

# NORTHWESTERN NEWS

Volume No. 77, Issue 13

Northwestern Oklahoma State University, 709 Oklahoma Blvd, Alva, OK 73717

December 3, 2015



Opinion: Enjoying the little things

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Men's basketball drops five straight

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Editor says goodbye

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## Graduates for fall announced

Fall commencement exercise at Northwestern Oklahoma State University will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 6, in Percefull Fieldhouse.

Tom Evans, owner of Encompass Financial Services, Inc. is a 1983 Northwestern graduate, and will be speaking at the commencement.

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

A reception honoring the graduates will immediately follow the ceremony and be held in the Student Center Ballroom.

A total of 110 candidates will receive bachelor's degrees, eight will receive Master of Education degrees, four will receive Master of Counseling Psychology degrees and three will receive Master of Arts in American Studies degrees.

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

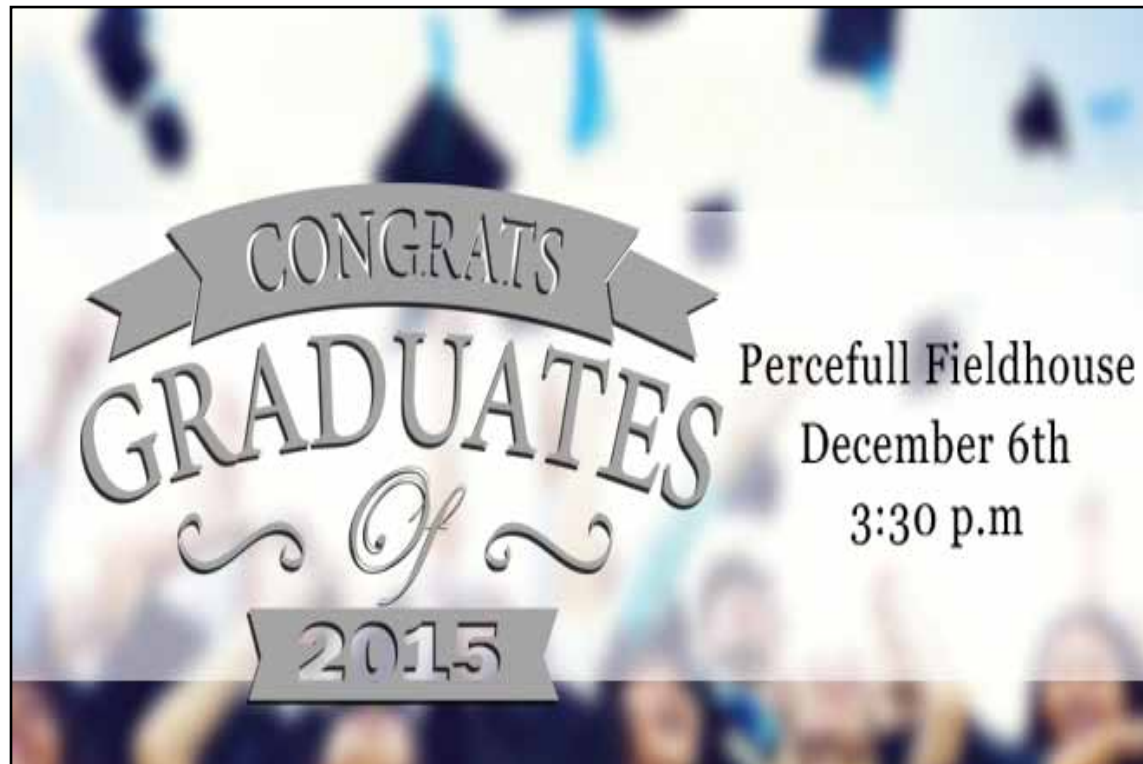
A live internet streaming of the graduation can be found at: <http://nwosu.sidearmsports.com/watch/?Live=50>.

*List of Graduates begins on Page 4*



Photo provided

Tom G. Evans, owner of Encompass Financial Services, Inc. is a 1983 graduate from Northwestern Oklahoma State University, and will be speaking at the 2015 Fall Commencement Exercise set for Sunday, Dec. 6, at 3:30 p.m.



Graphic by Jeff Hamilton

### News Brief: Offices to officially begin holiday break

Northwestern Oklahoma State University will close for the holiday break beginning Wednesday, Dec. 23. Campus offices in Alva, Enid and Woodward will open again on, Jan. 4, 2016.

The spring semester will begin on Monday, Jan. 11. Enrollment for spring courses is open and new and returning students are encouraged to enroll as soon as possible to ensure course availability. The spring semester schedule of courses is available online at [www.nwosu.edu/course-schedules](http://www.nwosu.edu/course-schedules). The last day to enroll is Jan. 20.

# NORTHWESTERN NEWS

Official Newspaper

**Northwestern Oklahoma State University**  
Published weekly throughout the school year except during examination periods and holidays and distributed to students and staff.

News office: Jesse Dunn Annex 232  
Telephone: 327-8479; Fax: 327-8127  
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The News is printed by the Alva Review-Courier

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Letters to the editor shall bear the author's handwritten signature, hometown, classification, title, etc., address and phone number for verification and shall be kept on file. Unsigned letters to the editor will not be published.

Letters must be turned in by noon on Tuesday to the News office in JDA232. Letters via e-mail are acceptable as long as they follow the rules stated above and can be sent to [nwnewsroom@hotmail.com](mailto:nwnewsroom@hotmail.com). Please limit submissions to no more than 250 words. The editors reserve the right to condense or edit any letter for grammar, libel and space limitations. All letters submitted may not be used.

All letters represent the views of the author.

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Yearly subscriptions to the News are \$12.00.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Northwestern Oklahoma State University provides quality educational and cultural opportunities to learners with diverse needs by cultivating ethical leadership, critical thinking, and fiscal responsibility.

# OPINION

## Positivity: Pick up the penny!

By OSAM SAKAMOTO  
Columnist

"Look! I found a penny!" I wonder how many of us would actually be happy if we see a cent on the ground and pick it up as if nobody is watching. Hmm, let me guess. Probably would few of us. (I imagined some raised their hands though!) Happiness acquired from picking up a lost penny on a busy street might not be a very significant thing to be counted as a plus in life. Maybe this example is just too much drama. How many of us would count on pennies anyway? Whoop! There goes the cricket sound. To get to a point, picking up a penny is just a metaphor to finding a little happiness.

There is a saying I like and want to share, and that is "Enjoy the little things." I do believe these are words of wisdom that should not be missed out on. Agree or disagree, we eventually hit the worst of the worst and have to clutch in to slow down a bit during our adventures at its best, which is unfortunately how things work out sometimes.

True quality of life depends on how we respond to all these situations; do we admit it and move on or do we get staggered by it and get haunted for days? My pattern every now and then follows the latter track, blaming on my bad luck and ignoring what I could do instead to turn it around. Taboo. Yet the thing is, it is a devil of a job to forget about what had let motivations down.



How about we start counting what positively happened if we were not able to let go of something? I have a perfect story regarding that. Rewinding to weeks ago, I had a miserable day for failing my nursing program entrance exam. It hit me like a rock, without exaggeration, but I had my buddies who were there for me as a shoulder to lean on. It sure was nice to have such friends and that I have them by my side.

Taking a glimpse of what we do have might be also one quickest tricks to discover goodness around us. Those are god's love and secret gifts. For instance, we have clothing to keep us warm, appear appropriate in public or even disappear from people's sight, speaking to a manly color camouflage.

Likewise, most of us have a vehicle to commute. Some may acknowledge that "This iron thing is a piece of ol' junk." Yet it can still take passengers for a ride without cursing on drivers for a Monday morning trip.

An empty fridge is the worst, and the stomach, after several hops towards it with bouncing excitement to see if there are any yummy food left, but only turning out that there is nothing hid in there. The sight of a fridge with its door wide opened to show emptiness may let us imagine what a fear of impending doom is like. But hey now, we at least have a fridge to keep foods and drinks fresh and cold. If we do have food in a fridge, that is another extra little thing to be enjoyed because there are a myriad of people out there, suffering from starvation at this moment.

Moreover, being a college student cannot be an easy task and is frequently stressful as there is a solid hundred percent chance of showers consist of homework assignments, pennilessness, projects, sleeplessness, and tests that overwhelm students. Yet, we as college students are able to learn new things and build a path to the future while some do not go to college for financial difficulties.

That being said, happiness might have been all about the state of a mind set. If so, this moment could be a right time to change a view towards little things in a positive way. Let's see things positively from today, shall we?

## Don't be cranky for finals

By NATALIE SACKET  
Feature Editor

We are at the end of "dead week" at Northwestern, a concept that totally, most definitely, absolutely DOES NOT EXIST on this campus. Rather than a free week to prepare for numerous looming final exams, we are given the task of writing 39,763 academic papers, becoming a Nobel Prize winner, getting a planet named after you and domesticizing all polar bears on the unconquerable lands of Antarctica. Okay, perhaps it's not quite to that extent, but the pressures of pre-finals week can seem nearly that daunting at times.

With these rising stress levels comes rising grumpy levels, as the campus is filled with sleep-deprived, cranky, hangry college students just barely hanging on until Christmas break. At this point, no one wants to write annotated bibliographies or study for that next chem exam; essentially, we're all just trying to survive day to day.

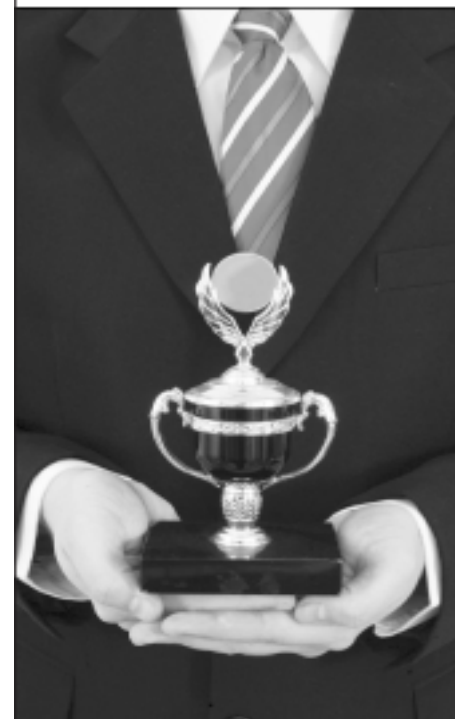
During this time, it is important to remember to stay calm, stay healthy and be good to others around you. We're all going a little insane at this point of the



semester, so it's always a great idea to practice some human decency and remember to smile on occasion. Be good to each other and remember we're all trying to make it, together.

So try not to drown in a pile of notecards covered in facts about microbiology, prop your eyelids open with extra strength, power through those term papers, avoid Netflix (I know, that's like asking you not to breathe), and don't give up. The end is nigh!

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# WHAT'S UP?

## Ranger Calendar of Events



December 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			<b>3</b> Ranger and Lady Ranger Basketball against Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia Ark. 5:30 PM  National Roof Over Your Head Day 	<b>4</b> National Faux Fur Day	<b>5</b> Christmas Spectacular - Herod Hall Auditorium 7:30 - 9:30 PM  Ranger and Lady Ranger Basketball against University of Arkansas Monticello in Monticello 1 PM  CEOE Teacher Testing	<b>6</b> Fall Graduation Commencement - Percefull Fieldhouse 3:30 - 4:30 PM  Commencement Reception - Student Center Ballroom 4:30 - 6:30 PM 
			<b>7</b> Pearl Harbor remembrance day  	<b>8</b> Final Exams  Something Greater Coronado Hall - Ranger Perk 7 - 10 PM  Secular Student Alliance Meeting - Science Ampitheater 7 - 10 PM	<b>9</b> Final Exams	<b>10</b> Final Exams  National Human Rights Day 

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 or  
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All letters must be signed by the writer, and must include phone number, classification, and hometown.

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# News

## Fall graduates announced (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

The graduates, their degrees and their hometowns are as follows:

SUMMA CUM LAUDE  
OKLAHOMA  
LAVERNE – Molly Ann Howard, Bachelor of Science Education in early childhood education  
ASIA  
NEPAL – Teris Dangol, Bachelor of Science in computer science

MAGNA CUM LAUDE  
OKLAHOMA  
BEAVER – Jeremiah Campbell, Bachelor of Science in criminal justice - law enforcement  
HILLSDALE – Jamie McAlister, Bachelor of Science in nursing  
ORLANDO – Jeremy Kenaston, Bachelor of Science in criminal justice – law enforcement and Bachelor of Science in computer science  
TONKAWA – Stephanie Quammen, Bachelor of Arts in English  
WAYNOKA – Bryne Beck, Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting  
ARIZONA  
PRESCOTT VALLEY – Chad Cohan, Bachelor of Business Administration in business administration  
FLORIDA  
BRANFORD – Kendall Hall, Bachelor of Arts in sociology  
CUM LAUDE  
OKLAHOMA  
ALVA – Karolyn Cole, Bachelor of Science Education in elementary education  
CHEROKEE – Kohannah Hess, Bachelor of Science in psychology  
ENID – Georgia Spoon, Bachelor of Business Administration in business administration

WOODWARD – Matthew

Weber, Bachelor of Science in computer science  
NEBRASKA  
WALLACE – Josi Hasenauer, Bachelor of Arts in political science and Bachelor of Science Education in social science education

MASTER OF  
EDUCATION  
OKLAHOMA  
ALVA – Tara Lynn Hannaford, adult education management and administration  
ENID – Tara Jo Hunt, school counseling  
GUTHRIE – Chase Alan Langley, educational leadership; Jennifer Privette, educational leadership; Tonia Lynn Siess, educational leadership  
MEDFORD – Brandi Kay Langford, school counseling  
WANN – Keenan Rondo Meeker, adult education management and administration  
CALIFORNIA  
HIGHLAND – Lailani Legacion Maile, secondary education, non-certificate  
MASTER OF  
COUNSELING  
PSYCHOLOGY  
OKLAHOMA  
ENID – Kristin Leigh Mosqueda; Tonya Annette Schlecht  
GOODWELL – Jannie Leigh Watson  
WOODWARD – Donovan Lane Austin

MASTER OF ARTS IN  
AMERICAN STUDIES  
OKLAHOMA  
ENID – Sarah Marie Hardaway  
MOORELAND – Patricia Kathleen Byrd  
KANSAS  
KIOWA – Rebekah Marie Wagenbach

BACHELOR OF ARTS  
OKLAHOMA  
HARMON – Lee

Pennington, general studies  
TONKAWA – Daniel Long, general studies  
WOODWARD – Lauren Turner, music  
AFRICA  
ACCRA – Edem Attor, political science

BACHELOR OF ARTS  
EDUCATION  
OKLAHOMA  
COVINGTON – Joshua Dickson, social science education  
SUPULPA – Samy Mack III, social science education

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION  
OKLAHOMA  
BURLINGTON – Ashley A. Armbruster, business administration; Kevin Christopher Smith, accounting  
ENID – Shelly L. Lohan, business administration; Loni Leslie Pitts, business administration; Sandra Robinett, business administration  
FARGO – Brandi Mechelle Peebles, business administration  
HELENA – David J. Epperson, business administration  
MEDFORD – Kaley J. Thresher, business administration  
NORMAN – Francesca Valley, business administration  
TULSA – Jacob Smith, accounting  
WOODWARD – Joshua Scott Cook, business administration; Mistie Kay Dunn, business administration  
CALIFORNIA  
RED BLUFF – Haley Matheson, business administration  
KANSAS

COLDWATER – Lauren Herd, accounting  
TEXAS  
FERRIS – James B. Dye III, business administration  
VIRGINIA  
CHESAPEAKE – Brandi Lee Mendenhall, business administration  
AFRICA  
ACCRA – Jonathan Dwamena, business administration  
BRITISH COLUMBIA  
FORT SAINT JOHN – Stephen Culling, business administration

BACHELOR OF MUSIC  
EDUCATION  
OKLAHOMA  
ALVA – Riley Wiebener-Faulkner, vocal  
HOOKER – Joshua Faulkner, vocal

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE  
OKLAHOMA  
ALTUS – Aaron Daniels, computer science  
ALVA – April Johonna French, chemistry  
ATWOOD – Dagan C. Holliman, biology – health science  
BLACKWELL – Rachel R. Brown, psychology; Ashlee Nicole Fleming, criminal justice – law enforcement  
BURLINGTON – Kendall W. Clark, agriculture  
CHEROKEE – Derek Dwight Richmond, agriculture  
COVINGTON – Gabrielle Justine Venard, psychology  
ENID – Jennifer Mae Carrube-Cole, psychology; Madeline Grace Craig,

psychology; Darryl Gaddis, computer science; Sarah Elizabeth Gerszewski, criminal justice – law enforcement; Sharon Kay Snow, organizational leadership; Jo Ellen Vogt, computer science  
GLENPOOL – Amanda Watashe, health and sports science education  
HELENA – Mindy Jene Finney, psychology  
HENNESSEY – Kelsie Shenae Howard, psychology  
HINTON – Tanner Jay Hansen, agriculture  
JET – Keela Leigh Worman, psychology  
LAVERNE – Brett Austin Burlingham, agriculture; Rustin Reid Hayes, agriculture  
MOORELAND – Samuel David Kruckenberg, agriculture; Dalanie Mae Ridge, psychology  
OCHELATA – Anthony Blake Fogle, criminal justice – law enforcement  
PONCA CITY – Gabrielle Barnes, psychology; Ashley Brooke Eddinger, health and sports science education; Wendi Kaylene Herron, organizational leadership  
RINGWOOD – Tyson Lee Hiebert, agriculture  
SAPULPA – Bridget Nicole Shook, criminal justice – law enforcement; Derrick A. Stephens, criminal justice – law enforcement  
TONKAWA – Phillip C. Erwin, computer science – information systems  
WAYNOKA – Tyler Ashton, mathematics

Continues on page 5

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**Hurry! Just a few left!!!**

# Fall graduates announced (cont.)

*Continued from page 4*

**WOODWARD** – Tyler James VanCampen, agriculture

**ARKANSAS**

**JORDAN** – Robert Lee, computer science

**CALIFORNIA**

**SAN DIEGO** – Corey Joseph Brewer, psychology

**COLORADO**

**HOLLY** – Preston Lowe, health and sports science education

**KANSAS**

**ANTHONY** – Hunter Lanae Kelley, biology – natural science

**NEWTOWN** – Jacob McGuire, health and sports science education

**TEXAS**

**GRAND PRAIRIE** – Ty Jameson Chapa, health and sports science education

**KOPPERL** – Jeffrey Scott Hamilton, mass communication

**AFRICA**

**ACCRA** – Francis Declan, biology – health science

**CANADA**

**BURLINGTON** – Jason Edward Barlett, health and sports science education

**INNISFUL** – Joshua Caruso, criminal justice – law enforcement

**NEPAL**

**KATHMANDU** – Bipin Shrestha, computer science

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE EDUCATION**

**OKLAHOMA**

**ALVA** – Taryn Shea Phillips, elementary education

**AMES** – Kyler Scott Patterson, health and sports science education

**BLACKWELL** – Ashlee Nicole Fleming, elementary education

**CHEYENNE** – Aaron Christopher Ford, health and sports science education

**ELK CITY** – Hayli LeAnn Miller, agriculture education

**ENID** – Ana Lourdez Gomez, elementary education; Deseray Ann Horton, elementary education; Jessica Tatro, early childhood education

**MEDFORD** – Lauren Elizabeth Blubaugh, elementary education

**MOORELAND** – Michalia LeighAnn McDonald, early childhood education

**PONCA CITY** – Brandy Nicole Rinas, elementary education

**POND CREEK** – Allison Lenai Regier, elementary education

**SHARON** – Julia Mikeal Nail, early childhood education

**VICI** – Amanda Dawn Cutsinger, early childhood education

**WOODWARD** – Miranda Stafford, early childhood education

**TEXAS**

**SOUTH COFFEYVILLE** – Hannah Rene Hamilton, early childhood education

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING**

**OKLAHOMA**

**EDMOND** – Melissa Ann Adams

**ENID** – Lael Melissa Pepe

**GARBER** – Tiffany Rene Reinschmidt

**MEDFORD** – Holly Nicole Kretchmar

**OKLAHOMA CITY** – Jackeline Vanessa Pickelsimer

**PONCA CITY** – Amy Lou Hurd

**TONKAWA** – Cara Frances Dyson

**STILLWATER** – Rebekah Emerson

## Fine Arts Dept. to hold Christmas concert

By JACLYN BURKE  
*Student Writer*

Northwestern's department of fine arts presents the Holiday Gala and Lighting Ceremony Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Herod Hall Auditorium.

Director of Choral Studies Karsten Longhurst, said it has been a tradition that the band and choir does a joint concert. He said the two groups are trying to establish this joint concert as an ongoing tradition for the coming years.

Two choirs will be performing at the holiday concert, Longhurst said. The two groups are University Chorale and University Singers. Both of the groups are auditioned, but University Chorale is the larger of the two groups with 40 singers. The University Singers is the top choir group at Northwestern and has 20 members.

He said the choirs will be performing numerous holiday and Christmas songs such as "Santa Baby," "Baby it's Cold Outside," "Halleluiah" from Brazillian Psalm, "First Noel," "Cradle Carol" and a Christmas medley including "Santa Clause is Coming to Town," "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" and "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas."

There will be a surprise soloist for Santa Baby.

Longhurst said there will be choreography and caroling to keep the audience fully entertained. There will also be tunes that the audience can sing along to such as "Deck the Halls," "Jingle Bells" and "O Christmas Tree."

Marc Decker, director of bands, said there will be two band groups performing at the concert. The Northwestern Jazz Ensemble, which has around 12 members, will perform "You're a Mean One Mr. Grinch," "Nutcracker Rock" and "We Three Kings."

The Symphony Band, made

up of about 25 people, will perform a Christmas Medley, "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "The Chipmunk Song."

Decker said the concert will conclude with a holiday sing along for the entire audience to enjoy. He said the program is diverse, so there won't be any overlapping songs.

He said the program is much shorter than usual. It is a brief, entertaining and concise program that is expected to last about an hour.

Tracy Meza, a senior majoring in theater, said the Northwestern theater program will be running the lights and audio for the concert.

After the concert, there will be a tree lighting ceremony outside. Northwestern Oklahoma State University President Janet Cunningham will light the tree.

Admission for the Gala is free.

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NWTV



# News

## Students attend 'Career Connection'

Students in the Principles and Methods of Teaching class at Northwestern Oklahoma State University took part in the annual Career Connection Fair "From Learning to Earning" at the Northwest Technology Center in Alva on Nov. 20.

More than 200 sixth grade students from schools in the area participated in eight different career clusters to learn about various opportunities in agriculture, business, construction, bio-medical, education, health, transportation and personal services.

"The youth explore career options through hands-on activities and presentations by rotating through the many career clusters during the day," said Connie Jacobs, instructor of education. "The Northwestern Principles and Methods of Education class prepared and conducted a career cluster to encourage the sixth graders to consider a career in the

teaching profession."

Jacobs explained the course that she teaches focuses on the role of the teacher as a learning facilitator who provides educational activities through various instructional methods to engage all learners in critical thinking, creativity and collaborative problem-solving related to local and global issues.

"One way to achieve the course focus is through authentic field experience opportunities such as the Northwest Technology Center's sixth grade Career Connections Fair," Jacobs said. "This year, the Northwestern teacher candidates created fun learning stations that highlighted their specific areas of study or majors."

Students in the class include social science education major Grace Tepe, Woodward senior; health and sports science education majors Caitlin Clark, Ponca

City senior, and Shelby Anderson, Mountain Hope, Arkansas, senior; English education majors Kambria Witschi, Shattuck senior, and Ali Harbin, Anthony, Kansas, senior; and mathematics education majors Matthew Thomas, Alva senior; Scotty McCartney, Harper, Kansas, senior; Austin Hawkins, Cherokee senior; and Dakota Buckhaults, Buffalo senior.

Seven Northwestern cheerleaders also helped during the career fair by leading a physical activity for the students.

Helping with the games were Dalton Burlie, Cherokee sophomore; Emily Cenicerros, Buffalo sophomore; Alexia Geer, Stillwater sophomore; Aleah Lasker, Palm-dale, California, freshman; Melissa Noland, Anchorage, Alaska, sophomore; Jordan Whitfield, Texhoma freshman; and Shaq Williams, Davenport, Florida, sophomore.

For more information contact Jacobs at (580) 327-8459 or csja-



Photo provided

Northwestern cheerleader Shaq Williams leads students in a fun outdoor activity during the Career Connection Fair at the Northwest Technology Center.

cobs@nwosu.edu. To learn more about Northwestern's Division of Education or how to become a teacher, contact Jacobs or Dr. Christee Jenlink, professor of education and chair of the Division of Education, at (580) 327-8450

or cljenlink@nwosu.edu. To find out more information about the Northwestern cheerleading squad, contact Brooke Ciolino, cheer coach, at (580) 327-8132 or kbciolino@nwosu.edu.

## Mark Twain bust donated for fundraiser

Members in Northwestern Oklahoma State University's English program sold tickets for a chance to win a donated Mark Twain bust for a fundraiser for their Visiting Writers' Series.

This series bring writers to campus to present their works to the local community, campus and gives students the opportunity to work with the authors.

Tickets were sold to family, friends, English department supporters and people in the community at the beginning of the 2015 fall semester until Homecoming, Oct. 10, for \$5 apiece. The drawing took place after the Homecoming parade and local businessman and banker Terry Ross of Alva won the bust. Ross donated the bust to the J.W. Martin Library to be displayed.

Creator of the bust was Nancy Russell. Other artwork of hers includes the Dale Brown bronze displayed at the Runnymede Hotel in downtown Alva. Her husband Sheldon is a 1968 Northwestern alumnus who earned a degree in



Photo provided

Gathered for the donation of the Mark Twain bust was (left to right) Verna Graybill, Sheldon Russell, Nancy Russell, Terry Ross and Kathy Earnest.

English. He is the author of several novels inspired by northwest Oklahoma, including "The Yard Dog."

In 2006 his "Dreams to Dust: A Tale of the Oklahoma Land Rush" won the Oklahoma Book Award in Fiction and

was selected as an official Oklahoma Centennial Project. Both artists have items displayed and for purchase at

the Graceful Arts Center. For more information contact Dr. Kathy Earnest (580) 327-8472.

**Northwest Oklahoma Concert Series**

Season Tickets - Students \$20 - Adults \$40  
 General Admission - Students w/I.D. \$10 - Adults \$15  
 1:30 p.m. - Herod Hall Auditorium - Alva, OK

The Red Dirt Rangers Oct. 20, 2015  
 Jeff & Stacy Pederson Dec. 1, 2015  
 Justin Pierce Jazz Quintet Feb. 16, 2016  
 Runa March 8, 2016

# SPORTS

## Men lose five straight Look to rebound on the road this weekend

By ALEX REYES  
*Student Writer*

The Rangers fall in three tough losses to Harding, Arkansas Tech, and Emporia State to open Great American Conference play.

The Rangers first conference game against Harding University was a 19-point loss. They played Arkansas Tech shortly thereafter and lost by one point 69-70 at the end.

Their loss to Emporia State was 72-80.

They will take a short road trip and play their next two games on the road. At Southern Arkansas in Magnolia, Ark. and the University of Arkansas at Monticello, Monticello Ark.

The Rangers have had a tough start of the season. They have lost all five of their regular season games. Three of those five games were by three points or less.

The Rangers have forced

many turnovers this year swarming around. The Rangers have only one game with less than five steals. That doesn't include turnovers forced from tough defensive play.

The Rangers are facing many teams this season that have seven footers. While the tallest player for the Rangers is Austin Klug at six feet nine inches.

Emporia State has faced, and lost, to two great Division I basketball programs in Kansas State University and Wichita State University. The Rangers managed to play them close and only lost by eight points.

Southern Arkansas doesn't have near as an impressive résumé as Emporia State but you can't overlook any opponent during basketball. It only takes a good shooting night for the other team and a bad shooting night for yours to chalk up a loss on the schedule.

Arkansas Monticello is in the same loss column as Northwestern

but not necessarily in the same boat. The Rangers' losses have been close, even the Harding game felt a lot closer than the scoreboard showed at the final buzzer. Arkansas Monticello has only had one loss within five points.

The Rangers stat leaders are keeping them in games. The season will boil down to bench play and team chemistry if the Rangers want to finish with a winning season.

The Rangers leading scorer and rebounder Adrian Motley is playing consistent basketball. Motley has an undeniable mid-range and an underrated hustle.

Leading in assists is Brandon Green. He totaled 89 assists last season for the Rangers and is already at 27 assists just five games in.

The Rangers play Southern Arkansas tonight in Magnolia, at 7:30 p.m. Then on Saturday they'll head to the University of Arkansas at Monticello to face the Weevils to end their road trip.

### Men's GAC basketball standings

<u>Team</u>	<u>Record</u>
1) Southwestern	2-0
2) Southeastern	2-0
3) Southern Nazarene	2-0
4) Oklahoma Baptist	1-1
5) Southern Arkansas	1-1
6) Arkansas Tech	1-1
7) East Central	1-1
8) Harding	1-1
9) Ouachita	1-1
10) Arkansas-Monticello	0-2
11) Henderson State	0-2
12) Northwestern	0-2

## Basketball falls to Wonder Boys before Thanksgiving



(LEFT) Ranger Adrian Motley tries to find a way past the Wonder Boy defense during Northwestern's 69-70 loss on Nov. 21 at home.



(RIGHT) Ranger T'aries Taylor fights past Wonder Boys' Nick Wayman en route to a game high 25 points.



(RIGHT) Ranger Lakeem Henderson sets up for a three pointer against a Wonder Boy defender.

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# SPORTS

## Volleyball finishes sixth in GAC after first round loss in playoffs

By JACLYN BURKE  
Student Writer

Northwestern volleyball fell to the Southwestern Bulldogs, 3-1 in the Great American Conference tournament on Nov. 19 in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

According to riderangerside.com, a few stand-out players were Natalie Fahey, a junior from San Jose, California; Nora To'omalatai, a junior from Hesperia, California; Kaydee Yukawa, a senior from Honolulu, Hawaii; and Asia Pipkin, a junior from Rancho Cucamonga, California.

Fahey led the Rangers in total kills with 15 and she also added four total blocks. To'omalatai was right behind her with 11 total kills. Yukawa led the team in total assists with 29. Pipkin aided the defensive effort with 14 digs and

10 contributed kills.

The Rangers claimed the first set with a score of 25-22 in the first round of the tournament.

Vanessa Maile, a junior from Highland, California, said, the team was aggressive and driven to win because of the teams past matches against the Bulldogs.

Pipkin said the ladies left their all on the court in the first set. "Nothing was able to hit our side of the court without some type of effort," she said.

The Bulldogs took the remaining three sets with scores of 21-25, 18-25 and 21-25.

Maile said the team stopped being aggressive in these finals sets. "We dug ourselves and hole and couldn't get out of it," she said.

Pipkin said, "The game was at our fingertips but we just couldn't grasp it." The team was struggling to find common ground when it

came to its defense and offense, she said.

Although the Rangers were defeated, the ladies still made history for Northwestern. According to riderangerside.com, this was the first NCAA Division II era post season play in the history of Northwestern athletics since becoming eligible through the National Collegiate Athletic Association this past September.

Maile said, "It was an honor and privilege to be the first sports team at Northwestern to compete in the GAC post-tournament. It was an exciting and new experience."

She said the team has made a lot of improvements throughout the season. The ladies started the season off with a new coach, a new system and 10 new players, so everyone was adjusting. "We had a rough start, but when we played at home that's when we found our

spark as a team," she said.

Pipkin said this has been one of her favorite years to play at Northwestern. She said it was hard to find the chemistry in the first game and the ladies' talent wasn't showing. "As the season went on, the chemistry and atmosphere on the court changed dramatically," she said.

She said the team had an amazing coach and her teammates her great. "The talent and effort from the newbies was out of this world. They came in with the mindset to play for the name on their shirts and they did, they represented the name well," she said.

Head coach, Fredrick Wagner, said, "The team and individual players stepped on the practice court each day to improve. The system continued to improve each day, unfortunately, we simply ran out of days this season."

## Women's basketball recap

By ADRIANA BECERRA  
Student Writer

While everyone was getting ready for Thanksgiving break, the Rangers women's basketball team has been in action and working hard.

They took on non-conference opponent Oklahoma Panhandle State University. Rangers claimed the win with a score of 72-63 on Nov. 24.

Leading the Rangers with 18 points in the match up was Deja Beechum. She also finished with one steal, one block and seven rebounds. Kamera Bozeman helped out on the defensive side of the ball with eleven total rebounds. Bozeman also scored eight points, two blocks and two steals.

Rangers faced Arkansas Tech before OPSU. Rangers lost to the Golden Suns 105-64. Bozeman was back in action again. She totaled 23 total points and 11 rebounds. Jaylyn Robinson helped out offensively with 11 total points.

Northwestern also had a match up with Harding University. Rangers were defeated in that game 64-42.

It was Kaci Hansen's time to shine offensively with 12 points. She also have seven rebounds.

Ashley Pride had eight total assist. Defensively Micaela Yu added two steals.

Northwestern will be on the road as the Rangers travel to Magnolia, Ark. to face Great American Conference opponent Southern Arkansas tonight at 5:30 p.m.

The Rangers will travel next to Monticello, Ark. on Saturday to face conference foe Arkansas-Monticello at 1 p.m.

## College rankings show little movement

By BRANDON WILLIS  
Student Writer

The new college football playoff rankings were announced on Tuesday and without any surprise, the committee thought the top four was fine right where they were.

The Clemson Tigers come into Championship week ranked number one. The Tigers defeated their in-state rivals South Carolina Gamecocks 37-32 led by their star quarterback Deshaun Watson who threw for 279 yards and a touchdown.

The Tigers are locked in at number one spot unless they lose to the North Carolina Tar Heels in the Atlantic Coastal Conference Championship this Saturday.

The final three playoff spots are still under consideration.

The second ranked team in the college playoff rankings is Alabama Crimson Tide. In a week of historic rivalries, Alabama took on their bitter in state rival, Auburn. It was

a game in which the Crimson Tide rolled to a 29-13 victory. Alabama has been many of the experts pick to win the National Championship according to SB Nation. "After dominating Mississippi State to move to 9-1 on the season, Alabama is now the sole betting favorite to win the national championship," Kevin Trahan said.

Daniel Uthman of USA Today Sports believes that the Crimson Tide is a four gone conclusion to be in the playoffs unless they slip up in the South Eastern Conference Championship. "That strength of schedule has impressed the committee and seemingly locks the Tide into one of the four seeds if they win out," Uthman said. "But a loss to Florida, coupled with its home loss to Ole Miss, could knock out Alabama altogether."

Number three Oklahoma has sealed their fate with a dominating 58-23 beat down of rival Oklahoma State. The Sooners come into the Championship weekend at 11-1 overall and 8-1 in Big XII

play. Oklahoma has the worse loss of all the teams currently in the playoff race as they loss to the Texas Longhorns Oct. 10 24-17. The Sooners are coming off a seven game winning streak where they beat the number three, six, and eighteenth ranked teams in the country. With the Big XII not having a delegated conference championship game some thought that OU wouldn't get in but their play recently has solidified a spot in the playoffs.

The final playoff spot is still up for grabs. Currently, the Iowa Hawkeyes hold the final bid but they will face number five Michigan State this Saturday for the Big Ten Championship. Iowa is undefeated headed into the game and if they win they will seal their ticket to the college playoff. However, many believe that Iowa will lose this Saturday. The Spartans come into the championship game with an 11-1 record with their only loss to a 5-7 Nebraska Cornhuskers by one point. The winner of this Hawkeye-

Spartan matchup will take up the final playoff spot.


Where there was movement however, was just outside of the top four in the standings.

From sixth through tenth, the most movement of the selection was seen in this the fifth week of the college football rankings.

The new No. 6 team in the nation is the Ohio State Buckeyes. They are coming off a massive 42-13 win over BIG foe Michigan. The new No. 7 team is the Stanford Cardinal. The Cardinal is coming off a game of the week performance against Notre Dame. Stanford managed to find a way past that Fighting Irish as time expired in route to a two point win. Notre Dame on the other hand seen themselves drop two spots to No. 8 after coming up short in that battle with Stanford last Saturday night.

The final college football playoff rankings will be released Tuesday at noon. To follow along with the selection, tune into ESPN or collegefootballplayoff.com.

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# Features

## It's not you; it's me

Editor reflects on memories of Northwestern News while saying 'goodbye'

By **MICHAEL COLLINS**  
Editor-In-Chief

The year was 2012 when a goofy little freshman from Hooker, Oklahoma arrived on Alva's campus. He was a bright young kid with a big smile and even bigger hair (seriously, it was like Edward Cullen in "Twilight" big.) He didn't know it at the time, such is life, but one day, that bright little boy from the Panhandle would walk far into the world, even further from the small town of Alva. His face would show the journey. His belt would gain a few more notches (mentally and physically both).

But for the moment, that face was filled with a youthful vibrancy that one feels when the world is at their fingertips. Through the endless possibilities in front of him, he chose Mass Communications as his major. He hoped to forge his own path.

Now that we have the dramatic, self-reflective intro out of the way, I want to go ahead and say my goodbye. When I joined the Northwestern News Staff as a small-time Ad Designer, I came in with only one goal: to save my city (kidding, but hey shout-out to all the "Arrow" fans out there). No, but I did come with the idea that I wanted to make a difference. I wanted to leave behind a small legacy of my own here that would stand long after I graduated. Well, as I write this, I stand on the precipice of my last issue and four years working for this newspaper, and I must honestly say that I have fallen short of that goal. And that's okay.

What I leave behind may not be remembered by many, but I wouldn't take back my efforts for anything in the world. I put my heart and soul into this paper. That's really the bittersweet reality of life: you may not arrive at the destination you chose for yourself, but how can you not at least be proud of the journey?

I may not leave behind a glowing example of how to be a



The picture on the left shows Michael as a freshman, and the picture on the right shows Michael transformed to a senior.

great editor (or even a good one for that manner), yet I have created some of my fondest memories here at this newspaper that I will cherish

for many years to come. In fact, the more I think of it, that's all I've actually ever wanted.

It's the long nights of page layout and personal stories with amazingly fun people like Melanie Wilderman, Coty Green, Clay Thomas, Brenda Hearn, Anthony Moffa and Jay Lee that will fill me with joy after I'm gone. It's the good-natured jokes at Natalie Sacket's expense during story assignments (Nat Sack, you are most definitely fired) that will make me smile years down the road. Most of all, it's the lessons each and every person that has worked for this newspaper has taught me that I will take with me for the rest of my life. That's what I'll look back on with pride, and no one can take that from me.

Yes, I know I said I would say my goodbye four paragraphs ago, but now it's the time for the hard part of the writing (I tried

not to cry, but I made no promises).

To the three Newspaper advisors I've worked under in my four years: thank you for your guidance and lessons. Because of you all, I have come out a better writer, editor and perhaps, even a better person. Melanie Wilderman, you'll always have a special

place in my heart no matter how cheesy that sounds. You gave me my first job at the newspaper. You took me in; you showed me the ropes; you made me want to be better every day. Thank you for believing in my potential and helping me find my own voice. Most of all, thank you for being my teacher and my friend.

To the two editors that I worked under, Cali Crissup and Coty Green, thank you both for giving me an example to follow. You could probably attest to the shy little guy I was when I arrived, but trust me I have grown up so much since then. You both, in your own unique ways, helped to bring me out of my shell. Thanks for teaching me how to grow here in this newsroom.

Anthony Moffa, thanks for being one of the best (if not best, by far the oldest) friends that I've ever had. You are seriously awesome, and if you're reading this, you have so much potential and ability to offer the world. Don't ever sell yourself short, because to me, you are the jack of all trades. Thanks for being someone I could vent to, learn from, and make the best inside jokes of all time with. I will never forget you (especially not your Jesus beard).

Huge thanks to Natalie Sacket for being my "rock," so to speak, for three years. You have

I put my heart and soul into this paper. That's really the bittersweet reality of life: you may not arrive at the destination you chose for yourself, but how can you not at least be proud of the journey?

been a reporter, photographer, columnist, editor and friend. I truly don't know how you are physically able to do all the many tasks and jobs you do in the span of 24 hours. Without your talent, your charming wit, and your undying ability to make me feel better about myself even in the most trying times, I might have never made it to the place I am today. I don't normally tell you this out loud, but you truly are an amazing and one of a kind individual. Thank you for support, your gift of writing, and your knack for getting yourself "fired" all the time. You are going to make Jordan Evans (big congrats on his new position as Ad Manager here at the Northwestern News, by the way) a very happy man.

My next goodbye goes to the heart and soul of this newspaper: this year's staff. To my editors, Natalie Sacket, Nick Villalobos, Jordan McLemore and Kat Ball, thank you for a memorable last year. Thank you for all your hard work and patience. I know I'm not the easiest boss in the world to deal with, but you all honestly make my job worth having. Continue to grow and lead this paper in the right direction.

My final goodbye goes to my successor, Nick Villalobos. Thank you for stepping up to a

new role and responsibility each year you were here. You started as a sports reporter and proved your worth as my sports editor. Now, you are now the big boss and the face of the franchise (don't let it go to your head though; I'm not sure your skinny legs could support that). In you, I see that eager fire to learn and grow that I had when I started. Don't lose that fire. That's what will take you the distance and beyond. I have the utmost faith in you to carry this newspaper on into the future. My advice to you would be three things that I learned as editor myself.

1. Don't be afraid to grow and change. Breathe new life into this paper by making it your own.

2. Stay humble. No matter how important you may think you are, there's always a place to improve.

3. Have fun with your job. If there's any lesson that was most important, it's this one. No matter how driven you are to complete your goals, never forget the journey you make to get there. That's where you'll meet the most influential people in your life. That's where your soul is at. Make your journey something you'll never forget. I know I did.



One of Michael's fondest moments with Northwestern News was spending a snow day with advisor, Melanie Wilderman, and staff.

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# Features

## 'Cinderella! Cinderella!' delights audiences

By **NATALIE SACKET**  
Feature Editor

"Cinderella! Cinderella!" came waltzing across the Northwestern stage Nov. 19, 20 and 21, delighting large audiences with its fun, magical performance.

The children's theater productions at Northwestern are typically performed by a primarily novice class consisting of students from Professor Kimberly Weast's Acting I course. In a period of three demanding days filled with a total of five performances, the "Cinderella! Cinderella!" cast performed in front of nearly 1,600 energetic, rambunctious children.

In most children productions I've seen on the Northwestern stage, the cast gels quite well, and

though there may be standouts, there is a cohesive feeling to the cast. In "Cinderella! Cinderella!" however, it was apparent who the novice actors were and who has prior experience on the collegiate stage. Standouts from the cast included Trenton Judd as Herald Herold, Michelle Penner as Lady Lotta Bonbon, Nicholas Wygle as Prince, and Mickey Jordan as Tom the cat.

Judd provided a phenomenal amount of energy and humor to a demanding character. Penner was fantastic comic relief, especially considering she took a one-dimensional character and made her entirely captivating and hilarious. Wygle, though a freshman in his first acting role at NWOSU, proved to be a strong lead character, and I expect

future standout performances from him. Mickey Jordan brought significant sass and hilarity to his furry feline character, Tom.

The only downside regarding the acting was that a few of the actors were of lower energy than the others, causing the performance as a whole to prove to be less of a magical experience than one might hope. I kept hoping for several of the lead actors to add more oomph to their roles, but several scenes grew quite stagnant. Unfortunately, Cinderella not only lost her glass slipper, but my attention as well.

Tech was spectacular as always, designed and created by the talented NWOSU theater students. Special effects, set, light and audio blended seamlessly to create a wonderful ambiance and setting for the performance. Costumes and



Photo by Osamu Sakamoto

Pictured above is part of the "Cinderella! Cinderella!" cast.

makeup were elegant and appropriate for the production, and props were effective and well-used.

Overall, Weast directed a delightful children's performance, and

I know that it brought joy to many elementary students. Great job to the cast and crew for their hard work and yet another successful performance.

## Northwestern reflects on Christmas traditions

By **TRACY MEZA**  
Student Writer

With Christmas less than a month away and rapidly approaching, Northwestern Oklahoma State University students, staff and alumni share what their favorite Christmas memories and traditions are. 'Tis the season to be jolly!



"My favorite Christmas memory is when we used to all go to my grandparents for Christmas, aunts, uncles, cousins galore. Before bed, grandpa would get out the huge family bible and read the story of Jesus' birth.

Tali McDonald  
Northwestern Alumnus



"I love secret Santa on Christmas Eve at my grandparents' house. All of my family, including my aunts, uncles and cousins go. It's nice because it makes you buy something for someone you might otherwise have forgotten."

ShyAnn Floyd  
Freshman Speech/Theatre Major



"My family makes an abundance of food then opens gifts. Then the fun part is playing who is taking home the food, the winner is the one who doesn't."

Nick Wygle  
Freshman Biology Major



"My favorite memories are playing games with the family. Our tradition that makes the Weast clan go insane is an indoor scavenger-hunt my mom creates every year. We are competitive!"

Professor Kimberly Weast



"My favorite memory is opening all of our presents on Christmas Eve and having a huge dinner, then playing bingo for hours with a lot of different prizes. The whole family gets together to play, eat and open presents!"

Lacey Belvin  
freshman biology major



"When we were young, my siblings and I would pile into the same bed on Christmas Eve and talk until our mom told us to go to sleep. We would always wake up super early on Christmas, sneak out to the living room to see if Santa had come yet. Then we would run to wake up our parents so we could open our presents."

Ashley Urban  
senior education major

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# Northwestern professor offers yoga classes

By MEGAN GARNETT  
Student Writer

Standing on your head can help improve your memory, according to Venkata Moorthy, Ph.D.

Before teaching at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Moorthy taught botany, genetics and microbiology among other classes at St. Joseph's College in Bangalore, India for 10 years. After that, he taught for four years at The University of Oklahoma.

Now, Moorthy has been a full time professor of biology at NWOSU for 21 years. Botany, pathogenic microbiology and immunology are among his many courses.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Moorthy teaches a yoga class between 5:30 and 6:30p.m. at the J.R. Holder Wellness Center on NWOSU's campus. He has been teaching yoga at Northwestern for the last ten years and has practiced yoga for more than 30 years.

"Yoga is connecting three things together. Body, mind and spirit. It helps people focus," Moorthy said.

To become a perfect person, Moorthy said that it is important to remember five P's.

Proper breathing, proper exercise, proper relaxation, proper diet and proper attitude.

He explained that proper breathing is important because it helps to supply enough oxygen. "Blood carries oxygen everywhere, so that helps with producing energy. That's why people who practice yoga are very energetic," Moorthy explained. "If you breathe properly, you get a lot of energy."

In his yoga classes, Moorthy asks his students to stand upside down. "I make them stand upside down so that their brain cells get a high amount of blood flow that rehydrates the brain," Moorthy said.

"That's how neurons work. If they're dry, they do not function."

By following these five P's, he said, "It just makes an individual perfect."

Students can attend Moorthy's classes for free by bringing their student ID. NWOSU faculty can also attend for free. He explained that the public is also welcome to attend and that the class is free to those who hold a membership to the Wellness Center.

For his yoga class, Moorthy recommends his students bring their own matt and wear something comfortable. He also asks students to remove their shoes.

He also said that it is important not to eat heavy food before class.

"You can eat something that is light, like milk or juice. Why is that? Some of the

positions make you bend your stomach or bend your body, and at times you might have vomiting or throw up sensations, and that can mess up the digestion."

Moorthy said he would encourage anyone to try yoga, regardless of age or level of fitness.

"There are no special qualifications to start yoga," Moorthy said. "Yoga is for anybody. No age restriction, nothing. Even when people are not healthy, they can practice yoga. What I do is I start with the basics in the fall semester and continue with the spring. And the spring is more advanced. I have some people who have been coming for the past ten years."

Liz Parkhurst, a physical therapist, is one of Moorthy's students. She has been attending his yoga classes for seven years. She and her friend and classmate Liz Bittle, who has been attending for three years, are in their sixties. They both expressed that the class is open to all levels.

"[Moorthy] encourages beginners to come and when he does that, he'll back up a little bit and walk us through it verbally," Parkhurst said.

Bittle said, "In the first semester, you're just getting your breathing down. Along with that you're concentrating. People think that you're looking at each other, but no you're not. You're trying to concentrate."

Parkhurst said, "It takes a lot of focus and that's the other benefit of doing it. You're just able to shut everything else out. It's actually a form of meditation and relaxation."

"It energizes me," Parkhurst continued. "Just the way you feel when you leave...I can come in dragging from the office, but when we leave, we have all kinds of energy."

Bittle added, "It's just leaving everything at work and what you've got going on other places in your life and you just have a clear head when you leave."

Parkhurst said that her interest in yoga came from her time as a physical therapy student. She said that she learned that "yoga is the basis of all exercise. It's the oldest form of exercise that there is."

She said that she uses components of yoga every day in her work with clients and patients. Parkhurst said that she has even suggested yoga for her patients who are beyond their injury or problem.

Moorthy said that he would like for anyone who is apprehensive of joining a yoga class to simply try it.

"Some might say, 'I'm not flexible, I haven't done that,' but trying is always good. Never so no to anything. Try."



Photo Provided

Students do yoga in a new program that Dr. Venkata Moorthy started at Northwestern's Wellness Center every Tuesday and Thursday evening.



Photo Provided

Students, staff, faculty, and the public are welcome to attend yoga class to improve health, both physically and mentally.

he said. "Good things come out of bad things, so if someone's muscles are so stiff that they can't bend, they don't have to do it all. If you try today, you can do this much. Tomorrow, a little more, a little more and that's what I do."



# Students show off research

By **SAMI MCGUIRE**  
Student Writer

On Nov. 20, Northwestern Oklahoma State University students met to show-off their research findings at the tenth annual Ranger Research Day.

Ranger Research Day is held once a year, but it is a part of the much larger Oklahoma Research Day that has been held for the past 17 years. This upcoming Oklahoma Research Day will be held March 16, 2016 at Northeastern Oklahoma State University in Tahlequah.

According to Oklahoma Research Day's website, the purpose of the event is to celebrate student and faculty research, creative and scholarly activities. Their mission is to "Promote cross-campus and cross-disciplinary research among all institutions of higher learning in the state of Oklahoma. The event seeks to encourage networking among researchers and interchange of ideas among those studying and researching in their respective academic disciplines."

Ranger Research Day covered several different categories such as art and music, business, education, liberal arts, and math and science. The projects can either be presented in a conference paper or a poster. The winners of this year's poster

section went to "Water Immersion in First Stages of Labor" made by Carrie Schanbacher and Kelsie Fly in the math and science category. The winner of the liberal art's category of the poster section went to "The United State: Nuclear Fear" made by Ralyssa Taylor.

In the conference paper section, first place went to "Lois Lane: A Depiction of the Cultural Evolution of Women" made by Charlie Wylie, in the liberal arts category. The conference papers and the posters are judged by four main things. First are the main idea, then the quality of the paper/poster, quality of the presentation and the quality of the research.

Chris Satterfield, a graduate student at Northwestern, is a chemistry bachelor degree holder who is working on a minor in biology. His project was "Common Intestinal Flora Identified in Domestic Mammals," which fell under the math and science category in the biology portion. According to him he plans on going to the Oklahoma Research Day also.

Satterfield said that he recently got accepted to Kansas State University, where he will be pursuing a Ph. D. in chemistry. According to him the research day helps because KSU does a lot of research and presentations like this one. One day he hopes to become a professor because he believes "passing down

knowledge is really important."

Rachel Bailey, a nursing major, did her project over how dental hygiene affects a pregnancy. According to her "If a pregnant woman has gingivitis or any sort of periodontal [gum] disease she is more likely to have a preterm delivery." According to her most of the research was done through Ebscohost. She said that the research will be helpful to her if she decides to become an OB/GYN nurse so that she could teach that to patients.

Sadik Malik, a junior pre-med major, came all the way to Northwestern from Ghana. He did his research over the affects of music on the human heart beat. He compared familiar music to unfamiliar music. He said he was surprised to find that familiar music causes a greater change in heart rate. Malik did most of his research first hand and hopes to be able to continue and expand his research.

Shawn Holliday, the associate dean of graduate studies, has been in charge of Ranger Research Day since 2010. According to him many students for Northwestern plan on attending the Oklahoma Research Day. He said "It's kind of important that students start participating because in 2017 and 2018 Northwestern will be hosting Oklahoma Research Day."



*Photo Provided*  
Northwestern students show off their research at the 10th annual Ranger Research Day last month.



*Photo Provided*  
Ranger research day allowed students to research and present their findings in different categories.

