



reflections

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Million Dollar Gift ‘Raises the Roof’ for NSU’s College of Education

When Northeastern’s education building was remodeled and the third floor restored earlier this year, college administrators looked at ways to best use the new classroom space. Now, the institution’s first \$1 million private donation—the largest in NSU history—will provide a reading clinic where young students can overcome reading deficiencies and educators can become better prepared to help them learn to read.

Gregg Wadley, Northeastern class of 1969, and his wife Dr. Betsy Brackett pledged the milestone gift in honor of Wadley’s mother, Cappitola “Cappi” Wadley, who passed away in 2005.

“We think this will be transformative,” Wadley said, following a formal announcement of the gift during NSU’s 12th Annual Emerald Ball on Dec. 12. “Mother knew that education was the way out of poverty and reading was the foundation of education. That’s why this donation is so important to us.”

Speaking to nearly 350 NSU donors and supporters attending the Emerald Ball, NSU President Don Betz commended Wadley and Brackett for perpetuating the legacy of a lifelong educator well-known for her commitment to her students.

“This gift will reach into the future and ensure people who are not even born yet will have a place to go and someone there to help them learn to read,” Betz said. “As a result, they will grow up to be better informed and more well-rounded, productive citizens and will benefit from the work of someone whom they never knew but whose

life’s passion was to educate young people.”

The pledge made through the NSU Foundation will establish the Cappitola “Cappi” Wadley Center for Reading and Technology on the third floor of Bagley Hall, which houses the College of Education and will also be used to create two endowed chairs for NSU’s reading program, ensuring the region’s young people have the resources necessary to improve their reading skills.

The long-term impact on students will be exponential, Wadley noted. “The benefits will multiply by the number of teachers who spend time there, learning how to apply techniques that help thousands of children.”

Establishing a reading and technology clinic on NSU’s main campus in Tahlequah will allow the college to relocate and expand a computer lab and ITV classroom, and replicate elements of a successful new reading clinic on the NSU Broken Arrow campus, according to Dr. Kay Lallier Grant, dean of the College of Education.

Creating an endowment of support to meet reading program needs and providing additional faculty will benefit families.

“Right now some parents have to drive to Tulsa to get special tutoring if a child has reading difficulties,” Grant said.

Million Dollar Gift *cont’d on page 2*

Northeastern, Connors combine forces at Muskogee campus

Higher education opportunities in the Muskogee area will receive a major boost as Connors State College and Northeastern State University combine their operations at the NSU-Muskogee campus.

The two higher education institutions have agreed to co-locate on the NSU campus and create a base of service for their combined 23 academic programs now offered to regional residents.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held Dec. 18 on the NSU-Muskogee campus for the proposed Student Services facility that will house a campus bookstore, library, child development program and administration offices. The estimated cost for the project is \$2.2 million, which will be funded through the Oklahoma Capital Improvement Authority bonds allocated to Connors. The one-story facility will comprise from 8,000 to 10,000 square feet. Oakridge Builders, Inc., of Tulsa is the construction project manager.

The downtown Muskogee campus on Court Street, which houses 1,100 students, will revert to the city of Muskogee, which provided

Million Dollar Gift *cont'd from page 1*

“For years it has been our goal to ‘raise the roof’ at the College of Education, both in terms of bricks and mortar and expanding programs,” she noted. “The generosity of Gregg Wadley and Dr. Betsy Brackett has made it possible for us to meet our goals and continue the momentum we’re experiencing at our reading clinic on the Broken Arrow campus. We are honored to be chosen as a way to perpetuate the memory of Cappi Wadley and her dedication to improving the lives of children.”

Wadley, whose father was long-time NSU athletic director D.M. “Doc” Wadley, recalled his mother taking him to the rural school where she taught when he was four or five years old. “We would leave early and make the trek in an old, beat-up Chevy. She would stop to pick up kids along the way and one day a little boy who was supposed to be waiting by his mailbox wasn’t there. My mother went up to the door and read those parents the riot act. From that day forward, that boy was in school.”

Wadley said he and his wife gave careful consideration to how best to continue his mother’s life work. “We thought about it deeply. The first criteria was that it had to be something that would have made her proud. She loved this University, Tahlequah and eastern Oklahoma.”

Brackett described her late mother-in-law, who earned a master’s degree from Northeastern in 1955, as “a tremendous woman and role model.”

“She was born in 1916 and earned a bachelor’s degree and two master’s degrees while raising a family. What joy it would have brought her to make something happen here at NSU that would help educate kids and help them to read,” Brackett said.

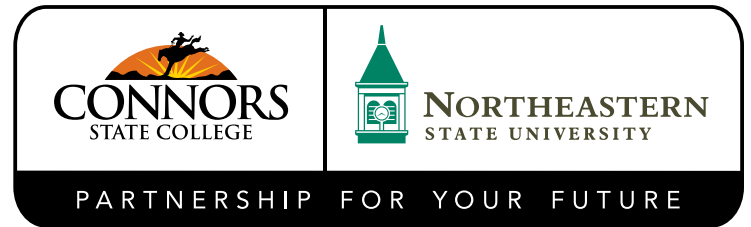
In October, during a reunion of students who attended the former Bagley

the facility to Connors State College.

The move should prove to further health care initiatives currently under consideration in the region. NSU and Connors have been leaders in regional health care conversations with nearly a dozen partners that could lead up to 13 more health care educational programs being offered in the Muskogee area.

The two campuses are already collaborating through an educational program to serve Muskogee’s health care industry cluster, one of the largest and fastest growing in Oklahoma. Connors’ career ladder nursing program produces graduates who earn licensed practical nursing or registered nursing degrees. Many of those graduates then continue at NSU to earn their bachelor of science in nursing degrees.

Oklahoma has been described as nearing the verge of a health care crisis with a projected shortage of more than 4,500 practitioners by 2012 in a score of professional areas.



High School, the education building was rededicated to mark completion of remodeling efforts that restored the third floor and provided a new roof and other infrastructure improvements. Renovations were made possible through bond money approved by the Oklahoma state legislature in 2005.

For more information on how to provide support for NSU programs and activities, contact the NSU Foundation at (918) 458-2143 or visit www.nsugiving.com.



Lights On
Seminary Hall is a sight at night with its holiday decorations. This photo was taken during the Lights On ceremony Dec. 7. NSU campuses will be closed Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1.

Cherry to retire at fall semester's end



After 20 years as an administrator for Northeastern, Kim Cherry retired from her official duties at the end of 2009.

Cherry served as assistant vice-president for administration and budgeting director before she was promoted to vice-president in January 2004. She served on the executive and investment committees and chaired the audit Committee for the NSU Foundation Board.

As vice-president of administration, Cherry's primary duty was to secure the resources needed for faculty and staff to instruct and assist students. It was her favorite part of the job.

"I loved the opportunity to see the difference we make in our students' lives," she said. "There is nothing more gratifying than watching their success after they graduate and leave NSU and go on to shape the future of our state and their businesses."

In Cherry's first decade at NSU, the buildings of the Tahlequah campus were demonstrating their age. As an administrator she used the 2005 Higher Education Capital Bond Issue and other opportunities to initiate renovations on most of the classroom buildings and expand the Broken Arrow campus. She considers the enhancements her top achievement at the university, but another is a close second.

"Whether you call it an accomplishment or a privilege is yet to be written, but serving as the interim president for NSU will always be one of the most rewarding times of my professional career," she said. "They were challenging times, but the support and confidence I received from the NSU family will forever be important to me."

During her tenure Cherry has seen higher education transition from a more centralized and paternal attitude to the more supportive and participatory administrations seen today. She said more effort is spent gathering, considering and responding to the input of students and faculty.

She emphasizes that she didn't do anything alone, and Cherry said she will always remember the people who helped her be an effective administrator.

"There are so many dedicated strong people that I have worked with over the years. They bleed green and give so much of their personalities to make NSU the special place it is. Without a doubt, there are a

circle of people that I have personally worked with on a daily basis that will be sorely missed," she said. "[administrative assistant] Nancy Jenkins has been my right hand and brain for more years than imaginable, and is now family."

Cherry believes NSU, and higher education in Oklahoma, must adjust to make timely responses to fiscal challenges in the near future. "We must find within ourselves the ability to make changes quickly and respond to these challenges if we are to remain a healthy, viable institution."

In retirement, Cherry intends to set aside time for family and outdoor activities at a home on 17 acres near Greeneville, Tenn. She and her husband Myron bought the property in October 2007.



Centurion nomination forms available online

In celebration of NSU's Founders Day 2010, the university will add 10 names to its list of NSU Centurions.

During this year's Centennial Celebration, NSU selected 100 individuals to be the inaugural recipients of its Centurion Awards. The honors were given to members of the NSU family—alumni, faculty, staff and students whether past or present—who impacted the life of the nominator, the Northeastern community or the public at large.

All are invited to make a nomination. The nominee may be living or deceased and should embody the legacy of NSU. To submit a nomination, visit www.nsuok.edu/CenturionNomination.aspx and fill out the form. Nominations must be submitted by Jan. 15, 2010. For more information contact Dr. Amber Fite at fiteam@nsuok.edu.



NSU President Don Betz congratulates Dawn Weygandt of Tulsa during commencement ceremonies in Jack Dobbins Field House Dec. 19

Graduates are ‘vital part of solution’ to global challenges

Northeastern graduates participating in fall commencement exercises Dec. 19 were encouraged to be lifelong learners and strive to help find solutions to global economic challenges.

President Don Betz told more than 500 graduates that learning, creativity, and discovery are needed to bring about the opportunities that will “deliver this country, this state, and our world into the next era.”

“I’d like to be able to tell graduates here today that the world is ready for them and that it is filled with new jobs, with more pay, and that economically they will not have to face challenges. But we all read the same newspapers and watch the same television news programs, and we know that we

are in challenging times,” Betz said.

“There is no better way to ensure your opportunity for the future than to prepare the way you have here today—by becoming educated and earning your degree. It’s the beginning of this long journey we call lifelong learning. It is the essential need of an educated population that we dedicate ourselves to learning and to understanding the issues.”

Graduates crossed the stage in three ceremonies held at Jack Dobbins Field House. During the second ceremony, Glenn Coffee, NSU class of 1989 and president pro tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate, told graduates they are “a vital part of the solution.”

Despite challenges facing the world, this generation of college graduates enjoys unique advantages. “Because of technology, you have an opportunity like no other generation before you,” Coffee said. “You can have a global impact on science, technology, law, manufacturing or whatever new profession you choose, from wherever you choose,” Coffee said.

Unlike previous generations, graduates must be prepared to compete not just nationally, but with global counterparts as well. “Our economy is an interwoven fabric that stretches around the globe. The decisions made in Shanghai, Mumbai, London and Brussels impact what happens in Sallisaw, Oklahoma City, Tahlequah and Tulsa,” he said.

He urged graduates to learn from the example set by the “Greatest Generation,” those who survived the Great Depression and fought in World War II. Like them, Coffee noted, “you have an opportunity to leave a legacy of service to your children, your profession, and the world.”

The key to having an impact on society is believing in what you’re doing and finding your passion, Betz told members of NSU’s 2009 centennial class.

“I hope you leave here with a strong sense of personal accomplishment, a strong passion for public service, and the desire to leave the woodpile a little higher than you found it,” the president said.

NSU students experience politics at OIL

A delegation of NSU students recently represented the school at the Second Session of the 41st Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature. OIL is a comprehensive mock legislature begun by Lieutenant Governor George Nigh in 1969 to teach Oklahoma college students about the legislative process.

“The Riverhawk Delegation truly represented NSU fantastically,” said Stephen Rogers, NSU junior and Speaker Pro-Tempore of the OIL House of Representatives. “The delegation collaborated with many people, really executing our university’s values.”

Each semester, OIL delegations from universities across the state meet in a five-day session on the House and Senate floors in the Oklahoma Capitol to examine and debate legislation they’ve created.

Recognitions received by the NSU delegation during the most recent session include the runner-up for Best House Delegation award and the award for Best Legislation in the House.

UPG discussion now on Blackboard

Northeastern faculty and staff can now engage in an online discussion about the future of NSU via Blackboard. Individuals can visit http://blackboard.nsuok.edu/bin/common/enroll_course.pl?context=CLUB&course_id=_9061_1 to join in a discussion about the university’s strategic goals, which are being reframed to fully incorporate the institution’s mission, vision and values, and to recognize current forces in NSU’s internal and external environment.

Participants can interact with campus community members who are interested in Charting the Second Century and can also engage with colleagues on the University Planning Group who completed the initial work on the drafts.

Additional opportunities to participate will be available online and face-to-face during the spring semester. For more information, visit www.nsuok.edu/upg.

NSU student wins Oklahoma college piano competition

Michiko Saiki won first place in the 2009 Oklahoma Music Teachers Collegiate Piano Competition in Stillwater this November. The NSU junior is majoring in piano performance.

The competition was open to all junior and senior pianists attending Oklahoma institutions and included pianists from Oklahoma State University, University of Tulsa, Oklahoma City University and University of Oklahoma.

Saiki performed 20 minutes of memorized solo piano music, which included Ballade No. 2 by Chopin, Reflections dans l'eau by Debussy and Sonata in D Major by Scarlatti.

The judge of the OMTA piano competition, Andrew Trechak of Wichita State University, offered exuberant praise for the NSU junior. Commenting on the pieces, Trechak called Saiki's Chopin "a wonderful performance," stated that she played the Scarlatti with "great style and pizzazz" and that her rendition of the Debussy was "the best performance of Reflections I've heard in a long time," adding finally that the overall performance was "marvelous to witness."

A student of Dr. Ronald Chioldi, Saiki participated in the competition before as a freshman and sophomore.

"Michiko has developed into a very fine pianist in the past year," Chioldi said. "I'm very proud of her. Her sense of musical style, her ear for creating colors on the piano and her growing confidence as a performer are exciting to see. To put this into perspective, imagine an NSU athletic team competing against and beating OU or OSU."

Saiki is from Saitama, Japan. She plans to attend graduate school in the Unites States after completing her musical studies at NSU.

NSU students to attend ReEnergizeOK summit

Northeastern students attended a sustainability summit Nov. 21. Organized by students from universities across the state, ReEnergizeOK was a day-long workshop featuring seminars on clean energy, climate change and sustainability.

"The Summit was about building a movement for a clean and efficient energy future; one that cuts carbon emissions, protects communities and creates thousands of new 'green collar' jobs," said Blake McCammon, NSU student and ReEnergize organizer. "The summit was about climate change and preparing students to rise up to the challenge."

The summit was held at the University of Central Oklahoma. Guest speakers for this event included Jim Roth, former member of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, Ryan Kissel, member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, and Jane Talkington, OSU Sustainability Professor among others.

Specialized topics on the agenda included campaign planning, recruitment, leadership development and grassroots outreach. In addition to the workshops, informational sessions offered insight into topics such as coal, food sustainability, policy creation and other projects to apply to students' respective campuses.



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ROTC cadets take home honors

The cadets of NSU ROTC rifle team performed well on Nov. 13 at a three-position air rifle tournament at the University of Arkansas. The event was hosted by UA's chapter of the Pershing Rifles. Cadet Kelli Trammel was the top shooter in a field of 22 in the Open Precision All Standing competition, in which all shots are taken while standing. Cadet Zachary Whatley finished third in the Sporter Three Position (prone, standing, kneeling) competition. Whatley and Trammel are featured in the front row. Members in the back row are Lauren Lowery, Cadet 2nd Lt. Joseph Muse, George Goss, Cadet Cpl. Collin Fitzgerald and Kaelin Gilcrest. Not pictured are Shawn Dolan, Torrence Sanders and Cadet Sgt. Jason Workman.

Koehn joins NSU as Vice President for Administration and Finance



David Koehn, assistant vice president for finance at the University of Central Oklahoma, was named Nov. 30 to become vice president for administration and finance at Northeastern.

Koehn, who holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from UCO and will receive his master's degree in business administration from the institution in May 2010, joined Central's staff in 1987. He was named assistant vice president for finance in 2001 after serving nine years as controller.

He replaces Kim Cherry, who retired from NSU at the end of fall semester after more than 20 years at the institution.

Koehn's affiliations with the American Institute of CPAs and Oklahoma Society of CPAs date to 1983. He is a member of the National Association of College and University Business Officers since 1988. In 2008 he graduated with the fifth class of the Oklahoma Citizen's Academy.

Koehn is also active in the United Way and Kiwanis Club in Edmond and served on the board of directors of the Wesley Foundation at UCO, 1995-2001.

He assumes his role at NSU on Jan. 5.

RiverHawks elevate soccer with Division I coach



Chase Wooten will join the Northeastern State RiverHawks as women's soccer head coach beginning January 2010.

Wooten leaves his current position as women's head coach at NCAA Division I Centenary College. He is a former assistant coach at the University of Alabama, another NCAA Division I institution.

He inherits a program that faltered in 2009, winning only five of its 17 matches and one LSC contest.

Wooten, who served as head coach of the women's program at Centenary for six years (2003-2009), led the Ladies to two Summit League semifinal appearances and had three players named Summit League Players of the Week this season. He also had several All-Conference and Freshman All-Conference selections.

While at the Shreveport, La., campus Wooten was in charge of travel, academics, budget, recruiting, community service, and served as camp director for over 400 children during the summer.

Tadlock named Provost, Vice President for Academic Affairs



Dr. Martin Tadlock, assistant vice chancellor and professor of curriculum and instruction at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, was announced Dec. 8 to become provost and vice president for academic affairs at Northeastern.

The provost, or chief academic officer, serves as second-in-command at the University and assumes the top leadership role in the president's absence.

Tadlock, who holds a doctorate in administration and leadership from Miami (Ohio) University and a master's degree in English secondary education from Utah State University, joined the UW-Oshkosh administration in 2007. He has been dean of the College of Professional Studies, graduate dean and professor of educational leadership at California State-Monterey Bay, 2006-07; dean of the College of Professional Studies, dean of the School of Graduate Studies and professor of professional education at Bemidji State University, 2001-06, and interim associate dean of the College of Education, middle level education coordinator and program chair, and associate professor in the department of elementary education at Utah State, 1993-2001.

Tadlock holds professional memberships with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, the Professional and Organizational Development Network, the Association of American Colleges and Universities, the World Future Society and Educause.

He serves on the Fox Valley Technical College Advisory Board and authored "Middle Level Education in Small Rural Schools," published in 1995.

Tadlock assumes his post at NSU in January 2010.

During his tenure at Centenary, Wooten placed a high priority on academics and during his Ladies coaching stint, every team obtained a 3.25 grade point average or higher.

While at the University of Alabama from 2001-2003, Wooten served as assistant women's coach. He was the Crimson Tide's recruiting coordinator and served as the goalkeeper trainer. The Tide's 2001 team had the sixth most improved record in the nation.

Wooten played at Centenary College from 1995-98 where he was a goalkeeper and the '98 male student-athlete of the year.

He and his wife Amber have an 11-month-old daughter, Catherine.