science department, visits with students at Northwestern’s Transfer Day. Several faculty members were in attendance for the event.

Digital Technium
Swansea University

Thank You!

University Relations Department for the constant help with InDesign and for all the work you all have done to get many of the stories and photos that we’ve used. Valarie, Ali and Tori -- we are grateful!
Year concludes with commencement

Spring commencement exercises at Northwestern took place at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 7, at Ranger Field on a very windy day as rain clouds grew closer to the area.

Don Raleigh, 1987 Northwestern graduate, top track athlete and three-time All-American high jumper, was the commencement speaker.

Music was provided by the Ranger symphonic band under the direction of Dr. Marc Decker.

A reception honoring the graduates followed the ceremony in the Student Center Ballroom.

A total of 203 candidates earned bachelor’s degrees, 17 earned Master of Education degrees, seven earned Master of Counseling Psychology degrees and two earned Master of Arts in American Studies degrees.

Eighteen of those receiving bachelor’s degrees graduated with honors. Students with cumulative grade point averages between 3.70 and 3.79 are designated cum laude, those with GPAs between 3.80-3.89 are magna cum laude and those above 3.90 are summa cum laude.

To see the video, follow this link: https://youtu.be/_ALD3cEY6JY

Happy graduates celebrate the moment!

Natural Sciences graduates pose with faculty members.

Graduate Alexandria Skinner sings the Northwestern Alma Mater. Pomp and Circumstance was provided by the Symphonic Band.