

# the Spotlight

## Newsletter

Issue 10 - Fall 2020

### *Cultivate your originality*

**By Dr. James Bell, Dean of Faculty**

When I taught English education courses at College of the Ozarks, I passed along to my students the wisdom that I had inherited from virtually every veteran teacher and education professor I had encountered since my own days as an education major at Lamar University in the early Eighties: “Start by being tough. You can always get easier, but students will make it almost impossible to get harder.” That advice seems to resonate well beyond the classroom context. It feels like a truth about life in general.

As I have gotten older, I’ve come to recognize another truth: Start original. It’s easy enough to get more normal, but life’s habits and obligations will make it difficult to get more original. By being original, I mean nurturing those parts of yourself that make you unique, that feed your soul, that enrich your life as—and particularly beyond as—an employee. Originality thrives through consistent and subtle rebellion against stagnation and expectation.

My most recent rebellion is to walk to and from the campus for work and lunch daily. It started simply enough. Having signed up for the Mighty 90 health challenge this year, I would picture myself taking thirty-three cents out of Dr.

Pecha’s pocket every time I made one trip. Dr. Pecha eventually let me know that I’m taking thirty-three cents from Blue Cross Blue Shield rather than him personally, which dampened my enthusiasm slightly. Thankfully, though, by then the walk had become its own reward.

Now I put in my earbuds and listen to music or a podcast on Spotify, enjoy whatever odd weather the day brings, and beat a path through Alva’s alleys in my school clothes. And that’s probably an unusual sight to some, especially those who witness me exchanging inside jokes with the pit bull whose fence abuts the Church Street alley. Our current joke is that I say “I wish I knew the French word for ‘alley,’” and he barks. Clearly, it is very much an inside joke.

The good news for me is that the culture of Alva is profoundly informed by its historic relationship with Northwestern. Liberal arts colleges generally—and Northwestern specifically—celebrate the idea that the life of the mind and soul should be rich, nourished by exposure to diverse disciplines and points of view and practices. Even in an age in which the focus of a college education is increasingly on vocational preparation, the liberal arts experience rounds

out our students’ perspectives and characters. They understand that there is more than one way of being, and that understanding liberates them to welcome their own complexity and the complexity of others. The university, and by extension Alva, are safe places to be original.

And there’s plenty of wonderful originality here. For example, do you know which professor is a licensed pilot and which professor is in a bluegrass band? Do you know which staff member raises rabbits and which one rescues snakes? Do you know which administrator collects Elvis albums and which one collects matchbooks? Have you ever met Maybelline, for goodness sake?

Through our own acts of rebellion against stagnation and expectation, we reflect and perpetuate the value of the life richly lived and the value of a horizon-broadening liberal arts education. We also offer up to our students the raw materials to cultivate a fulfilling interior life for themselves. Our enterprise remains crucial to creating the kind of world we want to live in.

To what has become the COVID-era closing of choice, I’ll add one adjective: Stay safe and well...and original.

# Face-to-face goal is achieved

We did it!  
 We started (and finished) the fall 2020 semester in person.  
 It took an entire team effort - and it was difficult to say the least. But, with the help of all, we did it

and we should be proud.  
 It began with the Northwestern Reopening Task Force working through the spring and summer to make a safe plan for all to follow. The task force, comprised of faculty,

staff, students and administration, developed the [Rangers' Return Campus Reopening Plan](#).

Faculty members stepped up in a major way, elevating what they do

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Faculty members and administration attended the annual meeting with a twist this year - it was socially distanced in Percefull Fieldhouse.



Staff members had a chance to attend one of two socially distanced all staff meetings at Percefull Fieldhouse.



Foundation and Alumni staff (top) offer welcome bags to students and employees; students walk to classes on the mall (bottom left); Richard Burdick offers a Ranger facemask to a student (bottom right).



Rowdy shows everyone what to do. Mask up.



Olivia Yandel meets with her Wellness Concepts class for the first time in the ballroom now known as Student Center 202. This room transitioned to a classroom to allow social distancing for a large class.

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# Face-to-face...

in a normal day to so much more. They had to be ready to switch a class from face-to-face to other modalities quickly, deal with social distancing issues and lab situations of all sorts, give performances in

safe ways, use new technologies, and so many other things.

Our staff members also stepped up in every department as well. Our custodial and maintenance crews have been busy cleaning, sanitizing, helping with social distancing and building hand sanitizer stations.

So many things have had to be canceled or postponed, but one student organization has been shining in the midst of caution. The Student Government Association, led by Olivia Yandel, sponsor, and Ethan Sacket, president, have provided many safe and distanced events for students to interact and have fun.

This semester hasn't been the easiest for anyone, but it shows our never-give-up Ranger spirit in such a broad, positive light.

We truly are 'all in this together.'



First day in the student center for fall 2020 - Starbucks and studies.



Freshman Orientation included check-in at the dorms (above left) and many of the regular elements outdoors this year at Ranger Field.



SGA with help from Northwestern employees serves food and offers sanitizer to those attending Aloha Northwestern. Fun and games were part of the evening's event.



SGA held Movie Night at the beginning of the semester.



# Braten-Hall, Cudd, Longhurst earn doctorates

Three Northwestern faculty members, Mariann Braten-Hall, assistant professor of education; Michael Seth Cudd, director of bands and assistant professor of music; and Karsten Longhurst, director of choral studies and assistant professor of music, have earned doctoral degrees.

Braten-Hall earned a Doctor of Education degree in higher education leadership in May 2020 from Oral Roberts University in Tulsa.

Cudd earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in music composition in May 2020 from Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Longhurst earned a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in choral music in March 2020 from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, California.

Braten-Hall's dissertation is titled "Cultural Competence in Higher Education Faculty." The purpose of her research was to understand better cultural competence (the ability to work effectively in cross-cultural settings) in higher education faculty in a rural context. She gathered information using a survey and follow-up interviews with faculty from different fields of teaching.

The survey indicated the level of cultural sensitivity in the participants. The follow-up interviews helped her better understand the experiences that have helped faculty gain their current cultural competence level. The personal and professional experiences described

by faculty as helpful in developing cultural competence included forming relationships with people from diverse backgrounds, working outside of their regular setting, and receiving training and support relevant to the experience at hand.



Mariann Braten-Hall

The findings of her study indicated a positive correlation between high Intercultural Sensitivity Scale scores and high interest in further professional development towards cultural competence in higher education faculty. Findings further indicated

that personal and professional cultural experiences and encounters contributed to the development of cultural competence in higher education faculty.

"The most exciting part of my study was conducting and analyzing the interviews," Braten-Hall said. "I found that listening to faculty describe the rich experiences that helped them gain their current cultural competence level provoked thoughts and a more in-depth understanding of the development of cultural competence and the concept itself. I was intrigued by how the experiences were both similar yet diverse."



Seth Cudd

Braten-Hall also received her bachelors degree from ORU and earned a Master of Education degree from Northwestern. Before joining Northwestern's education faculty in 2015, she served as an elementary and special education teacher with Ponca City Public Schools. She also has work experience with a private early childhood center in Sweden and Ponca City Christian Academy. At Northwestern, she teaches elementary methods courses and early childhood methods courses on the Enid campus.

Cudd's dissertation is titled "Functional and Lengthy: Prevailing Characteristics within Successful Long Songs." He explained successful long popular songs consistently utilize formal structures and compositional techniques that are inherently particular to them. As a result, these recordings differ in more ways than simply length, because there are "long song" characteristics that distinguish this music.

Cudd said to better discuss these characteristics, it was important to develop a method for visually depicting songs in a manner that clearly outlines each groove. These "groove analyses" are used to discuss each piece of music in detail. As a result, groove is a primary point of discussion throughout his study, because most long song characteristics are directly linked to this quality within the music. This type of analysis is explained in detail,

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# Doctorates...

and afterward, it is utilized throughout much of the dissertation.

Cudd said it is also hypothetically possible that the structures and techniques in question can impact the listener's perception of time when used outside of the context of a long song. A simple experiment was run to better understand how these concepts influence a person's sense of duration, and the results were promising and demonstrated trends that merit further research.

"I analyzed around 600 popular songs, so I learned a great deal about what makes popular music function," Cudd said.

Cudd is a Southwestern Oklahoma State University graduate who earned a Master of Music degree from the University of Oklahoma. Before joining Northwestern's music faculty in 2018, he taught at Southwestern Christian University. He taught public school for eight years before teaching at the collegiate level. He spends time writing music for various ensembles, and has written music for a couple of short films and commercials. At Northwestern, he directs the Ranger Marching Band, Symphony Band, Concert Band, and Jazz Ensemble along with teaching courses in form and analysis, instrumental conducting and music theory.

Longhurst's dissertation is titled "The life of Rudolf Mauersberger and an analysis of Wie liegt die Stadt so wüst and Dresdner Requiem." This dissertation begins with a biographical summary of the life of Rudolf Mauersberger.

Longhurst said his study also includes an overview of influences on Mauersberger's compositional style, and an analysis of two selected seminal

works, the funeral motet, *Wie liegt die Stadt so wüst* (RMWV 4/1) and large work, *Dresdner Requiem* (RMWV 10). These works were written in direct response to the Dresden bombings and the destruction of World War II. Many of his works are still performed today and are beginning to gain more notoriety around the world, particularly his motet, "Wie liegt die Stadt so wüst."

Longhurst said nearly all that has been written about Mauersberger is in German. English sources are limited to a library website, a section of a dissertation that examines how

people mourn through music, and a few recording reviews. The majority of quotes have been translated from the original German language. The dissertation attempts to consolidate and summarize the many German sources to introduce Rudolf Mauersberger and his accomplishments to the English-speaking world. Longhurst said while there are still many of his works to analyze, this research should increase the recognition of Mauersberger as a leading figure of German choral music in the 21st century.

"The best part of writing my dissertation was visiting Dresden and meeting Matthias Herrmann, a former singer in the Kreuzchor (Church of the Cross Boys' Choir) under Mauersberger, and visiting the Kreuzkirche (Church of the Cross)," Longhurst said. "It has been a lot of hard work, but I am very grateful for the

breadth and depth of the experiences I have had.

"In looking back over the last few years of education, I feel a deep sense of gratitude to my parents for fostering the music in me, for my incredible choir teachers in elementary, junior high and high schools. To my students at Ogden High and now here at Northwestern who all have helped me learn how to be a better person and teacher, and I am continually grateful for their patience, hard work and passion. Most of all, I am blessed to have a companion who allows me to follow my passion for music.

We have six children who are learning the joy of music in their own ways."

Longhurst is a Weber State University graduate who earned a Master of Music degree from the University of Utah. Before joining Northwestern's music faculty in 2015, he attended the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. He conducted the USC Apollo Men's Chorus for two years, assistant conducted the USC Chamber Singers and performed in Los Angeles as a solo and ensemble singer. He continues to sing with semi-professional and professional choirs and occasionally solo with ensembles like the Enid Symphony. At Northwestern, he directs the University Singers, University Chorale, and Concert Choir along with teaching courses in choral literature, aural skills and music in life.



Karsten Longhurst

# 9 new faculty members welcomed

Northwestern welcomed nine new faculty members to campus to begin the 2020-2021 school year. Two new faculty members were hired in the School of Arts and Sciences, two in the School of Education and five in the School of Professional Studies.

Short biographies of each faculty member from the School of Arts and Sciences are included below:

Dr. Luis Antunes, assistant professor of mass communication, holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Portuguese language and culture from the University of Lisbon (Portugal) and a Master of Arts degree in communication sciences (film and television studies) from the New University of Lisbon (Portugal). He also earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in aesthetics from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Trondheim, Norway), and a second Doctor of Philosophy degree in film studies from the University of Kent (Canterbury, England). He has served as a lecturer in communication at Augusta University in Georgia.

Dr. Matthew Lambert, assistant professor of English, has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of North Carolina in Asheville and a Master of Arts degree in English from the University of South Alabama in Mobile. He also earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in literary and cultural studies from Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburg, Pennsylvania). He has worked as a visiting assistant professor of English at Wabash College (Crawfordsville, Indiana).

Short biographies of each faculty member from the School of Education are included below:

Allissa Miller, instructor of psychology, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in family studies from the University of Nebraska-Kearney and a Master of Arts degree in counseling from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (Kansas

City, Missouri). She previously served as a Provisional Licensed Professional Counselor at the Cass County Psychological Center in Harrisonville, Missouri.

Jack Staats, instructor of agriculture, holds a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural education from Oklahoma State University and a Master of Education degree from Northwestern. His previous work experience includes state program administrator-agricultural education/state FFA adviser with the Oklahoma State Department of Career and Technology Education and agriculture education instructor for Alva Public Schools, Buffalo Public Schools and Freedom Public Schools.

Mark Zadorozny, instructor of health and sports science education, holds a Bachelor of Science degree in health and sports science education and a Master of Education degree in educational leadership, both from Northwestern. His previous teaching experience includes middle school science teacher/coach at Woodward Public Schools; middle school science teacher at Yukon Middle School; and technical applications instructor



**New faculty members welcomed for fall 2020 include: (in chairs) Matthew Lambert, KeEra Busse, Jack Staats, Allissa Miller; (in booths) Kenneth Creech, Dana Roark, Mark Zadorozny and Luis Rocha Antunes.**

at High Plains Technology Center in Woodward.

Short biographies of each faculty member from the School of Professional Studies are included below:

KeEra Busse, instructor of nursing, holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from West Texas A&M University and a Master of Science in Nursing-Education degree from Western Governors University-Austin, Texas. She has worked as a medical/surgical nurse at BSA Health Systems; clinical instructor at Amarillo College; and instructor of nursing at West Texas A&M University.

Kenneth Creech, instructor of accounting, earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in accounting and a Master of Business Administration degree, both from Gonzaga University (Spokane, Washington). He is a Certified Public Accountant. He has served as an associate professor of accounting at Briar Cliff University (Sioux City, Iowa); instructor of management studies at St. Olaf College (Northfield, Minnesota); assistant professor of business at the University of

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## New faculty members...

Montana Western (Dillon); unit controller at General Signal Corp. in Connecticut; and Chief Financial Officer at Michigan Wheel Marine.

Dr. Yvette Lowery, assistant professor of nursing, holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Norfolk State University (Virginia) and a Master of Science in Nursing degree from Jacksonville University (Florida). She also earned a Doctorate of Nursing Practice degree from South University (Savannah, Georgia). Her prior work experience includes part-time nursing professor for online programs at Aspen University (Colorado); adjunct nursing professor for online programs at Simmons College of Nursing (Boston, Massachusetts); and 14 years of clinical experience with numerous hospitals and

medical offices.

Dana Roark, instructor of accounting, holds a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting and a Master of Education degree, both from Northwestern. She is a

Certified Public Accountant. Roark was previously employed by Northwestern for eight years as an instructor of business (2007 – 2015). She also owns a tax preparation and bookkeeping business.



## Five graduate programs available for enrollment

Northwestern master's degree programs open for enrollment include Master of Arts in American Studies, Master of Counseling Psychology, Master of Science in General Psychology, Master of Arts in Heritage Tourism and Conservation and Master of Education with several different options. Applications for admission into the graduate program were accepted through the beginning of August.

"This fall semester is an excellent time for potential students to begin their graduate education," Dr. Shawn Holliday, associate dean of graduate studies, said. "Northwestern offers a wide array of graduate programs that will build specialty knowledge to provide larger earning potential. Our small class sizes and supportive faculty also help students succeed."

To see degree program breakdowns visit the online graduate catalog at [www.nwosu.edu/graduate-catalog](http://www.nwosu.edu/graduate-catalog). To get started on a graduate degree program contact Melissa Brown, coordinator of graduate studies, at (580) 327-8410 or [mbrown@nwosu.edu](mailto:mbrown@nwosu.edu). An application for admission form, admission requirements and additional information may be found at [www.nwosu.edu/graduate-studies](http://www.nwosu.edu/graduate-studies).

# Face coverings required on campus

Starting July 27, Northwestern began requiring the wearing of face coverings on campus. The developed policy states that face coverings would be required in all classroom settings, as well as campus buildings. The only exception is that face coverings could be removed in work offices when social distancing can be accomplished.

“Due to the surge of positive COVID-19 cases within Oklahoma, we must do what we can to help mitigate the spread of this virus and create an environment where we can keep classes as normal as possible,” President Janet Cunningham said.

“The decision to require face coverings comes after a recommendation to me by Northwestern’s Reopening Task Force that was comprised of faculty, staff, students and administration,” Cunningham said. “The Task Force unanimously recommended that face coverings be worn inside campus buildings.”

Northwestern’s Reopening Task Force also developed plans for the student body to return to campus and how some events may look. This plan is subject to change at any moment.

To view the entire campus reopening document, Rangers’ Return, visit [www.nwosu.edu/coronavirus/reopening](http://www.nwosu.edu/coronavirus/reopening).

For questions regarding Northwestern’s policy, call Kelsey Martin, director of marketing and university relations, at (580) 327-8478.



Rowdy says ‘Mask Up’ after face covering policy is developed.



# 18 Selected for President’s Leadership Class

Eighteen incoming freshmen at Northwestern Oklahoma State University began their year-long adventure as members of the President’s Leadership Class (PLC).

PLC is a leadership development program led by Dr. Janet Cunningham, university president. The program seeks to develop leadership skills in students who have compiled exemplary records of academic success and participation in high school activities. Graduates of the program are expected to assume leadership roles on campus during their time at Northwestern.

“Students who are chosen for the PLC class have already shown that they have great leadership skills and excel in academics,” Cunningham said. “While at

Northwestern, they will work to create a bond as a group and learn more about the community they will be living in for the next four years.

“This year may look different than most years, but I am excited for this class and the opportunities Northwestern will present to them.”

Students selected for this year’s President’s Leadership Class include:

Kalli Baumgardner, Fairview; Tabor Budy, Waynoka; Clayton Carpenter, Thomas; Joslyn Clem, Cherokee; Mindy Cosby, Newcastle; Lily Crickmar, Mount Juliet, Tennessee; Braydon Gray, Valley Center, Kansas; Kylee Harzman, Alva; Alec Judd, Helena; Timothy Kime, Altus; Lauren Lagos, Burlington; Lauren Lancaster, Alva;

Shayna Miller, Tuttle; Riley Myers, Kingfisher; Lauren Parker, Alva; Austin Rankin, Waynoka; Carli Seabolt, Perry; Destiny TeLinde, Alva.

Selection to the PLC is through a competitive process including applications, letters of recommendation and an interview, which took place over Zoom this year.

The PLC program was established in 2001 with assistance from the President’s Association, an annual giving program that includes alumni and other donors.

Class members participate in leadership activities and assist the president and her staff in hosting dignitaries on campus and in selected recruitment activities.



Top Row (Left to Right): Kalli Baumgardner, Tabor Budy, Clayton Carpenter. Middle Row: Joslyn Clem, Mindy Cosby, Lily Crickmar. Bottom Row: Braydon Gray, Kylee Harzman, Alec Judd

Top Row (Left to Right): Timothy Kime, Lauren Lagos, Lauren Lancaster; Middle Row: Shayna Miller, Riley Myers, Lauren Parker; Bottom Row: Austin Rankin, Carli Seabolt, Destiny TeLinde

# 19 student teachers complete final semester

Students leave Northwestern with the knowledge to succeed in a particular field. In their final semester, 19 senior education students received their student teaching assignments and entered area schools to gain hands-on experience.

The students returned to campus for seminars in November and their portfolio exit interviews in December. Graduation was held on Dec. 6.

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

Early Childhood Education – Clarissa Coleman of Woodward, Mooreland Elementary School; Mercedes Kirkhart of Alva, Laverne Elementary School; Stormy Thompson of Enid; Coolidge Elementary School (Enid)

Elementary Education – Riley Beeler of Alva, Waynoka Elementary School; Jordan Brewer of Woodward, Ft. Supply Elementary School; Maddie Cates of Follett, Texas, Longfellow Elementary School (Alva); Hadlee Harmon of Woodward, Ft. Supply Elementary School; Kendra Humphries of Pioneer-Pleasant Vale, Garfield Elementary School (Enid); Karen Lopez-Camarena of Enid, Pleasant Vale Elementary School; Laura Reed of Erick, Reydon Elementary School; Roscoe Reed of Enid, Waukomis Elementary School; Mikalyn Stuber of Enid, Chisholm Elementary School (Enid); Brittany Turner of Tonkawa, Woodlands Elementary School (Ponca City); Baylie Woolfolk of Alva, Buffalo Elementary School

English Education – Carson Hannaford of Dewey, Alva High School; Rachel Locke of Ponca City, West Middle School (Ponca City)

Health and Sports Science Education – Jordan Harris of Kremlin-Hillsdale, Washington Early Childhood Center (Alva)

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72 Hour Film Frenzy graphic designed by Mickey Jordan



August 2020, 72 hour film frenzy participants with guest artist Lance McDaniel, kneeling. Front row: Kylee Harzman, Esther Thornburg, Leah Bidwell, Kaylin Blatchford, Adria Lujan. Back row: Spencer Kinzie, Ryan Jenkins, Temberlenn Hall, Austin Morton, Felicit Wall, Lilith Ferrero, Professor Kyle Larson, Joe Parsons.



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# Student teachers...

Math Education – Shelby Pittser of Ponca City, Newkirk High School

Special Education – Ashley Sellers of Medford, Pleasant Vale Elementary School

Teacher candidates took part in the Teacher's Closet premiere event that helps each student get free and "new"

professional outfits to help transition their wardrobe to professional dress. For more information or to donate gently used or new clothing to benefit young professionals contact Dr. Jen Oswald, assistant professor of education, at (580) 327-8451 or jdoswald@nwsu.edu. Find "The Teacher's Closet" on Facebook for updates.

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.



Riley Beeler Jordan Brewer Maddie Cates



Jordan Harris Kendra Humphries Mercedes Kirkhart



Clarissa Coleman Carson Hannaford Hadlee Harmon



Rachel Locke Karen Lopez Shelby Pittser



Laura Reed Roscoe Reed Ashley Sellers Mikalyn Stuber



The campus Club Fair was held on the lawn again this year. This gives all students a chance to check out clubs and organizations on campus.



Stormy Thompson Brittany Turner Baylie Woolfolk



# Northwestern News wins 6 awards at OPA contest

The Northwestern News, a student-produced publication, won six awards in this year's Oklahoma Press Association Better Newspaper contest.

The OPA announced the winners of the 2019 Better Newspaper contest in a video. Winners are usually announced at the annual OPA convention and awards banquet in Oklahoma City, but this year's convention was postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Board of Directors has moved the date to June 2021.

The Northwestern News won one first place, two second place and three third place awards for entries from the 2019 calendar year.

1st place award: Feature Photograph by Jordan Green, Blackwell freshman, titled "Hitting the breaking point," which is of a student heading toward a brightly painted car with a sledgehammer during a fun Student Government Association event.

2nd place awards: News Content, Northwestern News issues on Nov. 7, March 7 and April 25; In-Depth Reporting, "Marijuana and its impact" by senior Sean Doherty of Branson, Colorado, senior Ashley Watts of Wellington, Texas, and junior Michelle Willson of Conway Springs, Kansas.

3rd place awards: Layout & Design, Northwestern News issues on Sept. 26, Oct. 31 and Feb. 14; Editorial Writing, "LGBTQ history month 14" by freshman Carson Polk of Blountsville, Alabama, "What has shaped me" by senior Leah Darnell of Haysville, Kansas, and "You aren't alone" by junior

Chuy Dominguez of Laverne; In-Depth Reporting, "Oklahoma public education faces the challenges" by junior Caitlyn Pray of Caldwell, Kansas, Northwestern graduate Capri Gahr of Carmen and Northwestern graduate Megan Brown of Alva.

"We are really proud to have done so well this year," said Dr. Kaylene Armstrong, Northwestern News adviser. "The students certainly proved that they can challenge even



the largest programs in the state and still win awards."

Northwestern competes in the college newspaper category of this contest against students and newspapers from the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University, University of Central Oklahoma, University of Tulsa, Cameron University, Langston University and others.

Brett Wesner, owner of 10 community newspapers in Oklahoma and treasurer of the National Newspaper Association, delivered opening remarks for the video.

"Hello and welcome to the

first virtual awards ceremony of the Oklahoma Press Association, brought to you this year from my living room," Wesner said. "I don't think in my 32 years in this industry there has ever been a more important time to do what we do as community journalists.

"Whether bringing vital health information to our communities concerning COVID-19, or helping our communities understand how our public institutions can be affected by systemic racism, and, more importantly, what we can do about it, I don't think our work has ever been more vital."

The video is available to view at [www.okpress.com/contest](http://www.okpress.com/contest). Members of the Maine Press Association judged more than 1,300 entries from 74 Oklahoma newspapers in the contest.

The judges commented, "With their ability to deliver much information in a 'small' package, the student journalists at Northwestern News capably prove that page size does not limit news coverage."

Student reporters in various journalism writing and photography classes provide stories and photos for the weekly paper. Because classes went to alternative instructional delivery methods after spring break, the staff did not produce weekly print papers but continued to update their website, <http://northwesternnews.rangerpulse.com/>, and the Northwestern News Facebook page.

To learn more about the Northwestern News, please contact Armstrong at (580) 327-8481 or [kdarmstrong@nwosu.edu](mailto:kdarmstrong@nwosu.edu).

# Spring, summer Campus Kudos awarded

Brenda Hearn, academic records coordinator at Northwestern, was selected by the Staff Council as the recipient of the 2020 spring semester Campus Kudos Award. Angelia Case, academic projects assistant/media specialist, and Valarie Case, university relations specialist, were selected by the Staff Council as the recipients of the 2020 summer Campus Kudos Awards.

Sue Burks, financial aid assistant director and Staff Council chair, presented Hearn and the Case sisters with their Campus Kudos awards. The person nominating Hearn for this award said, "I call her frequently to request degree audits for different students and for my student veterans. She is always kind and very helpful any time I call her. She is also willing to walk me through a degree audit, especially if I have questions about credits or classes. I know she is particularly busy, especially with our transition to the new Self-Service program. She is always quick to respond and very polite when I call."

Campus Kudos is a public acknowledgement created by the Northwestern Staff Council that applauds the efforts of eligible staff members who have displayed an act of kindness above their job responsibilities. This award is presented each semester, including

the summer term.

"This is such a surprise," Hearn said. "Helping students, faculty and staff is part of the job, and I am happy to know I have been doing a good job. Let's all make this year GREAT! Thank you and Ride, Rangers, Ride!"



Sue Burks (right) presents Brenda Hearn with a spring Campus Kudos Award.

The person nominating the Case sisters for this award said, "I often find myself tempted to nominate Angelia because she consistently shows kindness above and beyond the requirements

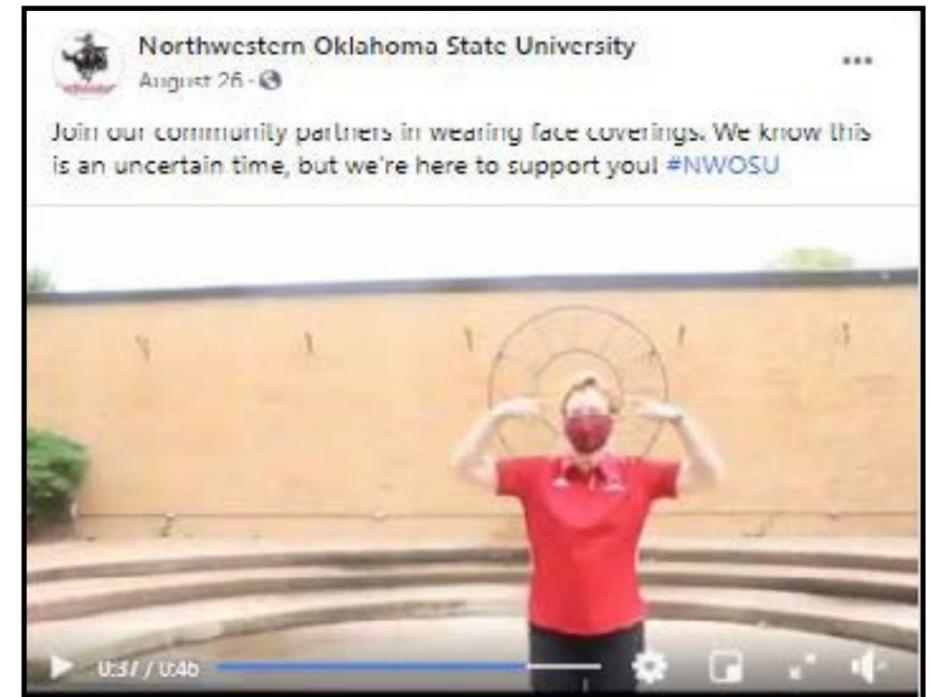
of her position. However, I feel particularly convinced that she and Valarie deserve Campus Kudos now for their efforts to provide masks to the campus community and those beyond. Working with their

mother, Lorraine, they have made more than 1,700 masks so far. They have worked (and continue to work) several hours most nights to accomplish this. Many employees and students have benefited from their project. It is also remarkable that they fund the project with donations, welcoming but not requiring payments for the masks."

Angelia Case said their mask-making project was born from an idea that their mom (Lorraine Case) had to help people they work with when the pandemic became real in this area. They started out making masks for people Lorraine worked with, residents who live at Share Convalescent Home, and then they decided to also make some for the Northwestern community.

"It's all mom's 'fault,' Angelia said. "If it hadn't been for her idea, we probably wouldn't have done what we did. Any good that comes to us from this project came through

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## Campus Kudos...

her first. It's humbling to think that someone took the time to recognize Valarie and me for this work. We just want to help. If you need a mask, let us know!"

Valarie Case said they didn't start the project to make money or collect rewards, they just felt compelled to help by doing their part during the pandemic.

"I jokingly have said we're like Rosie the Riveter only by sewing," Valarie said. "We appreciate the donations to help us continue making these masks. And, to be honored by the Northwestern Staff Council with a Campus Kudos award for this project is appreciated, and mom says thank you, too."



Sue Burks (middle) presents Angelia (right) and Valarie (left) Case with their summer Campus Kudos Awards.

## 4 education seniors awarded Scottish Rite Scholarships

Four Northwestern seniors were awarded the Guthrie Scottish Rite Scholarship given by the Guthrie Scottish Rite Charitable and Educational Foundation.

Those awarded this semester are Jordan Brewer of Woodward, elementary education; Jordan Harris



Dr. James Bell (back row, far right) recently awarded four students with the Guthrie Scottish Rite Scholarship. The recipients are (front row, left to right) Rachel Locke, Jordan Brewer, Jordan Harris and (back row) Laura Reed.

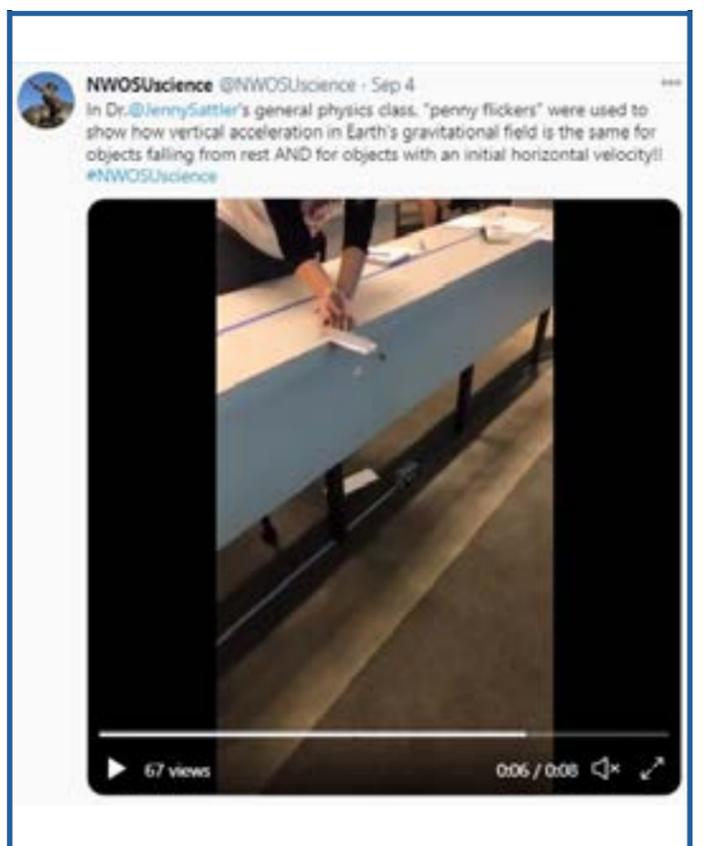
of Kremlin, health and sports science education; Rachel Locke of Newkirk, English education; and Laura Reed of Erick, elementary education.

Each semester the scholarships are awarded to teacher candidates who are completing their professional semester. Selections are made based upon an essay stating each applicant's professional goals and challenges that have been overcome to earn a bachelor's degree from Northwestern.

Dr. James Bell, associate vice president for academics and dean of faculty, and Dr. Christee Jenlink, associate dean of education and professor of education, presented the students their scholarship.

The Guthrie Scottish Rite Charitable and Educational Foundation works primarily with children with language and/or reading disorders. Recipients are chosen by members of the Teacher Education faculty who have reviewed all applications and voted for the candidate they felt was the best choice.

For more information on the Guthrie Scottish Rite scholarship or the Division of Education, contact Jenlink at (580) 327-8450 or email [cjenlink@nwosu.edu](mailto:cjenlink@nwosu.edu).



## Cuban-born artist presents three workshops in September

Three workshops were given by Cuban-born installation and video artist Ania Garcia, who served as the September Artist-in-Residence within the visual arts program.

On Monday, Sept. 14, and continuing the next two consecutive Monday nights, Sept. 21 and 28, the workshops focused on experimental drawing and sculpture processes. They were composed of three modules called “Crazy Stone,” “Psychasthenia and Negotiation” and “The Will of Making Your Own Space.” These sessions were open to students, faculty, staff and community members.

Additionally, the work that Garcia produced while on campus was presented during the Alva First Friday Artwalk on Oct. 2.

Garcia has exhibited and lectured throughout Latin America and the United States. In 2015 she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from the Universidad de Chile and came to the United States in 2018, where she now resides and works. In spring 2020 Garcia earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from Boston University.

Garcia started her career as a printmaker, working at the “Taller de Gráfica de La Habana” in Cuba and at “Aguafuerte Taller” in Santiago de Chile. She then expanded the fundamental elements of her practice into three-dimensional and digital materials, incorporating some of the logic that came from her printmaking practice.

“Lately, I have been representing and distorting daily life situations,” Garcia said. “I

isolate ordinary gestures that torn apart become pieces of an imaginary else. These scenarios are usually related to mass production systems, denaturalization of domestic objects and repetition of logical operations. I use geometry to generate situations of order and observation of behavioral structures.

“As part of my art practice I collect videos of people performing simple tasks, some I recorded myself and others I found online. I interview people about how they move their body while doing their jobs and how a repetitive task changes them. I have recently been interrupting people’s meals to ask them to recreate an activity, using the food and the cutlery around.

“When I am working on my own I incorporate some of the elements observed in the collected documentation. Usually there is a suspicious aura behind the apparent experience of the events naturalized in the space. The physical materials I use are not the right ones, there is something off in the installation itself, but there is definitely the sense of an arbitrary rational setting that can produce a sense of satisfaction

and exploitation at the same time. From the interpretations of my environment, the amalgamation of gestures and materials, the position of both the camera and the viewer, there is a broiling of signs that made me confront the limitations on - how I can tell and justify what is happening inside and outside of the artwork.”

Garcia’s artwork may be viewed at [www.mamalia-groff.com](http://www.mamalia-groff.com).

Northwestern’s Artist-in-Residence program was established in January 2014 to invite emerging and established artists to come



*Ania Garcia works in the Jesse Dunn Art Annex studio at Northwestern in preparation for three workshops this month and an exhibition of her work during the First Friday Artwalk in October.*

to the Alva campus to work with visual arts students weekly, provide workshops and lectures for the community and have a culminating show of the work they produce while here.

To learn more about the program or to view past residents, please visit [www.nwosuair.com](http://www.nwosuair.com).

## Enrollment decreases for Fall 2020

In a preliminary enrollment report submitted to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, Northwestern reported headcount enrollment of 1,835, a decrease of 148 students, or 7 percent. Early projections indicated an expected decrease due to challenges brought on by COVID-19.

“I think the uncertainty of what campus life would look like this fall made a large number of students hesitant to enroll,” Dr. Janet Cunningham, university president, said.

“Our Enid and Woodward campuses saw the largest decrease with a primarily non-traditional student population. Those students are more than likely taking a break due to having young kids in school and the uncertainty of what public schools will be for the remainder of the year.”

Concurrent enrollment also saw an unusual reduction with a 17 percent decrease.

“We are optimistic moving into the

spring semester and next fall as we continue to find new avenues to recruit students,” Calleb Mosburg, dean of student affairs and enrollment management, said. “We are thinking creatively and strategically on how to appeal to new students since the recruitment aspect has changed due to COVID-19.”

Enrollment at the main campus in Alva totaled 1,188 students, a decrease of 5.4 percent from last fall. Northwestern-Enid reported 163 students or a decrease of 13.8 percent, and Northwestern-Woodward had 175 students or a 23.6 percent decrease.

Students enrolled at other locations, such as the University Center of Ponca City, totaled

157. Similar numbers in Northwestern’s online courses were seen from last fall with a total of 819 students. These numbers did not add back to the total headcount because of duplications in some categories.



*NWOSU Art Society members decorating masks at their Sept. 3 meeting.*

## Constitution Day display featured in library

Constitution Day 2020 was featured in a public informational display beginning in September through Oct. 5 in the J.W. Martin Library in Alva.

The program is sponsored by the Northwestern Institute for Citizenship Studies. This year’s observance involved an examination of the history regarding the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This event was designed to mark the 100th anniversary of the Federal Constitution’s adoption of this Amendment.

The 19th Amendment, guaranteeing women the right to vote, was formally adopted into the U.S. Constitution by proclamation of Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby. The amendment was the culmination of more than 70 years of struggle by woman suffragists.

Its two sections read simply: “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex” and “Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

For more information, contact the NWICS at (580) 327-8522 or [nwics@nwosu.edu](mailto:nwics@nwosu.edu).



## Woodward 'Teach Oklahoma' students visit Alva campus

Northwestern-Alva played host to 10 Woodward High School students for the high school's "Teach Oklahoma" course.

TeachOklahomawas designed to mentor high school students about teaching and provide fundamental knowledge about the teaching profession in Oklahoma. The course is supported through the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

While visiting Northwestern the students participated in teacher preparation classes for subjects such as reading, intermediate language arts and more. They were able to have an open dialogue about the teacher preparation program and participate in prepping courses such as intermediate math methods and elementary school programs.

Woodward High School's students were able to see the types of work Northwestern's teacher candidates create in their programs, like the course requirement of Northwestern teacher candidates needing to video-record their own lessons to use as a reference. The students were able to watch some examples of videos to show the length of preparation that goes into creating and sharing a lesson plan.

The high school students also toured the campus.

Students attending included Krystina Cales, Adrian Carmona, Macy Duncan, Nico Gonser, Maria Gutierrez, Zachary Jimenez, Tatum Lewis, Jessica Smith, Morgan Shurtz, Sahira

Villegas, and sponsors JoLynn Love and Michelle McDonald.

Dr. Christee Jenlink, professor of education, chair to the Division of Education and associate dean of the School of Education, understands and believes in the importance of students actively learning and getting hands-on experience especially in the teaching field.

"The Teach Oklahoma program is more critical than ever in light of the teacher shortage not only in Oklahoma but across the nation," Jenlink said. "The program provides immersive experiences for high school students who are considering a career in teaching. With Northwestern's history of

excellence in teacher preparation, having the Woodward students visit the campus to experience the program complements the work that is occurring in the Teach Oklahoma course at Woodward High School."

Northwestern's teacher education program, which is housed in the Division of Education, is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) and approved by the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability (CEOA).

For more information about Northwestern's teaching programs contact Jenlink at (580) 327-8450 or cljenlink@nwosu.edu.



*Students from Woodward High School visiting Northwestern in fall to learn more about the teacher education program include (front row, left to right) Tatum Lewis, Jessica Smith, Krystina Cales, Nico Gonser, Morgan Shurtz, chair to the Division of Education Dr. Christee Jenlink (back row, left to right) sponsor JoLynn Love, Sahira Villegas, Maria Gutierrez, Adrian Carmona, Macy Duncan, Zachary Jimenez and sponsor Michelle McDonald.*

## New health, sports science courses offered in Woodward

Northwestern's Woodward campus is now able to bring its students more classes within the area of health and sports science education because of the recent hiring of Dr. Jonathan Thomason as that location's new dean.

Thomason, who holds bachelor's and master's degrees in kinesiology from the University of North Texas, a doctorate of philosophy in kinesiology from the University of Arkansas and has experience teaching a wide array of physical education courses, will be teaching multiple health and sports science courses each semester, a change from the one Wellness Concepts class offered in the past.

"We're excited about the opportunity for expanded course offerings in health and sports science on the Woodward campus," said Shane Hansen, instructor of health and sports science and chair of the department. "The health and sports science option I degree is a wide-ranging program for people seeking a career in the ever-evolving health profession. Dr. Thomason has a strong background in this field and is a tremendous asset for this program moving forward."

Currently, the plan is to have Thomason teaching two different courses each semester within this degree program to allow students the ability to acquire a majority of this

degree in Woodward. This semester, Thomason is teaching Wellness Concepts and also Organization and Administration of Health and Physical Education.

During the spring semester, he will be teaching School and Community Health as well as Nutrition. Students majoring in option 1 of this program are required to choose a minor, and they may choose any minor offered at Northwestern.

To learn more about the health and sports science education program visit [www.nwosu.edu/school-of-education/health-and-sports-science-education](http://www.nwosu.edu/school-of-education/health-and-sports-science-education) or contact Hansen at (580) 327-8628 or schansen@nwosu.edu.

## Thomason hired to lead Woodward campus

Northwestern President Dr. Janet Cunningham has appointed Dr. Jonathan Thomason as Dean of the Woodward campus. He began his duties in July.

Thomason's new duties include overseeing the activities of the Woodward campus, cultivating relationships within the community, advising students and promoting Northwestern.

"We are excited to have Dr. Thomason join our staff and provide further leadership in Woodward," Cunningham said. "He has extensive experience working with all aspects of higher education, whether it be with students, faculty or staff, and will be an integral part of our Northwestern team."

Thomason earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in

kinesiology from the University of North Texas and his doctorate of philosophy in kinesiology from the University of Arkansas. He also served in the U.S. Air Force for four years before obtaining his degrees. He is a member of the Cherokee Nation.

"His vast experience inside the classroom and as an administrator will serve him well in his new position," said Dr. Bo Hannaford, executive vice president for Northwestern. "He is passionate about giving students the best opportunities and leading them to success."

Thomason comes to

Northwestern from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickasha where he served as a professor in physical education.

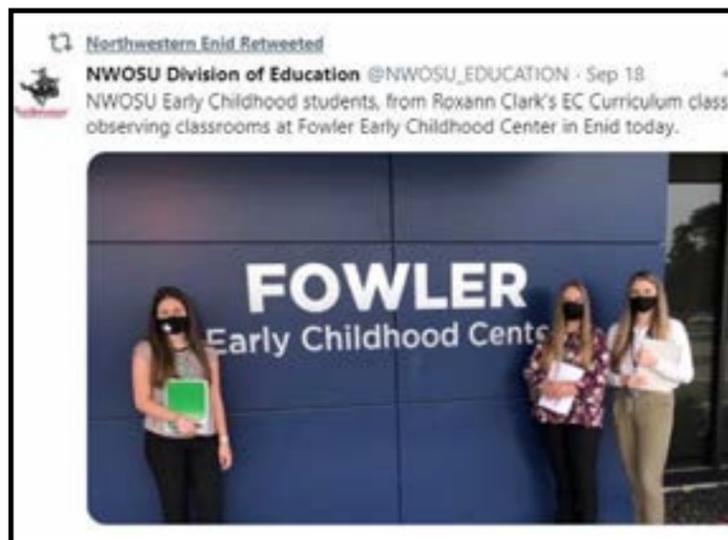
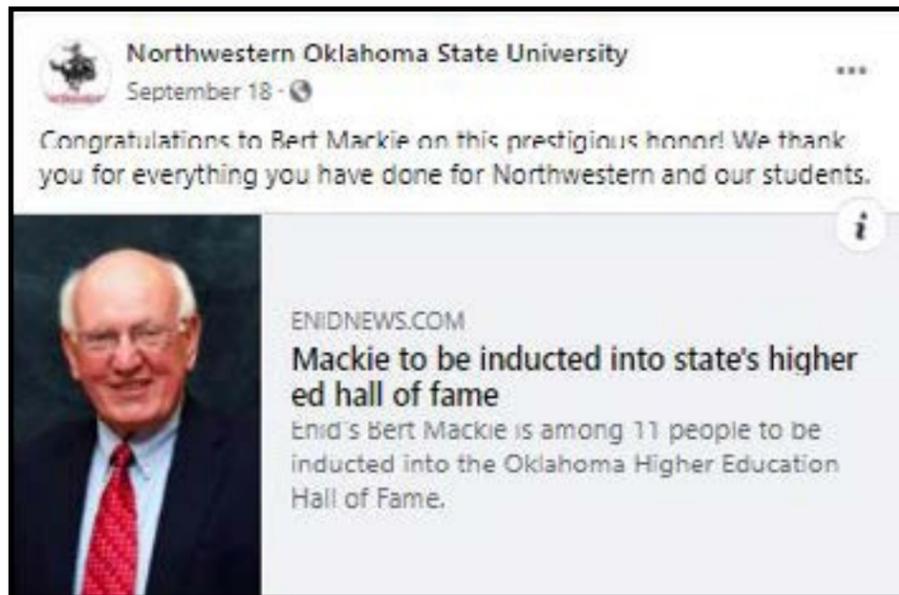
Prior to his year there, he was an associate vice president at Eastern Gateway Community College in Steubenville, Ohio, and a professor at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas.

Thomason worked at Bacone College in Muskogee from 2003 to 2017 in several capacities. He began there as an associate professor in the health and physical education



*Jonathan Thomason*

*Continued to page 20*



Continued from page 19

## Thomason...

program, then became the dean of the school of education and coordinator of health and physical education. He then served as the associate dean of faculty before becoming the vice president for academic affairs for a year.

He also has held positions at Southern Arkansas University, Newberry College, University of North Texas, and the University of Arkansas and worked with elementary school children for a few years.

He has been involved in numerous organizational and research activities, published many academic articles, made several academic presentations, served on a variety of committees, and enjoys being involved in the community. "It is truly a pleasure to be a part of the Northwestern family," Thomason said. "I look forward to working with the faculty, staff, students, and the Woodward community to further advance the mission of the university."

## Enid, Woodward host Reach Higher events

Northwestern in Enid and Woodward extended hours and held an evening event in October for Reach Higher: RECONNECT Week.

Reach Higher is a program designed for students who have already earned some college credit to explore options to finish their bachelor's degree. During this week, students were able to apply to attend Northwestern, explore their bachelor's degree options, receive advisement on finishing their degree, obtain financial aid counseling and tour the facilities.

The primary goals of Reach Higher: RECONNECT Week are to increase awareness of the adult-friendly bachelor's degree completion options available through the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Reach Higher initiative and encourage adults who have earned some college credit to successfully complete their bachelor's degrees face-to-face or online.

Northwestern-Enid, located at 2929 E. Randolph, was open late on Oct. 12-14 and Northwestern-Woodward was open late on Oct. 12-16. On Oct. 15, both campuses extended their hours to 7 p.m., and personnel were available for potential students to ask questions and to have one-on-one advising to understand how to obtain their bachelor's degree. During this week, students registered for giveaways, took a campus tour in-person or virtually, and met other students, faculty and staff.

For more information on Northwestern-Enid's Reach

Higher: RECONNECT Week or to set up a personal virtual meeting, contact Dr. Jerry Gustafson at (580) 213-3184 or by email at [jjgustafson@nwosu.edu](mailto:jjgustafson@nwosu.edu) or contact Dr. Jonathan Thomason at (580) 254-2500 or

by email at [jethomason@nwosu.edu](mailto:jethomason@nwosu.edu). Additional information about becoming a student at Northwestern-Enid may be found at [www.nwosu.edu/enid](http://www.nwosu.edu/enid) and [www.nwosu.edu/woodward](http://www.nwosu.edu/woodward).



Northwestern Oklahoma State University  
September 9

Weather reports indicate the temperatures will be falling into the 40s-50s today/Wednesday. If you need some warmer clothing, contact the Campus Cabinet-NWOSU to see if they can help. Fill out their form for this & food orders, then make an appointment for pickup.  
[www.nwosu.edu/campus-cabinet](http://www.nwosu.edu/campus-cabinet)

## Need A Coat?

The Campus Cabinet has a few coats for men and women, and a few women's sweaters and long sleeve shirts.  
Please fill out a form and make an appointment.



Campus Cabinet  
Northwestern Oklahoma State University

Campus Cabinet-NWOSU  
September 9

Colder weather is moving in Tuesday. If you're in need of a coat, we have a few on hand. Just fill out the form at [www.nwosu.edu/campus-cabinet/cc-forms](http://www.nwosu.edu/campus-cabinet/cc-forms), then fill out the form to schedule an appointment.

Northwestern Oklahoma State University  
September 10

Initially started for student teachers, the #NWOSU Teacher's Closet here for ALL students - regardless of major - wanting to build their professional wardrobes for FREE! Info at <http://bit.ly/TeachersCloset>  
As students take out clothing, the Closet will announce when it can accept more donations!



Northwestern Oklahoma State University  
September 12

Check out the electronic billboard running in Enid! Want more info about #NWOSU? [Recruit@nwosu.edu](mailto:Recruit@nwosu.edu) or call the Enid Campus at 580-231-3101. We'll be here for you!




choirsnwosu  
Northwestern Oklahoma State University



19 likes

choirsnwosu Awesome guest teacher today in high school and middle school Methods today. Mrs. Ramona Cummings, you are an All-Star Music Educator and a Legend here in Alva, OK. Thank you for sharing with us your experience, wisdom, passion, and as always, your kindness. Inspirational!!

# Education fair offers opportunities

Education employers seeking employees had an opportunity to go right to the source by attending the fall 2020 Education Fair virtually or in person at Northwestern in October.

Northwestern education majors were encouraged to attend the fair and be prepared to provide copies of resumes and cover letters.

Education organizations who were scheduled to attend in person were Calumet Public Schools, El Reno Public Schools, Enid Public Schools, Epic Charter Schools, Oklahoma City Public Schools, Newcastle Public Schools, and Cypress-Fairbanks Independent

School District of Kansas.

Education organizations who planned to attend virtually were YMCA of Greater Birmingham-Camp Cosby of Alabama; Aurora Public Schools of Colorado, Pasco County Schools of Florida, and Garden City Public Schools USD 457 of Kansas.

Organization representatives expressed appreciation for this in-person event.

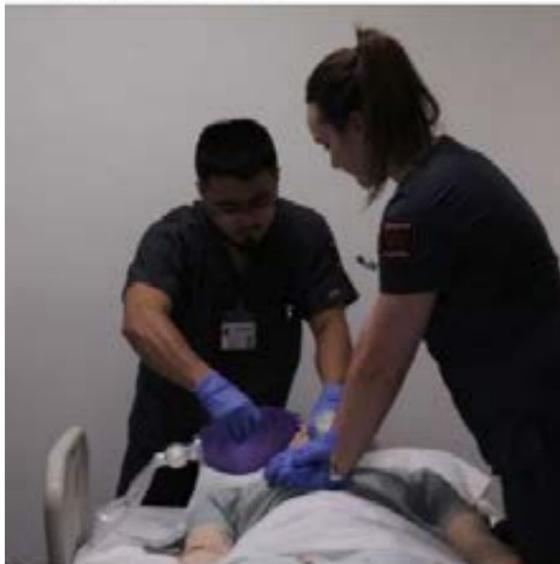
Taylor Wilson, director of counseling and career services,

always encourages job seekers to dress well and to stop by her office in Ryerson Hall 209 if they need any help prior to the fair. She may be reached at [tawilson@nwosu.edu](mailto:tawilson@nwosu.edu).

For more information or to schedule an appointment visit [www.nwosu.edu/student-services/office-of-career-services](http://www.nwosu.edu/student-services/office-of-career-services).

Northwestern Oklahoma State University  
September 9

Northwestern's Division of Nursing is providing our students a quality education at four different locations. Contact them today if you'd like to learn more about the programs.



Northwestern Oklahoma State University Division of Nursing  
September 4

Did you know that Northwestern offers its traditional BSN Program at 4 delivery sites: Alva, Enid, Woodward, and the University Center in Ponca City? Northwestern Nurses are in high demand! With a low faculty to student ratio and small class sizes, our students receive the high-quality education and clinical experience needed to be nurse leaders!

Check us out today! [https://www.nwosu.edu/\\_/bachelor-of-science-in-nursing](https://www.nwosu.edu/_/bachelor-of-science-in-nursing)

Northwestern Oklahoma State University  
September 21

#NWOSU blood drive today til 4 p.m. in the Student Center Ranger Room.  
\*If you're unable to donate today, the blood drive will also be on campus Tuesday, Sept. 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Oklahoma Blood Institute depends on 1,200 donors per day to support the inventory needs for patients in more than 160 hospitals, medical facilities and air ambulances statewide.  
We need all eligible donors to help rebuild the blood supply.  
[#givebloodsaveslives](https://www.facebook.com/givebloodsaveslives)





Fine Arts students and faculty participated in a 72-hour film frenzy led by Lance McDaniel. Attendees were tasked with writing, casting, acting, filming, editing and presenting a series of short films. Those in the cast of "Pearl" 2020 include McKayla Holson, Brenner Clark, Lilith Ferrero, Chris Chauncey, Erin Davis, Madelynn Davis, Dr. Dena Walker and in front, Pearl.



# Klaur was October artist-in-residence

Winter weather caused a rescheduling of the artist talk and collage/mixed media workshop originally planned for Oct. 28 by the Northwestern visual arts program's October artist-in-residence Alyssa Klaur, a painter based in Brooklyn, New York. This event took place on Nov. 4. Both the talk and workshop were held in the Student Center Ballroom.

Klaur, who began her residency on Oct. 4, discussed her studio practice, process, influences and body of work during her talk from 7 to 8 p.m. with a workshop following at 8:15 p.m. Participants explored various masking techniques while trying different mediums and collage applications. Materials were provided.

Klaur developed a body of work in the Jesse Dunn Art Annex, room 323, during her stay at Northwestern and had a culminating exhibition of the work she created on Friday, Nov. 6, from 3-5 p.m. in Jesse Dunn Annex 323.

Klaur earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore and a Master of Fine Arts degree

from Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. She has exhibited solo projects in Baltimore and has participated in group exhibitions nationally and internationally in Anjo Aichi (Japan), San Francisco, New York and Washington, D.C. She has held residencies at Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, Vermont; Grin City Collective in Grinnell, Iowa; Chautauqua (New York) Institution; and NYU Steinhardt. Her work has been featured in the publications "Burnaway" and "New American Paintings."

"My paintings are constructed on a foundation of visual effects - faux finishes, faux worlds and phantasmagoric qualities - in an attempt to create a feeling of polyphony or mixed response, difference in s a m e n e s s , repulsion in attraction," Klaur said about her artwork. "I employ the

constructed still life to engage and pull together incongruent images to make an intense psychological space. The works are dangerously alluring, their propensity to transform rooted in their fragmentation. I am interested in visceral metamorphic elements and how they combine to create autonomous feminine forms. The fragmentation heightens the artifice of the figures or constructions, and shows the body's agency in reclaiming the artifice."

To view Klaur's work, visit [www.alyssaklaur.com](http://www.alyssaklaur.com).

To learn more about the artist-in-residence program at Northwestern, visit [www.nwosuair.com](http://www.nwosuair.com) or contact Larson.



Northwestern's October artist-in-residence Alyssa Klaur shows off a painting created during her residency here. She presented a talk and workshop on Nov. 4 at Northwestern and had a culminating exhibition of her work on Nov. 6.

# Homecoming 2020 is postponed

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Northwestern's homecoming events were postponed. The homecoming events originally scheduled for Oct. 8-10 were tentatively being planned for spring 2021 but have since been canceled.

The Great American Conference's Council of Presidents announced Friday, Aug. 14, the league would suspend all fall and winter sports – basketball, cross country, football, soccer and volleyball – and the two-semester sports of golf and tennis through Dec. 31.

"Postponing homecoming was a difficult decision," Dr. David Pecha, general chairman, said. "Homecoming is the tradition of welcoming back alumni, families and friends to our campus for a weekend

of fun, laughter and togetherness. It is our top priority to maintain the health and safety of the entire Northwestern community, which unfortunately means asking everyone to wait a little longer to come back to campus and the Alva community."

This announcement pertains to Homecoming festivities organized by the homecoming committee, including the Miss Cinderella Pageant, Rally 'Round the Ranger, Ranger Run, Downtown Parade, and all sporting events.

Due to the nature of these events, the homecoming committee

would not be able to accurately monitor capacity or social distancing measures for the number of alumni and students who regularly attend them.

"Homecoming is a tradition that the university, the city of Alva, and the surrounding communities look forward to each year," Dr. Janet Cunningham, university president, said.

For updates about homecoming events, visit [www.nwsu.edu/homecoming](http://www.nwsu.edu/homecoming).



# Theatre presents '45 Plays for 45 Presidents'

Members of Northwestern's theatre program presented "45 Plays for 45 Presidents" on the Alva campus.

Due to COVID-19 regulations

Students performed a socially-distanced theatrical production of "45 Plays for 45 Presidents" in October. This was an abridged history of the Presidents of the United States of America.



in the production, their hometowns, majors and classifications include: Gibson Barlow of Piedmont, biology freshman; Aliyah Bidwell of Greenfield, mass communication freshman; Kaylin Blatchford of Cleveland, business administration freshman; Adele Callaway of Shattuck, nursing freshman; Chris Chauncey of Cordell, mathematics junior; Michael Day of Okeene, music-

only 75 reserved seats were available for the three presentations of the play. Facial coverings were required.

Kimberly Weast, professor of theatre arts and chair of the department of fine arts, was the director of the production, and Mickey Jordan, director of technical theater and Herod Hall facilities manager, served as the assistant director.

Weast said "45 Plays for 45 Presidents" was exactly what it sounded like, but every turn it took was entirely unexpected.

"In each of these espresso shots of American history, a member of the flexible ensemble donned the coat of the presidency, and the group explored a surprising aspect of that administration," she said. "The short plays run on a spectrum from

elections to impeachments, from personal stories to political battles, and from funny to tragic.

Cast members who performed

vocal senior; Sydney Endsley of Meno, speech and theatre junior; Lilith Ferrero of Cordell, English education sophomore; Sam Grinder of Sayre, biology freshman; Temberlenn Hall of Jackson, Mississippi, speech and theatre sophomore; Anastasia Harper of Alva, biology-health science freshman; Kylee Harzman of Alva, undecided freshman; Ryan Jenkins of Dallas, Texas, mass communication freshman; Cory Johnson of Yucaipa, California, speech and theatre senior; Peyton Lucas of Fairview, psychology senior; Adria Lujan of Blair, nursing junior; Austin Morton of Buffalo, mass communication sophomore; and Felicit Wall of Duncan, undecided freshman.

Serving as the production's stage



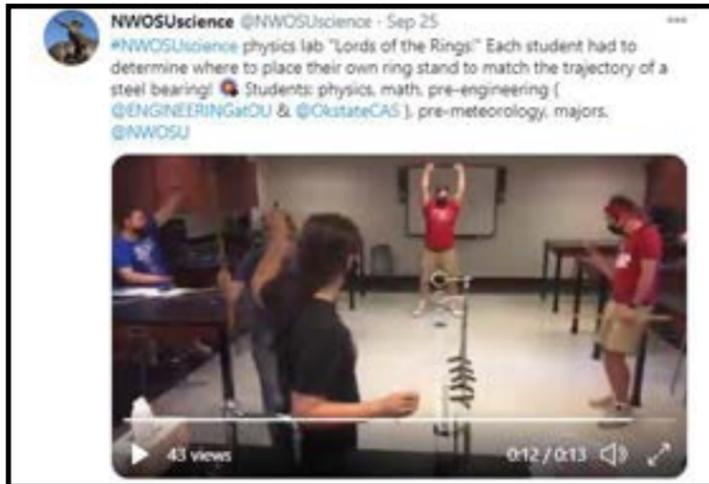
Ryan Jenkins as President Jimmy Carter



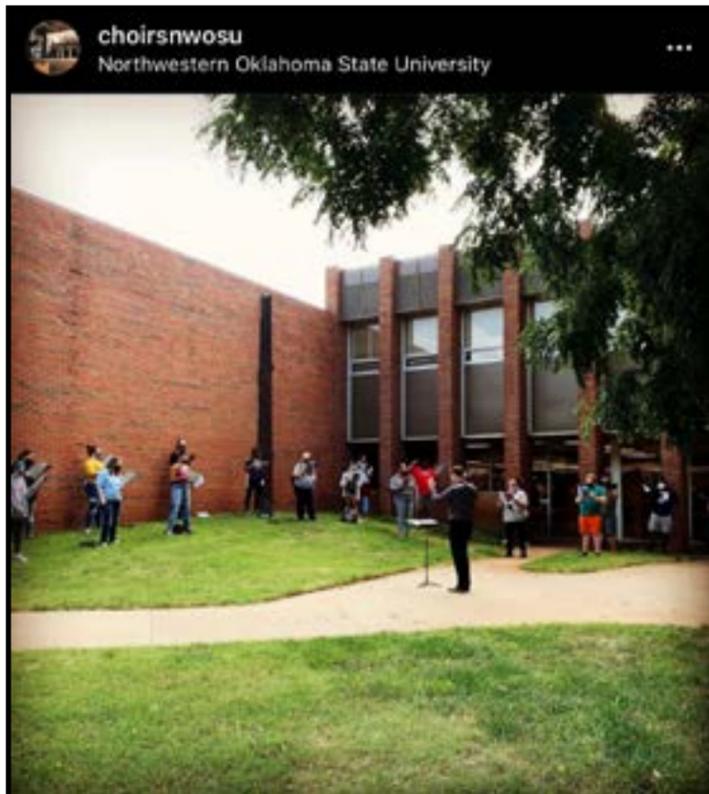
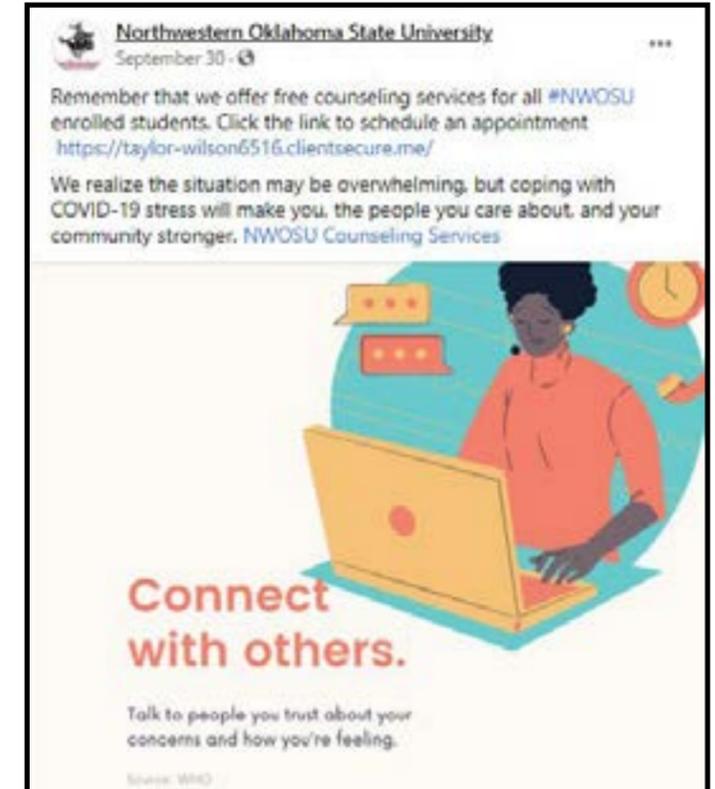
Pictured above is the coat of the presidency worn by each actor portraying a president.

managers were Cheyenne Cook of Elk City, biology freshman; and Destiny Engelken (TeLinde) of Alva, biology freshman.

For additional information on this production or the theatre program, contact Weast or Jordan at (580) 327-8458 or [mojordan@nwsu.edu](mailto:mojordan@nwsu.edu).



*Isis Lair (left) and Wynter Standridge (right), social work majors on the NWOSU Woodward campus, have been admitted to the prestigious international honor society of Pi Gamma Mu. Pi Gamma Mu is an international social sciences honor society dedicated to promote excellence in social sciences and uphold scholarship, leadership, and service. Congratulations to both our hardworking students!*



# Social work awaits final determination, gives thanks

The social work program at Northwestern is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). CSWE is a national association preserving and enhancing the quality of social work education for practice and promoting



Kylene Rehder holds the social work program's self study report.

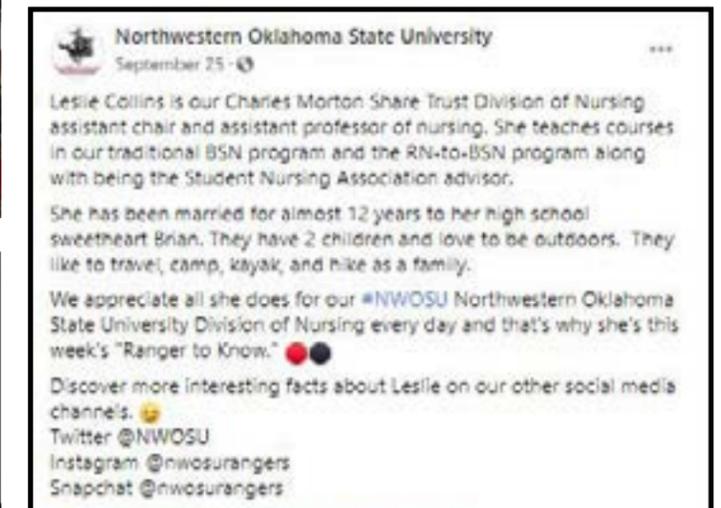
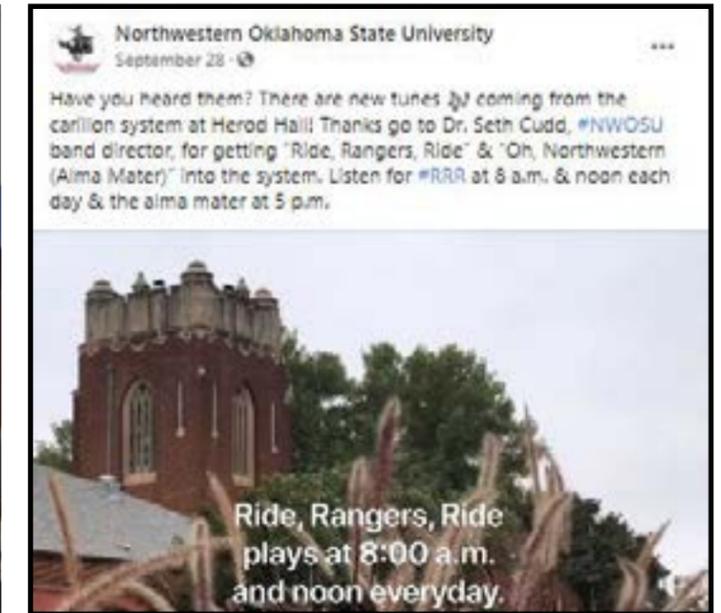
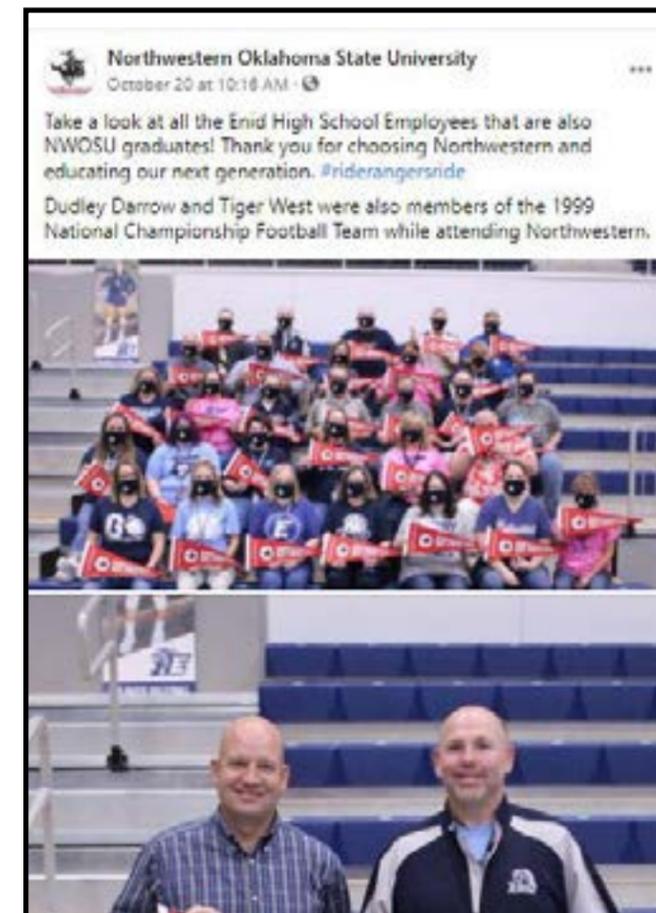
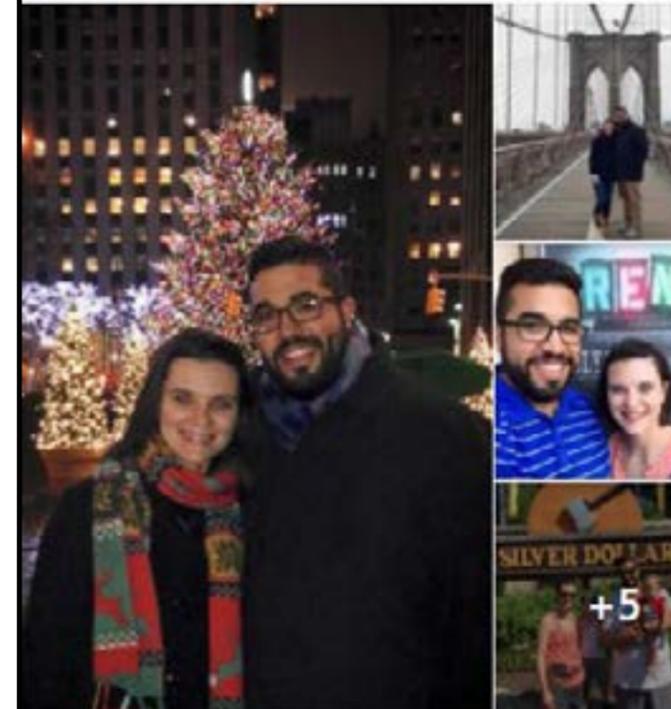
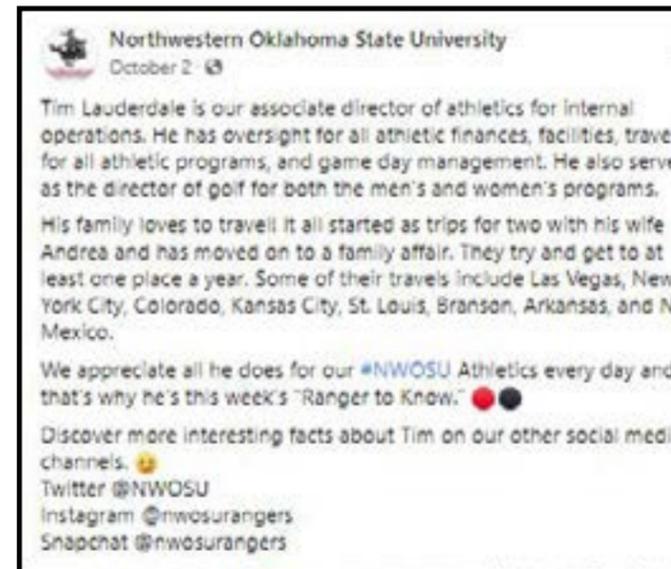
the goals of individual and community well-being and social justice. Social work education programs accredited by CSWE meet a series of rigorous standards designed by leading social work educators and practitioners to ensure students are adequately prepared for professional practice. The profession of social work in the United States looks to CSWE-accredited programs to produce social workers with the

knowledge and skills to be professional social workers.

The social work program recently underwent a site visit from CSWE for reaffirmation of accreditation of its baccalaureate social work program. NWOSU welcomed site visitor, Dr. H. Stephen Cooper, from the Stephen F. Austin State University on a virtual visit on September 30, 2020. The program has completed a formal response to the site visit report and is awaiting a final determination of reaffirmation from CSWE's Commission on Accreditation (COA) February 2021 meeting.



A special thank you to all of the following for their participation during the site visit: University Administrators- Janet Cunningham, University President; James Bell, Associate VP for Academics & Dean of Faculty, and Bo Hannaford, Executive Vice President. Social Work Students: Sara Houchin, Isis Lair, Cyntyia Lloyd, Scott Messenger, Jamie Metcalf, Sydnee Miller, Mazzy Priest, Rebecca Wasson, Jessica Wildman and Heather Wilkinson. Field Instructors and Advisory Board Members: Codi Harding, Karen Harrison, Tricia Mitchell, Raquel Razien, Amy Whitson and Kevin Evans.



**ZIPPIA** THE CAREER EXPERT MY JOBS CA

## EXPERTS WEIGH IN ON CURRENT JOB MARKET TRENDS

November 18, 2020

Given the change of course that has happened in the world, we wanted to provide expert opinions on what aspiring graduates can do to start off their careers in an uncertain economic climate. We wanted to know what skills will be more important, where the economy is doing relatively well, and if there will be any lasting effects on the job market.

Companies are looking for candidates that can handle the new responsibilities of the job market. Recent graduates actually have an advantage because they are comfortable using newer technologies and have been communicating virtually their whole lives. They can take what they've learned and apply it immediately.

We spoke to professors and experts from several universities and companies to get their opinions on where the job market for recent graduates is heading, as well as how young graduates entering the industry can be adequately prepared. Here are their thoughts.

**KIMBERLY WEAST**  
 Fine Arts Department Chair Director of Theatre Arts  
 Professor of Theatre  
 Northwestern Oklahoma State University  
 Fine Arts  
[Website](#)

**What general advice would you give to a graduate beginning their career?**

Kimberly Weast: At this time, work on creating your work and presenting it - however you can. This is a prime opportunity to break molds that have been in place for many years. Work on building your webpage, Instagram, and improve your other social media presence. Still, practice your craft. Professionals are professionals because they practice and stay equipped.

**What technology do you think will become more important and prevalent in the field in the next 3-5 years?**

Kimberly Weast: I believe we will continue to see lighting, projection, and massive "screens" breaking down even more barriers. I think that streaming will become the norm. But nothing beats being in a live theatrical presentation.

**Will there be an enduring impact of the coronavirus pandemic on graduates?**

Kimberly Weast: I believe it will take longer for some to get employment. This is why it is so important to begin to create one's unique work.

# Regents approve budget

Northwestern's budget was approved by the Regional University System of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for fiscal year 2021.

With a decrease of \$223,378 from state appropriations, Northwestern will operate with a total budget of \$26,072,311. This represents a budget reduction of 2.3 percent.

As operational costs increase and state appropriations continue to decrease year after year, tuition and mandatory fees increased by 3 percent beginning in the fall semester, which equates to \$248.75 per credit hour. A tuition and fee increase was required to offset the decrease in state funding and projected enrollment decline due to COVID-19, as well as for the increase in mandatory costs including health insurance and risk management premiums.

Despite the increase in tuition, Northwestern offers many public and private financial aid opportunities for its students. The total cost of attending (tuition, fees, room and board) continues to make Northwestern a best value institution.

"Difficult decisions had to be made this year, and Northwestern knows that raising tuition and fees will affect students and their families," Dr. Janet Cunningham, university president, said. "When operational costs continue to rise

*Continued to page 33*

Northwestern Oklahoma State University  
October 2

The #NWOSU chapter of the Social Workers Association of Tomorrow (SWAT) organization is accepting donations for personal hygiene products as part of the 'Compassion in Action Dignity Drive' at all Northwestern locations until Nov. 13.

This year donations will be given to Campus Cabinet-NWOSU, a resource available to assist Northwestern students and employees.

Full Story <https://bit.ly/33niAdc>

**5TH ANNUAL DIGNITY DRIVE**  
**LET'S FILL NWOSU'S CAMPUS CABINET!**

All donations benefit the NWOSU Campus Cabinet.

- Shampoo & Feminine Hygiene Products
- Conditioner
- Diapers
- Soap & Deodorant
- Lice Kits
- Baby Hygiene Products
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Body Lotion
- Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
- Dental Floss
- Etc...

**TAKING DONATIONS NOW THROUGH NOVEMBER 13TH.**

Drop Box Locations Include:  
 Alva: Academic Success Center, JD308, AND JD South Entrance  
 Enid: Commons & Front Entry  
 Woodward: Cross Over Hall

Questions? Contact SWAT Sponsor Jennifer Probbie at [jprobbie@nwosu.edu](mailto:jprobbie@nwosu.edu)

*Continued from page 32*

# Budget...

and state appropriations continue to decrease, we are left with one option.

"Even with the slight increase, Northwestern will continue to provide a quality and affordable education compared to other schools within the state."

Northwestern continues to support student success by committing 82.4 percent of expenditures targeted for instruction, scholarships, student services and academic support. The university strives to protect the core academic functions of the institution and maintain the academic and support services required by students.

"This has been an interesting year, to say the least," Cunningham said. "Northwestern will work together to fill gaps where needed and remain resilient through these unprecedented and challenging times."

NWOSUscience @NWOSUscience · Oct 1  
OMG New game... Plunger Cart @JENGA with @verner plunger carts! This is physics--applying Newton's First Law of motion 🤪🤪🤪 @NWOSU #NWOSUscience #teachphysics

Northwestern Oklahoma State University  
October 1

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, FOREIGN LANGUAGE, & HUMANITIES INVITES YOU TO OUR

**VIRTUAL WRITING MARATHON**  
**FRIDAY, OCT. 2ND**  
**10AM-NOON ZOOM**  
[HTTPS://ZOOM.US/J/58032784](https://zoom.us/j/58032784)

Or tag us with your writing as your schedule allows  
 #NWOSUWritingMarathon  
 #comewritewithus  
 Click to expand!

NWOSUscience @NWOSUscience · Oct 19  
It's #Spooktober2020 at #NWOSUscience!! Have you enrolled yet??? 🦇 @NWOSU

# Holliday appointed to humanities board

Dr. Shawn Holliday, associate dean of graduate studies and professor of English at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, has been appointed to the board of trustees of Oklahoma Humanities, with duties already starting.

Holliday has been appointed to serve one, three-year term. After the initial three-year term, he will be eligible to serve one additional three-year term.

According to the Oklahoma Humanities website, the Oklahoma Humanities uses “the humanities — history, literature, ethics and culture — to inspire fresh thinking, promote civic engagement and strengthen our

democracy. Since our founding as an independent nonprofit in 1971, our programs, grants and partnerships have used humanities scholarship to promote critical thinking and community building. Our affiliation with the National Endowment for the Humanities gives us unique access to resources that benefit people and communities across our state.”



Shawn Holliday

In her letter of appointment, Oklahoma Humanities executive director Caroline Lowery stated that the board agreed Dr. Holliday’s academic humanities experience, emphasis on public learning, and exemplary

community engagement will help ensure their mission is met throughout all 77 counties of Oklahoma.

The mission of Oklahoma Humanities is to strengthen communities by helping Oklahomans learn about the human experience, understand new perspectives and participate knowledgeably in civic life.

“I am thrilled with this appointment to the Oklahoma Humanities board of trustees,” Holliday said. “I look forward to using my knowledge and wide-ranging experience to promote the humanities in the state of Oklahoma. It is something that I am well-prepared to do. I look forward to spending my time and energy in support of such a wonderful organization.”



# Social work students volunteer at Campus Cabinet

Every semester, social work students engage in service learning projects across Northwest Oklahoma while enrolled in SOCW 2121 Service Learning in Social Work. The intent of the course is to promote civic responsibility and prepare students for lifelong engagement in their communities.

This fall, many social work students volunteered at the university’s Campus Cabinet.

The Campus Cabinet was created in early 2018 after members of the NWOSU Art Society, with help from sponsors, Angelia and Valarie Case, noticed a need among Northwestern students and employees.

The pantry fills a vital community need and the

social work department is so proud of the service the social work students provide to the Campus Cabinet.



Megan Lehr (right), president of the Bank It: A Habit of Helping Foundation, presents a mini-grant of \$1,000 to Northwestern Campus Cabinet coordinator Angelia Case (center) and student volunteer Shelby Porter, Cherokee sophomore majoring in social work.

# Ranger Preview goes virtual

Northwestern's annual Ranger Preview event for high school seniors went completely virtual on Saturday, Nov. 7, on Northwestern's YouTube channel.

To attend [Virtual Ranger Preview](#), there were two easy steps. A student had to register online or by calling (580) 327-8546, then watch the Virtual Ranger Preview event online on Nov. 7. Any high school senior who registered and attended Virtual Ranger Preview, is admitted to Northwestern as a full-time student at the Alva campus, and lives in Alva during the academic school year will receive a \$600 scholarship.

"While we would love to have students physically attending Ranger Preview, our virtual option still gave students a great feel for

who we are as Rangers, and what Northwestern can do for them," Matt Adair, assistant dean of student affairs and recruitment, said. "This was students' opportunity to learn about being a Ranger by seeing the campus



virtually, learn about the options a student will have here, and earn scholarship money."

The Virtual Ranger Preview gave students the option to also click on links to information about

student organizations/clubs, and also academic departments, they were interested in. These highlights gave students a great overview of what to expect while on campus.

"Ranger Preview is one event I enjoy every year, and I am still excited even though we are hosting the event differently," Calleb Mosburg, dean of student affairs and enrollment management, said. "Our recruitment team has worked hard on creating an event that will teach potential students the importance of becoming a Ranger. Students will have the option to view different academic departments, plus clubs and organizations.

The \$15 college application fee also was waived for all seniors who attended



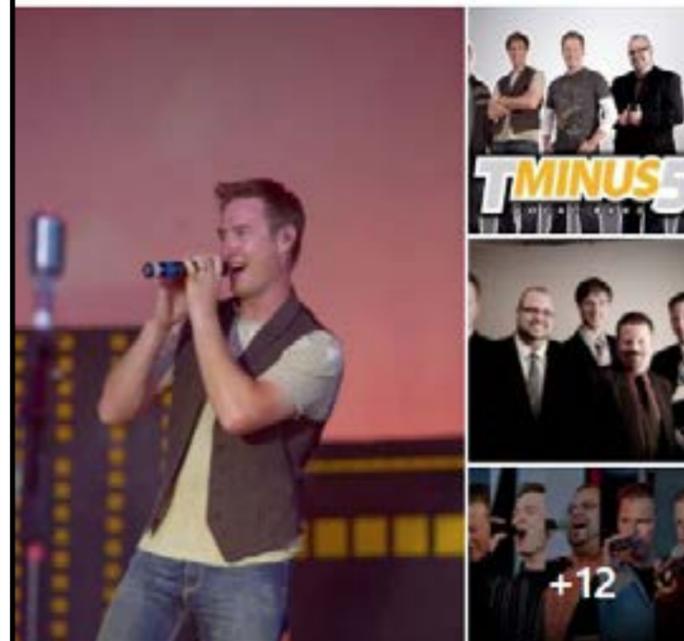
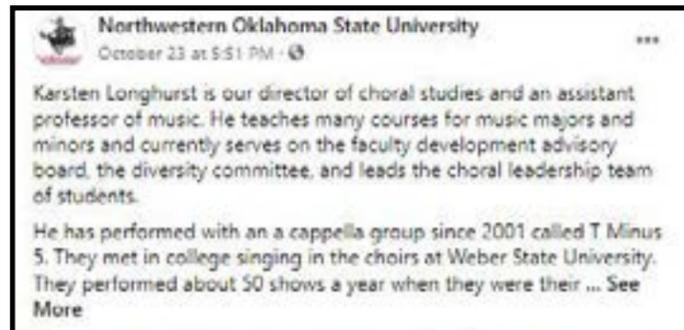
## Evaluations assess VR training

The Department of Social Work is home to a state-of-the-art Virtual Reality (VR) Lab. This facility features VR headsets and hand controllers that transport students into various virtual environments to learn professional practice skills.

This semester, the program has been engaged in program evaluation to assess the impact VR training has on the development of "practice" core competencies. The program looks forward to releasing evaluation data in the spring.

The facility and equipment was funded through the Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program (CWPEP) Student Payback Funds Grant operated by the University of Oklahoma's Anne and Henry Zarrow School of Social Work.





# Spring enrollment opened Oct. 13

Enrollment for spring courses opened on Tuesday, Oct. 13.

New and returning students were encouraged to make appointments with an adviser to develop a spring schedule and to enroll as soon as possible to ensure course availability. The last day to enroll was Wednesday, Jan. 20.

Northwestern's 16-week spring semester classes began on Monday, Jan. 11.

Students were able to enroll in a variety of classes that could lead to bachelor's degrees within three schools at Northwestern – School of Arts and Sciences, School of Education and School of Professional Studies. For a list of bachelor's degree programs available, including pre-professional and teaching fields, visit [www.nwosu.edu/academic-degrees](http://www.nwosu.edu/academic-degrees).

Master's degree programs open for enrollment include Master of Arts in American Studies, Master of Counseling Psychology, Master of Science in General Psychology, Master of Arts in Heritage Tourism and Conservation and Master of Education with several different options. Applications for admission into the graduate program were accepted through the beginning of January.

"Northwestern offers a wide array of graduate programs that will build specialty knowledge to provide larger earning potential," Dr. Shawn Holliday, associate dean of graduate studies, said. "Our small class sizes and supportive faculty also help students succeed."

To see degree program breakdowns visit the online graduate catalog at [www.nwosu.edu/graduate-catalog](http://www.nwosu.edu/graduate-catalog).

To get started on a graduate degree program contact Melissa Brown,

coordinator of graduate studies, at (580) 327-8410 or [mbrown@nwosu.edu](mailto:mbrown@nwosu.edu). An application for admission form, admission requirements and additional information may be found at [www.nwosu.edu/graduate-studies](http://www.nwosu.edu/graduate-studies).

Students were instructed to fill out the FAFSA form for financial aid for the spring 2021 semester but are always encouraged to fill out the form as soon as possible after Oct. 1 each year. The

form is available at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>.

"The FAFSA for the 2020-21 academic year, which opened Oct. 1, 2019, encompasses the fall 2020, spring 2021 and summer 2021 semesters," Tara Hannaford, director of financial aid and scholarships, said. "By completing this early it allows for our office to inform students of their aid eligibility and to assist those selected for verification to submit the needed documents."



## Service, leadership learned through meaningful projects

“Service” and “leadership” are integral parts of Northwestern’s mission, so having students complete service learning projects as part of their class requirements helps to further the university’s mission to its students while providing a much-needed service to the community.

A number of the classes at Northwestern incorporate these service-learning components in their classes, including the three-credit-hour service-learning course “Habitudes.”

“Students in the class are asked to organize and conduct a

community service project using the leadership skills we learn,” said Kaylyn Hansen, director of assessment and institutional effectiveness and service-learning coordinator, who taught three of the four Alva campus classes in the fall. “Their final is a reflection paper where they are asked to analyze their experience and discuss leadership skills they used, summarize the project, discuss how the project impacted their knowledge of civic responsibility and engagement, and discuss ethical-reason and decision-making.”

Jordan Franz, associate men’s



Collecting 183.5 pounds of non-perishable foods and other items recently during a two-week drive for the Northwestern Campus Cabinet food pantry are Kaylea Brown, Kaylin Blatchford, Whitney Blanchard and Lizzy Webster, who did the project for service learning credit in their Habitudes class at Northwestern. The students organized the drive, solicited items from on and off campus, delivered the items to the Campus Cabinet, weighed them in and put them on the shelves.

basketball coach, taught the fourth Alva campus class while Brooke Fuller, adjunct instructor of psychology, offered an online version of the class. Alva High School language arts teacher Halah Simon taught a class at Alva High School, and Anthony Barros, adjunct instructor of humanities, taught the course on the Woodward campus. Two classes are being offered in the spring

on the Alva campus.

Some of the projects completed this semester include:

- Organizing a non-perishable food, personal hygiene and bedding drive for the Northwestern Campus Cabinet food pantry
- Teaming up with Beautify Alva
- Making an educational agriculture video for a high school class
- Working at the Elegant Toad Thrift Store
- Picking up trash at Hatfield Park
- Painting at Beadles Nursing Home
- Helping at the Pumpkin Patch
- Helping at The Wesleyan Food Bank
- Volunteering at a Youth Group to provide a message to young students

Four women helped the Campus Cabinet restock its shelves by collecting 183.5 pounds of donated product and a \$50 donation from a downtown business during their two-week drive. The students included Whitney Blanchard, Magna, Utah, sophomore; Kaylin Blatchford, freshman, and Kaylea Brown, junior, both of Cleveland, Oklahoma; and Elizabeth Webster, Cherokee freshman.

“These girls showed a lot of initiative and determination,” Hansen said. “I was pleased to see them utilizing their leadership skills in serving others. They also worked very well together as a group. I am very proud of their hard work in helping their peers and the NWOSU community.”

Angelia Case, coordinator of the Campus Cabinet who also serves the university as an academic projects assistant and media specialist, is

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## Service, leadership...

thankful the students chose the campus food pantry for their project and loves seeing students doing good deeds for others and being proud of their work.

“Service-learning can teach lessons for a lifetime of serving and giving of yourself,” Case said. “We are always so thankful for those who run the events, those who teach the classes giving good examples and those who give. We will put these donations to good use. We promise.”

Brown, who has been volunteering with different food pantries and nutrition programs for a couple of years, said this class project has been her favorite by far.

“It was fulfilling to see it from the beginning to the end,” Brown explained. “I think, for me, it meant a lot because I know that it will benefit people that I have never met and people that are genuinely in need of help. The most impactful part for me was seeing the weigh-in and what

the room looked like before and after the items we collected had gone in. Seeing the difference that two weeks’ worth of work made really made me feel like we had accomplished a lot. I think the best part of it was seeing how people will come together to help with a project; even if they can’t donate themselves, they still find a way to

help.”

A group comprised of Jacob Ervin, Alva sophomore; Isaac Joseph, Miami, Florida, freshman; Natalie Linville, Beaver junior; and Esther Thornburg, Hooker freshman, picked up trash that had collected on the Northwestern campus.

“I learned that a lot of the people here have little regard to what they’re throwing on the ground and



As part of the service learning requirements for their Habitudes class at Northwestern, a group of students organized the picking up of trash on campus. That group included Isaac Joseph, Esther Thornburg, Jacob Ervin and Natalie Linville.

just how much trash never actually makes it to the trash can,” Linville said. “I think doing this helped me be more mindful about picking up trash and not littering.”

Barros said that his students in Woodward have completed numerous projects in past semesters from helping at a soup kitchen and a domestic crisis center to cleaning

at Boomer Stadium and food distribution at the local food pantry.

“One student went to a nursing home and sang songs with the residents on Tuesdays for five weeks,” he said. “When asked why she chose this for her project, she said, ‘Everyone deserves to have their hearts lifted by music.’”

He added that another student mentored a third-grade boy for a full semester and bought him Christmas presents. He said the student commented that the little boy did more for him than he did for the boy.

And, another student helped a family buy food and a small doll for a little girl after seeing them shopping and unable to purchase their items. Barros explained that this family surprised the student by showing up at the door of the classroom to thank her publicly.

“The little girl was clutching her doll and gave the student a Hershey’s Kiss for her Christmas present,” Barros said. “I don’t think there was a dry eye in the classroom that day.”

Students at Northwestern are always looking for ways to help in their communities. Those interested in having student-helpers should contact Hansen at klhansen@nwosu.edu or (580) 327-8150.

# Employees honored for years of service

University employees were honored for their years of service with gifts and photographs.

The annual Employee Service Recognition Ceremonies were canceled due to COVID-19; however, the honored employees gathered for their respective group photos and received their years of service gift.

Dr. Pat Thompson, Wisdom Family Foundation Doctoral Program for Rural Nursing Practice program director and associate professor of nursing, was awarded the John Barton



*Dr. Pat Thompson (right) is presented the John Barton Distinguished Teaching and Service Award from its namesake.*

Distinguished Teaching and Service Award. Nominations for the award are

made by faculty, staff and students then the recipient is determined by a selection committee. To be selected, the recipient must be a full-time faculty member at Northwestern and exemplify distinguished teaching and administrative leadership.

Myra Davison, administrative assistant in the president's office, was named the Thelma Crouch Staff Employee of the Year. This award was established to recognize exceptional performance and/or service by a member of the Northwestern staff. The recipient of this award shows dedication



*Myra Davison (right) is presented with the Thelma Crouch Staff Employee of the Year award from its namesake.*

to Northwestern and its students. The Student Government Association accepts nominations for this award and then determines the recipient. Employees who were honored for their years of service are listed by name and job title:

• Five-year service recognition: Dawn Allen, assistant professor of English; Dr. Kaylene Armstrong, associate professor of mass communication; Sadie Bier, comptroller; Dr. Mariann Braten-Hall, assistant professor of education; Dr. Josh Hawkins, assistant professor of education; Dr. Christee Jenlink, associate dean of education; Chuck Korff, groundskeeper; Kyle Larson, assistant professor of art; Dr. Karsten Longhurst, assistant professor of music; Bruce Stoll, custodian; Cory Sullivan, assistant football coach and instructor of health and sports science; Evan Vaverka, instructor of computer science; Jean Wahlgren, coordinator of Ketterman lab; Matt Walter, head football coach; Keith Wear, head athletic trainer; and Olivia Yandel, assistant director of J.R. Holder Wellness Center

• 10-year service recognition: Dr. Minda Clark, associate professor of agriculture; Roxann Clark, instructor of education; Dr. Leslie Collins, assistant chair to the Charles Morton Share Trust Division of Nursing and associate professor of nursing; Mistie

Kline, lecturer of psychology; and Dr. Stephanie Widick, assistant professor of psychology

• 15-year service recognition: Skeeter Bird, chief executive officer of the Northwestern Foundation and Alumni Association; Jake Boedecker, coordinator of online education; A.J. Johnson, custodian; Dr. Kylene Rehder, chair of department of social work and professor of social work; and Dr. Eric Schmaltz, chair of social sciences department and professor of history

• 20-year service recognition: Eric Tutwiler, custodian

• 25-year service recognition: Dr. Sheila Brintnall, professor of mathematics; Dean Kilgore, custodian;

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# Employees honored...

and Dr. Venkata Moorthy, professor of biology

• 30-year service recognition: Angelia Case, academic projects assistant and media specialist; and Dr. Roger Hardaway, professor of history

Kaylyn Hansen, director of assessment and institutional effectiveness and service-learning coordinator, presented service



*Dr. Janet Cunningham, university president (far left), joins Northwestern's 10-year service award recipients (left to right) Mistie Kline, Dr. Stephanie Widick, Dr. Leslie Collins and Dr. Minda Clark. Not pictured is Roxann Clark.*

learning awards on behalf of the SL/CE committee. Those being honored include:

• Greatest Student Involvement Award: Dr. Seth Cudd, assistant professor of music and director of bands -- given to an employee who



*Northwestern's 25-year service award recipients are (left to right) Dean Kilgore, Dr. Sheila Brintnall and Dr. Venkata Moorthy.*

had the greatest student involvement in a project. The University Band had 60 students who performed at various sporting events, pep rallies, parades and homecoming.

• Greatest Community Impact Award: Brooke Fuller, adjunct instructor of psychology; Jordan Franz, associate head men's basketball coach; Anthony Barros, adjunct instructor of humanities;

Hansen; Halah Simon, Alva High School language arts teacher -- given to the faculty or staff whose project impacted their community through beautification, culture, sustainability or other areas that put a community's need first. Students in the Habitudes courses organized and conducted instructor-

approved community service projects with reputable organizations during the semester. The students

worked in groups, and they were able to decide which community service project they wanted to conduct.

• Distinguished Service Award: Dr. Tracy Beedy, assistant professor of agriculture -- given to an employee whose commitment to service sets

a high standard in Service Learning while promoting the meaning of Service-Learning and Civic Engagement. The plant science class participated in planting a wheat variety demonstration trial in cooperation with Greg Highfill, the Woods County Agricultural Extension Educator, and the Oklahoma State University Wheat

Improvement Team. This project gives farmers in southern Woods County a chance to view and judge the merits of new wheat varieties.

Most Inventive Project: Dr. Robert Vest, assistant professor of Spanish-- given to a faculty or staff member who had a unique, creative project. Due to COVID-19, original plans for service trips to a local school had to be

canceled. Instead, students produced informational posters relating to Hispanic culture and civilization that were hung around campus in the fall. These posters included information

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*Dr. Janet Cunningham, university president (center), joins Northwestern's 15-year service award recipients are (left to right) Skeeter Bird, Dr. Kylene Rehder, Dr. Eric Schmaltz and Jake Boedecker. Not pictured is A.J. Johnson.*



*Dr. Janet Cunningham, university president (center), joins Northwestern's 30-year service award recipients (from left to right) Angelia Case and Dr. Roger Hardaway.*

# SWAT conducts 5th 'Compassion in Action' dignity drive

The Northwestern Oklahoma State University chapter of the Social Workers Association of Tomorrow (SWAT) organization accepted donations for personal hygiene products as part of the 'Compassion in Action Dignity Drive' at all Northwestern locations until Nov. 13.

"I am so excited for this year's SWAT Dignity Drive," Wynter Wilson, social work senior and SWAT president for the Woodward campus, said. "This drive allows students to work within their communities to decrease the need of hygiene products, and this year we are focusing on Northwestern's students."

"This opportunity gives us the ability to practice our "social work" skills by working to keep the Campus Cabinet stocked with hygiene products that students may need. Any day we have the opportunity to assist is a great day."

This year SWAT gathered donations for Northwestern's Campus Cabinet, a resource available

to assist Northwestern students and employees. This resource offers non-perishable food assistance as well as hygiene products. In order to assist, all requests can be made via their online web form. To learn more and access this resource visit their web page at [www.nwosu.edu/campus-cabinet](http://www.nwosu.edu/campus-cabinet).

Items needed on all three campuses are shampoo, conditioner, soap, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, diapers, baby hygiene products, lice kits, body lotion, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental

floss and other personal care items. Donated items can be dropped off at the Northwestern-Enid Commons Area and front entryway, the Northwestern-Woodward cross over hall, and the Northwestern-Alva Academic Success Center, Jesse Dunn 308 and JD South Entrance.

For more information concerning the Compassion in Action Dignity Drive, contact Jennifer Pribble, assistant professor of social work and director of field experience, in Enid at (580) 213-3148 or [jlpribble@nwosu.edu](mailto:jlpribble@nwosu.edu).



Continued from page 42

## Employees honored...

about important people of Hispanic descent, important artists from Hispanic America and Spain, important moments in Hispanic history, and information about misconceptions surrounding Hispanic culture. The information in the posters had to be researched, fact-checked and designed to catch the attention of passersby.

- Applaud Award: members of the university's cross country and track & field teams, and head cross country coach Jill Lancaster -- given to a club/organization that shows the greatest

overall effort, participation and hard work. The teams joined the Student Athletic Advisory Committee to raise funds throughout the year for Make A Wish Foundation. The athletes volunteered at the concession stand with proceeds going to the foundation.

- Most Expressive Award: Matt Walter and members of the Ranger football team -- given to a club/organization that had a unique project/event. The football team volunteered to pump gas at Love's Country Store to help raise money for

the Children's Miracle Network.

- perSERVEing Ranger Award: members of the Enid Leadership Council and Tiffany Misak, Enid campus coordinator-- given to an organization for its extraordinary service and serving in multiple community service projects throughout the year. The Enid Staff Council volunteered for numerous community service projects including the 2019 Fall Fest, Angel Tree Project, Wooden Children Project, Loaves and Fishes Food Sorting and the United Way Chili Cook-off.



# Mason, Schmaltz featured on podcast

Dr. Aaron Mason and Dr. Eric Schmaltz, Social Sciences department faculty members, were interviewed to discuss the Electoral College for the Oklahoma Humanities Council podcast program series.

Mason, professor of political science, and Schmaltz, department chair of social sciences and professor of history, were guest



Aaron Mason

speakers on the podcast program series "BrainBox: A Podcast for Your Noggin" hosted by Chris Carroll of the OHC in Oklahoma City. They discussed the issue of "Why do we have the Electoral College?" prior to the 2020 presidential election.

"Following COVID protocols, Dr. Mason and I were able to meet in person at an Oklahoma City studio to record the program," Schmaltz said. "The podcast producer was wonderful to work with, as was OHC series host Chris Carroll. Dr. Mason and I were among the first guests to be able to record a new program in the studio since the mid-March shutdowns."

The OHC BrainBox podcast program uses the humanities to discuss issues affecting American society and culture. The podcast features interviews with some of Oklahoma's most interesting and knowledgeable humanities scholars to explore how history, literature, ethics, philosophy, and other

humanities fields inform a person's understanding of current events and the human experience.

"The opportunity to participate in the podcast was very gratifying," Mason said. "It was enjoyable on both a professional and personal level. I look forward to future endeavors with the OHC."

The podcast was recorded

in mid-September in Oklahoma City and is posted for the public on the Oklahoma Humanities Council website [www.okhumanities.org/page/brainbox-s3-ep13](http://www.okhumanities.org/page/brainbox-s3-ep13). Back in April 2019, Mason and Schmaltz also discussed the issue of "The Power of the American Presidency" for the program series, available at [www.okhumanities.org/page/brainbox-s2-ep4](http://www.okhumanities.org/page/brainbox-s2-ep4).

All episodes of the OHC BrainBox podcast can also be found on the digital audio streaming service Spotify.

Mason and Schmaltz said they are considering doing a future OHC podcast

episode on the cultural and social history of American sports and leisure.

"Participation in podcasts remains a relatively novel concept for us, but it's also quite exciting and intellectually stimulating," Schmaltz said. "More recently, I have also done a podcast interview via Zoom with a

researcher in Boston for a program on immigration topics."



Eric Schmaltz



# Jazz groups take to square for performance

The jazz ensemble, along with guest artists John Shell and Max Ridgway, performed at The Square in downtown Alva on November 5th.

This was the university's first "Jazz on the Square" concert, but there was an impressive turnout for the event.

Because of social distancing guidelines the jazz ensemble was divided into four smaller combos, and each group primarily rehearsed outdoors.

The combos performed a number of well-known jazz standards, such as "Tune Up" and "All Blues" by Miles Davis, "Maiden Voyage" by Herbie Hancock, "In a Mellow Tone" by Duke Ellington, "Blue Bossa" by Kenny Dorham, and "D Natural Blues" by Wes

Montgomery. One of the combos also performed "What Are You

Lookin' At," which is a piece written by our guest artist, John Shell.

The concert was well received, and it was a fantastic opportunity for our students to perform on a stage with professional musicians.

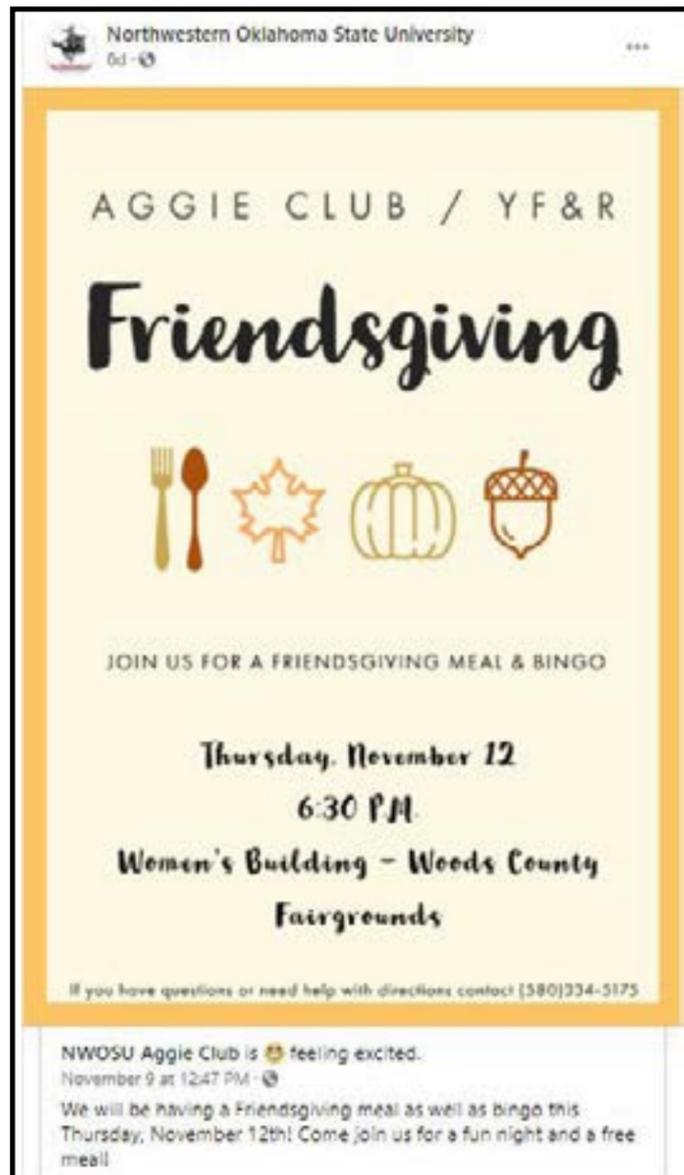


Jazz ensemble members perform on the square in November with professional jazz musician, John Shell (far right).



Members of the Northwestern jazz band have an opportunity to play on the square. Professional musicians Max Ridgway (back row left) and John Shell (front center) performed with the groups.





# Bell selected as ELA state standard evaluator

Dr. James Bell, associate vice president for academics and dean of faculty at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, was recently selected to serve as part of the English Language Arts Standard evaluation team for the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

Prior to his current position, Bell served as the chair for the Northwestern English, foreign language and humanities department. Bell has been an educator for 35 years and worked as a consultant in all phases of large-scale assessment development.

Dr. Bo Hannaford, executive vice president, nominated Bell to serve as an evaluator.

Bell has ample assessment experience including serving as a senior test development specialist for Data Recognition Corporation, 2013-2015. He served as content lead for various high-stake projects with multi-million dollar budgets, coordinating efforts of freelance writers, in-house reviewers and editors, and content specialists to deliver items that adhered to state standards, item specification and style guides, grammatical style manuals, and company protocols within a rigorous scheduling window.

He also facilitated item and data review committees consisting of educators, state department of education personnel, and development partners. He has been a freelance writer, editor, and committee facilitator for

state English Language Arts, English Language Learners, and modified ELA proficiency exams since 1992.

He served as a writing consultant to elementary and secondary personnel, conducting workshops and on-site visits related to standardized test development and review, secondary



James Bell

writing center design, the writing process, and authentic analogies for the writing process, from 2000-2012. He was also an Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Exam grader from 2007-2011.

Bell said he knows how important having clear and usable standards can be.

"For that reason, I was eager to be a part of this process," Bell said. "Beyond that, I'm a bit of a

curriculum geek. While looking at standards and objectives is tedious work, trying to figure out how all of the skills fit together and where there may be gaps brings me great satisfaction."

According to the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE), this year they have undertaken the Oklahoma Academic Standards for English Language Arts review, as required by

Oklahoma state statute, and they recognize their partners in the higher education realm offer insights to affirm or improve the revisions. Therefore, they requested the assistance of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSHRE) in conducting a review of the draft standards concurrent with the public comment period.

The directors of Elementary and Secondary English Language Arts Education called together an Executive Team comprised of PK-20 educators to lead a comprehensive review and revision based upon the following four principles:

1. Clarity - the extent to which the standards are easily understood and likely to be implemented to their fullest intent to ensure all students have the opportunity to learn and achieve

*Continued to page 50*



## Bell selected...

2. Coherence - the extent to which the standards progress meaningfully upon each other, communicating a holistic, consistent vision for English language arts

3. Purpose - the extent to which the standards speak to the context of the classroom, the reality of students, and the futures our students will have as colleagues, employees and leaders, and citizens

4. Assessability - the extent to which the standards might be evaluated to provide insight into student thinking to improve teaching, curriculum, and support structures

Bell divided his review of the October

2020 draft version of the Oklahoma Academic Standards for English Language Arts into two sections. He first made global observations about the

standards. Bell said these observations address such things as logical framework, sequencing, and relationships among grade levels. In the second section, he made specific observations about particular standards, strands,

or objectives.

"I noted proofing errors where I found them, though I focused primarily on content and sequencing," Bell said.



## Bank It awards \$1000 mini-grant to Campus Cabinet

Upon opening, it became apparent that many students living in university housing who have become Campus Cabinet clients are choosing the minimum eight-meal plan, which can leave students either skipping meals or fending for themselves for the remaining 13 regular meals each week. Off-campus students and employees also are utilizing the pantry.

Angelia Case, who is the coordinator for the pantry, explained that since the program began, the pantry has registered roughly 106 students/employees and averages five to seven participants per week.

To restock the pantry, several food drives are held each year, which are mostly conducted by Northwestern students. Grants also are sought from groups like Bank It to fill in the gaps.

"We have incredible support from our university family, and we have several community members who help out with donations from time to time, both monetarily and with non-perishable foods," Valarie Case said. "We are truly blessed to live in the area we do, where support is given freely and often."

Like many areas of life today, Covid-19 has influenced the needs of students as well as employees. When the pandemic first hit in the middle of the 2020 spring semester, the pantry saw a rapid decline in participants as all school functions were shut down with most students heading back home. However, a few students did remain in university housing or in town during the shutdown and utilized the pantry. From that time on, a mandatory by appointment only food pick-up policy was implemented. Since school started back up in August, the number of participants has grown again with students and employees needing more support.

Covid-19 also has affected

the opportunity for on-campus volunteering. The Northwestern Campus Cabinet is small in square footage (but mighty in impact) and therefore only allows a limited number of volunteers to be working in the confined area at one time.

"We have been trying to work with several students this semester who are requesting service learning hours for their classes," Angelia Case said. "Knowing we aren't able to allow many in the pantry area at one time, we have suggested the students work toward non-perishable food, personal hygiene and bedding drives to get their hours. The groups have been collecting the items and doing the leg-work in the pantry to get the donations on the shelves. This seems to be working very well, and we appreciate their help."

Magen Lehr, President of Bank It, visited the Campus Cabinet to tour and talk about the inner workings and needs of the program. She reported being impressed by the level of organization and enthusiasm shown by the volunteers of the program.

"We are proud to have motivated

community members like Angelia, Valarie and the countless other volunteers who work so hard to help people in need," Lehr said. "This mini-grant from Bank It was an easy one to approve, with all board members voting unanimously to grant them the funding they requested. Their goals align well with the mission of Bank It, and we are proud to support them."

Anyone wishing to support the Northwestern Campus Cabinet should contact Angelia Case at ARCase@nwosu.edu. The pantry accepts tax-deductible monetary donations (directed to the Northwestern Foundation), non-perishable food items as well as hygiene products, bedding and winter coats.

Lehr added that any organization in need that helps make Alva a better place should consider the helpful services of the program she leads. Bank It: A Habit of Helping Foundation is accepting applications to be a 2021 CommUNITY Vision. Mini-grants also are available year-round for organizations in need. Contact nwbankit@gmail.com for more information or visit their website at www.ahabitofhelping.com.



## Early childhood program ranked in top 85 most affordable

The Division of Education's Early Childhood Education program has been named the 28th most affordable program in the country out of 85 other programs evaluated by DiscoverEarlyChildhoodEDU.org.

Data for this ranking was collected through the National Center for Education Statistics, CollegeScorecard.ed.gov, Bureau of Labor Statistics and Payscale.com. Ranking factors included retention rate, graduation rate, admission rate, cost of tuition, graduating salary, number of programs offered, loan default rate, diplomas awarded

and percent of students receiving financial aid.

"The high ranking of our early childhood program by Discover Early Childhood EDU validates the extraordinary work of our faculty and staff and the support of Northwestern's administration," said Dr.

Christee Jenlink, associate dean of education and professor of education. "More importantly, it validates the commitment of our students and the excellent work they are doing on behalf of young people when they are in classrooms."



The Division of Education at Northwestern is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Education Preparation and offers education programs in agriculture, early childhood, elementary, English, health and sports science, math, music, natural science, social sciences and special education.

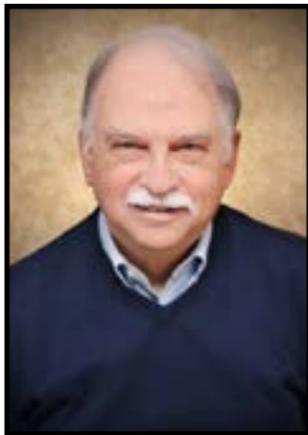
For more information on Northwestern's education degree programs visit <https://www.nwosu.edu/school-of-education/education> or contact Jenlink at (580) 327-8450 or [cljenlink@nwosu.edu](mailto:cljenlink@nwosu.edu).

## Hardaway featured in Journal of the West

Dr. Roger Hardaway, professor of history at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, is the author of an article in the winter 2020 edition of the Journal of the West titled "African American Policemen on the Western Frontier."

Journal of the West is an illustrated quarterly devoted to the history and culture of the American West. Each issue is highlighted by a series of articles on a theme central to the history and life of the region. Intended for Western history enthusiasts as well as academics, Journal of the West presents articles by distinguished contributors that are insightful, engaging and based on sound scholarly research.

Hardaway explained that several African American men served (and more than a few died in the line of



Roger Hardaway

duty) as state, federal, county and city police officers from the time slavery was abolished in 1865 through the end of the 19th century. The discussion of this topic can be easily divided into three categories, Hardaway said.

First, from 1870 to 1873, Texas had a state police force that included numerous African American as well as Caucasian members.

"The Texas State Police was created by the state's Radical Republican governor, Edmund J. Davis, who served from 1870 to 1874," Hardaway said. "What upset white Texans

about the Texas State Police was that the force's African American members—approximately 250-300 policemen—could arrest white lawbreakers. When Confederate sympathizers regained control of the Texas legislature, they

repealed the law that created the Texas State Police."

Hardaway said the second group of African American policemen were two interrelated forces in Oklahoma.

"For the last third of the 19th century and the first part of the 20th, numerous African American deputy U.S. marshals patrolled what was then called Indian Territory (and Oklahoma Territory after 1890)," Hardaway said. "They worked under the auspices of U.S. District Judge Isaac Parker who held court in Fort Smith, Arkansas, with jurisdiction over what became the state of Oklahoma.

"Meanwhile, the governments of the Five Civilized Tribes had their own police forces to enforce tribal laws in Indian Territory. Two of those Native groups, the Creeks and the Seminoles, employed several tribal members of African descent as police officers."

Hardaway said the western African American population was becoming

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## Two social work majors awarded stipend

Northwestern's Department of Social Work announces Northwestern-Enid seniors Jamie Metcalf and Heather Wilkinson are the stipend recipients of the Child Welfare Professional Enhancement Program (CWPEP) for the 2020-2021 academic year.

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 assured employment in the participating DHS programs.

"It is an honor to be selected to receive the CWPEP grant," Metcalf said. "I have dreamed of the day I could make a true difference and impact the lives of children and families. To know that I will

be given the chance to work alongside other social workers in the state of Oklahoma, is a wish come true. Thank you for recognizing me and my hard work. This is the chance of a lifetime, to follow the career of my dreams."

CWPEP is a Title IV-E partnership between the University of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, the U.S. 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 manages the child welfare consortium. Other partners along with Northwestern

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Welcome

On Dec. 30, 2020, Doug and Shalimar Davidson welcomed Anastasia into their family. Anastasia weighed 5 lbs and was 18 inches long. Welcome to the Ranger family little one.

Doug is the Research and Instructional Service Librarian at the J.W. Martin Library.

Anastasia

*Continued from page 52*

## Hardaway...

urbanized, moving from farms to cities. Several western cities—such as San Diego, Los Angeles, Spokane, Salt Lake City, Houston, Denver, and others—employed a few African Americans to patrol, usually, in areas of town in which most African Americans lived.

"Studying these men and their careers in law enforcement helps us get a more complete picture of the contribution African Americans made to the settlement and development of the American West in the post-Civil War era," Hardaway said.

Hardaway, who has been a Northwestern faculty member since 1990, is often cited as an expert on the history of African Americans who have lived in the American West. He has written three books and several journal articles on the subject. In addition, he has presented relevant papers at several academic conferences in both Europe and North America.

## Two social work majors...

include East Central University and Oral Roberts University.

"I am honored to be selected as a recipient as I have dreamed of working with families and children for as long as I can remember," Wilkinson said. "As a child welfare specialist, I plan to be an advocate for those families and be a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves. I am excited for the opportunity to work in child welfare, and I cannot wait to put the knowledge I have gained from Northwestern into practice."



Jamie Metcalf

"I would like to thank my wonderful professors for encouraging me to apply for this program and providing social work students at Northwestern with all the tools

they need to be successful. I am also grateful for my family and friends for constantly supporting me throughout my college career and pushing me to be the best I can be."

Funding for the educational program is provided by Title IV-E of the social security act, called the Child Welfare Training program.

"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, CWPEP coordinator, and professor of social work, said. "CWPEP at Northwestern has graduated 17 students, resulting in more than \$130,000 being awarded in educational assistance."



Heather Wilkinson

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 kdrehder@nwosu.edu.



## Chinese artist gives talk, workshop

Northwestern visual arts program artist-in-residence for November was Chinese artist Chang Wu. He presented an Artist Talk discussing his work and influences on Thursday, Dec. 3, in the Student Center Ballroom with a workshop following titled "Superposition: Tools in Progress."

Wu's workshop illustrated artists' interpretation and manipulation of tools in their practical behaviors under the current instrumentalist rules. This course required participants to bring a daily object and give a short performance of fewer than three minutes.

Wu's residency began on Nov. 11. During his time here, he created a body of work which was displayed at his culminating exhibition on Friday, Dec. 4.

Wu is an installation and video artist and has exhibited in both China and the United States. Born in Wenzhou, China, Chang graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree from China Academy of Art in 2014. After graduating, he worked in the landscape design industry.

Gradually feeling the limitations of design in his job, he turned to art. After several exhibitions and lectures in China, he was given a curatorial opportunity for the 2017 LA Art Show, Shanghai area. This experience made him realize the weakness of his aesthetic logic, so he came to the U.S. in 2018 to further his studies in sculpture at Boston University where he earned a Master of Fine Arts degree in 2020.

Some of the mechanisms that he used in landscape design he incorporates into his art practice with an emphasis on material language, the idea of Genius Loci and the concept composition relation. His work focuses on the subordination as well as the context in which it stands.

Wu said the communication difficulties he experienced when he first came to the U.S. made him interested in

language logics, and the confrontation of two very contrasting languages made him regard language as a tool, something he realized had a physical and ideological impact on himself and his work.

"My works are often given improper functions: the relationship is reversed, the separation and refusion of form and content," Wu said. "In my work, the relationship between people and tools, sound and image is often reversed. This makes the imperceptible sense of incongruity exaggerated and alienated into a sense of strangeness and distance, which is different from daily life, presented in front of the audience. This discordance comes from the division of space."

"Since I came to the U.S., the difficulty of communication has made me interested in the rules of language. By incorporating languages in other media into the language system that we know, I try to grasp the logic of language. Through this back and forth transformation between language and other language form, words constantly

change qualitatively; the context in which it is located becomes obvious, so as to take this as an entry point, I can continue to explore the possibility of image language. Initially unambiguous meanings of words are shattered. At that moment, lots of ambiguities and indistinctnesses, which are inherent to the phenomenon, come to the surface. Languages are dissociated from their original meaning, by which the system in which they normally function is exposed.

"My artworks focus on the inability of communication, which is used to visualize language, the attempt of dialogue, the dissonance between form and content and the extension of language. By investigating language on a meta-level, I try to create works in which the actual events are still taking place: events evocative of atmosphere and suspense that are not based on a narrative thread."

To learn more about the artist-in-residence program or visual arts at Northwestern, contact Kyle Larson, assistant professor of art, at krlarson@nwosu.edu, (580) 327-8108.



Northwestern visual arts program artist-in-residence for November Chang Wu busily preparing artwork for his exhibition on campus on Dec. 4. He presented a talk and free workshop in the Student Center Ballroom on Dec. 3.

## Ranger band carols campus, downtown

“The Pride of the Ranger Nation” finished its year with a day of caroling on Dec. 7.

The band caroled across campus, down 7th Street, around “The Square” in downtown Alva, and back up College Avenue.

Some students were dressed in festive clothes, and the community members seemed to enjoy hearing the Ranger Marching Band performing everyone’s favorite Christmas songs.

The band finished by performing a number of songs in front of Herod Hall.

The band performed a virtual marching performance this semester as well, and that will eventually be released on YouTube along with the recording of our last concert in March.



Band members played in a few areas on the courthouse lawn. Here, the group played toward Holders and Graceful Arts Center.



At the end of its Christmas tour, the band closed by playing for those who work in Herod Hall.



The Ranger band went on the road to spread a little Christmas cheer by caroling from on campus to the downtown square. Here, they are just outside Starr Lumber.



## Lambert analyzes environmentalist literature in new book

Dr. Matthew Lambert, who teaches courses in American literature at Northwestern Oklahoma State University as an assistant professor of English, has published “The Green Depression: American Ecoliterature in the 1930s and 1940s” through University Press of Mississippi.

Lambert has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of North Carolina in Asheville and a Master of Arts degree in English from the University of South Alabama in Mobile. He also earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in literary and cultural studies from Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania). He has worked as a visiting assistant professor of English at Wabash College (Crawfordsville, Indiana).

His work has appeared in the Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association and Journal of Popular Film and Television.

His book is a critical analysis of the often-understudied environmentalist literature of the mid-20th century.

Lambert said “The Green Depression” focuses on the importance of environmental issues and thought in the work of American literature (and some films) from the late 1920s through the 1940s. Not only does the book examine the impact that the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927, the Dust Bowl, and the use of atom bombs had on American literature and culture, it also examines literary depictions of other environmental issues--including the eradication of wolves and other nonhuman predators; urban segregation, overcrowding and pollution; and unsustainable

agricultural practices. Ultimately, the book argues that depression-era authors, filmmakers, and conservationists helped contribute to the development of modern environmentalist thought, which emerged in the early 1960s.

Lambert said writers of the time provided a better understanding of the devastating effects that humans can have on the environment. They also depicted the ecological and cultural value of nonhuman nature, including animal “predators” and “pests.” Finally, they laid the groundwork for “environmental justice” by focusing on the social effects of environmental exploitation.

Lambert said the scope of the project was a bit daunting.

“I tried to incorporate readings of as many novels as I could find that contained environmental ideas and themes,” Lambert said. “Trying to put all of these works in conversation with each other was sometimes difficult.”

Three of the chapters

in the book focus on a different geographical landscape--the wild, rural, and the urban--while the last chapter focuses on technology and science fiction.

“Understanding and covering the unique environmental issues associated with each of these topics took a long time,” Lambert said.

The book also builds upon a growing body of scholarship in ecocriticism that describes the unique contributions African American and other nonwhite authors have made to the environmental justice movement and understanding of the natural world.

Scott Slovic, coeditor of “Ecocritical Aesthetics: Language,

*Continued on page 58*



Matthew Lambert



## Lambert analyzes...

Beauty, and the Environment,” said this of Lambert’s book:

“Many of the important authors considered in this study—Nelson Algren, Tillie Olsen, James T. Farrell, and Richard Wright, to name a few—have received insufficient attention from ecocritics, and yet, as Matthew M. Lambert shows in ‘The Green Depression,’ their work and other writing during the Depression and the World War II eras is profoundly relevant to the roots of contemporary environmentalism that emerged during the latter half of the 20th century.”

Lambert said there were a few things that inspired the book.

“I’m generally interested in the way that literary and other cultural works (films, music, etc.) depict nature and environmental thought, and depression-era literature seemed like a topic that critics had largely ignored,” he explained. “Also, my father showed me a picture of my grandfather in a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp during the 1930s. This spurred my interest in some of the environmental impacts of Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal programs.

“I’ve also been interested in learning more about the Dust Bowl since I first read John Steinbeck’s ‘The Grapes of Wrath’ back in high school.”

While writing the book Lambert said he developed a better understanding of the 1930s and ‘40s as an important historical moment in the development of the environmental movement. He also learned more about the intersection of environmental and social issues (e.g. racial, economic, and gender inequality).

“I was surprised at how easy it was to find a wide range of literary responses to the environmental issues of the time,” Lambert said. “Especially since many of the novels I address in the book are not often associated with environmental thought.”

Lambert’s book can be checked out at Northwestern’s library and is available for purchase on Amazon.



## Lohmann delivers commencement addresses

Northwestern hosted two commencement ceremonies on Sunday, Dec. 6, in Percefull Fieldhouse. The 2020 spring and summer graduates were honored at 1 p.m. and the 2020 fall graduates were honored at 3:30 p.m.

The university designated seating within Percefull Fieldhouse to allow for social distancing, assured proper ventilation within the building, required face coverings, and sanitized before and after each ceremony.

Dr. Steve Lohmann, executive vice president and chief academic officer emeritus, delivered the commencement address for both ceremonies.

Lohmann graduated from Northwestern with a bachelor’s degree in health and physical education in 1978 and earned his master’s degree from Northwestern in 1982. Lohmann went on to receive his doctorate in educational administration at Oklahoma State University in 1993.



Steve Lohmann

His career in education began in 1978 as an instructor of health and physical education and assistant football coach at Alva High School. He returned to his alma mater in 1985, becoming the defensive coordinator for the Rangers and an instructor.

He left coaching football in 1990 to focus on his teaching role but was asked to become head football coach in 1993. In just three seasons, Lohmann led the Rangers to a conference

championship and the school’s first-ever No. 1 ranking. He was named the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Conference Coach of the Year and was a finalist for NAIA National Coach of the Year.

Lohmann again returned to the classroom in 1997 and eventually became director of Northwestern’s J.R. Holder Wellness Center in 2000. He joined the administrative ranks in 2001 as dean of student services and a year later was promoted to vice president for academic affairs. In 2006, Lohmann was named executive vice president. Lohmann retired from Northwestern in 2016.

During his tenure, he served as the chairman of the statewide Council of Instruction, which is comprised of chief academic officers of Oklahoma’s 25 public colleges and universities, and was a graduate of the Harvard University Institute for Management and Leadership. He also is a graduate of Leadership Oklahoma.

“Having been at Northwestern for over 30 years, I will always remember the outstanding homecoming, concerts and graduation ceremonies,” Lohmann said. “I can honestly say that I cannot recall one single day that I did not look forward to going to work. Northwestern has fantastic faculty, staff and students whom I had the opportunity to work with over my professional career.”

Since retirement, Lohmann enjoys farming with his son, Derek, and brother, Terry. He and his wife, Lisa, love cheering on the Oklahoma City Thunder, watching grandkids and traveling. When he’s home, Lohmann looks forward to morning jogs and golfing.

For those not able to attend the in-person ceremony, Northwestern offered a live stream both commencement ceremonies on YouTube ([Spring/Summer 2020](#) and [Fall 2020](#)).

## Thank You

Thank you to all who have helped contribute to this publication. The University Relations staff members including Kelsey Martin, Valarie Case and Erin Davis put out so many stories, photos and social media posts that clearly document our semesters. Also, thank you to those who submit news and photos. We love for you to show us what’s happening in your worlds so we can share it with others. We are always accepting information for the next newsletter. You may always use this link to submit stories and photos: <https://www.nwosu.edu/forms/submit-news-to-spotlight> or email Dr. James Bell, [jlbell@nwosu.edu](mailto:jlbell@nwosu.edu) or Angelia Case, [arcase@nwosu.edu](mailto:arcase@nwosu.edu).