

# NORTHWESTERN NEWS

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TRANSITION OF POWER: COVERING THE PRESIDENCY

## MEET THE PRESIDENTS



Longest-serving president  
Dr. Joe Struckle

As Cunningham retires, we're looking back at what past leaders did for Northwestern.

**W**hat did James Ament do as Northwestern's first president? And what legacies did the 19 leaders in our university's history leave? The answers to these questions and more can be found within. As President Dr. Janet Cunningham prepares to retire, the Northwestern News is examining the history of the university's most influential office. Take a look in this edition of the News for a history of each Northwestern president.

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Second longest-serving president  
Dr. Janet Cunningham

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# NEWS

## TRANSITION OF POWER: COVERING THE PRESIDENCY

# Regents begin search for new president

By **BENJAMIN KLIEWER**  
Senior Reporter

The Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents will begin the process of finding a new Northwestern college president on Friday.

The search process for a new president is designed to provide a seamless transition from incumbent President Dr. Janet Cunningham, who will retire in June, to the new president, according to the board's website.

Regent Jane McDermott, a local business owner and regent from Alva, said the board will vote Friday to hire a firm to conduct the search process.

A search firm puts the job requirements, description and college information from the board and Northwestern public relations office into a package, which is called a position profile.

The position profile is available to applicants who request it. The firm accepts job application materials and provides them to hiring officials.

Regents will begin forming a selection committee with members of the community, as well as Northwestern faculty and staff.

The selection committee's task is to look at all the resumes, McDermott said. Each member rates the applicants. No interviews are done at this time. After the rating is done, the top candidates' resumes are

sent to the full board of regents.

The full board has the final decision on who will be Northwestern's new president. The board will conduct interviews with the candidates and make the offer to the chosen candidate.

"Selecting the university presidents is the most important job that we have as a board of regents," McDermott said. "We take it very seriously. Know that we work really hard in getting the perfect president for Northwestern."

Cunningham, the university's second-longest serving president, took office in 2006. She announced her retirement in early January, wrapping up a nearly 50-year career in education. She was the university's first female president.

Dr. James Bell, associate vice president for academics and dean of faculty, offered a word of encouragement for students and faculty who are nervous about having a new college president.

"Whoever the new person is, I think we want to support them fully," Bell said. "That doesn't mean we blindly follow wherever they lead, but it does mean we give them a chance to come in and shape the position based on their vision — that we recognize that they won't be the same as Dr. Cunningham, and that we offer them our best and most honest feedback in a supportive way."

"Their success is going to be all of our success because we all need the president to succeed."

## COVID ON CAMPUS



Northwestern students, faculty and staff are immunized against the coronavirus during a vaccination pod in Percefull Fieldhouse on March 24, 2021. Northwestern officials say they will continue to host vaccination pods on campus.

File photo

## Officials still keeping tabs on virus spread

By **AUSTIN MORTON**  
Senior Reporter

With the omicron variant of the coronavirus spreading, Northwestern officials say they are still monitoring the pandemic's impact on campus.

Northwestern Dean of Student Affairs Calleb Mosburg said the university's leadership continues to meet weekly on Fridays to provide updates on the situation, the same routine the university started when the pandemic began nearly two years ago.

"I think we're doing a really good job, students and employees alike, to limit the spread as much as possible," Mosburg said.

Northwestern reported 16 active coronavirus cases among students and six active cases among faculty on Jan. 21. These numbers reflect cases at all Northwestern campuses, and they do not specify where any cases come from.

Unlike other campuses in Oklahoma, Northwestern does not use a digital app for contact tracing.

"The communication we already have in place, be that phone call or email, enables us to work directly with our instructors," Mosburg said. "People are staying in the loop and know what's going on. It's been working for us, and I feel confident with what we're doing."

Vaccines and virtual learning are two other steps that campuses around the country have used to help limit the spread of the coronavirus, with varying degrees of success.

Mosburg said he does not want Northwestern to return to virtual learning, though that remains an op-

tion for students who have to quarantine.

Deshawn Frazier, a health sports psychology major, said he enjoyed virtual learning when it was mandatory in spring 2020.

"I liked it better than in-class," Frazier said. "I learned more through it, and I liked not having to wear a mask. Virtual classes are a 'yes' for me."

Not every student thinks the same way about online learning. Nursing major Brenner Clark prefers having classes in-person.

"I've always been a person that enjoys talking to people face-to-face," Clark said. "To have that taken away from me wrecked my mental and physical health."

Northwestern's Alva campus has hosted vaccination pods on campus, allowing students, staff and faculty to get immunized against the coronavirus. Another pod is planned for February, Mosburg said.

"If the need is still there, we will plan on having more throughout the spring," Mosburg said.

Some Northwestern students were vaccinated elsewhere or chose not to get the vaccine.

"I got my vaccine at the health department and got my booster at Holder [Drug]," said Clark, who works at the local pharmacy.

Frazier said he chose not to be vaccinated.

While there are no vaccination pods planned for the Enid and Woodward campuses, school officials are working with local health officials to educate students on what options are available to them.

"If a student is needing more information regarding COVID on campus, they can come schedule a meeting with me, and I'd be more than happy to sit down and talk with them," Mosburg said.

## Induction set for Feb. 5

By **COLLIN ZINK**  
Senior Reporter

Five former Northwestern student athletes will be inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame on Feb. 5 during the men's basketball game.

The five nominees are:

— Dean Farrow, who played baseball from 1977 to 1981;

— Bill Julson, who played baseball from 1999 to 2001;

— Brittany McBride Johnson, who played women's basketball from 2005 to 2007;

— Bob Battisti, a former Northwestern Athletic Director

— Brandon Christenson, who played football from 1995 to 2001.

Northwestern athletic officials will host a luncheon for the nominees, where nominees will sign autographs and talk with attendees.

The pre-luncheon will begin at 11 a.m., and the meal will begin at 11:30 a.m.

The luncheon is open to the public, and tickets are available for \$20. The ticket price includes entrance to the basketball game.

Past inductees will also be recognized during the half-time of the women's basketball game.

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# NEWS



## Nursing students caring for kids

By **SHANNON NESSERALLA**  
Senior Reporter

Carter Hall is not usually filled with noises from children that can be heard all throughout the building.

But at 3:30 p.m. Jan. 19, laughter echoed through the halls as Northwestern nursing students performed vital checks on local children who volunteered to be mock pediatric patients.

The examinations took place in the nursing skills lab on the second floor.

Junior nursing students had the chance to look at and assess one of 10 pediatric patients, who were assigned to them before the clinic began.

For some patients, it was their first time participating. Others have been coming for years.

Parker Grimsley, a 5th grader at Lincoln Elementary, has been assessed by the nursing students for five years.

"It is always very fun and informative," Grimsley said. "I really like coming here and being a part of the clinic."

Nursing students administered several exams to their patients.

Nursing students:

— Had patients follow a light with their eyes to make sure their eyes are working correctly.

— Checked patients' blood pressure.

— Stood behind their patients and whispered words into their

ears to check their hearing.

— Asked patients to jump on one leg so their balance could be assessed.

— Checked patients' height and weight.

Junior nursing student Ally Riley said the program's pediatric clinicals are starting soon.

In the coming months, junior nursing students will spend a weekend working in pediatric clinics in Oklahoma City.

***"It is always really fun and informative. I really like coming here and being a part of the clinic."***

***— Parker Grimsley***

The clinicals will take place over four weekends, and each student must work during two of the weekends.

Riley said the clinic exercise in Carter Hall was helpful.

"It was good being able to see real-life patients before we go and start our clinical at OU Medical Center in OKC," Riley said.

Addyson Gordon, a 5th grader at Lincoln Elementary, attended the clinic for the first time with a couple of her friends.

"I was excited," Gordon said. "It was fun to know that I'm healthy."



Photos by Devyn Lansden

**TOP:** Northwestern nursing student Kailin Lian uses her stethoscope to check the heart rate of Alva 5th grade student Addyson Gordon during the Northwestern nursing program's annual pediatric clinic in Carter Hall on Jan. 19.

**ABOVE:** Northwestern nursing students, instructors and local school students pose for a group photo during the Northwestern nursing program's annual pediatric clinic on Jan. 19 in Carter Hall.

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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 Monday 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 nwnews@nwosu.edu. 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 \$20.

# OPINION



File photo

The J.R. Holder Wellness Center is shown above. The author believes the Wellness Center needs new exercise equipment to better serve students.

## Wellness Center needs new equipment

By **J.D. EDDY**  
Editorial Editor

Wellness is the basis on what a lot of college kids look at themselves. Obviously, becoming physically fit does not apply only to college kids. This is mostly the case for the J.R. Holder Wellness Center. It is the only place to work out on campus for free.

The Wellness Center has seen an uptick in new individuals who want to be physically fit. That's a good thing, and our Wellness Center needs new equipment to accommodate them.

Students would like to see several updates to the Wellness Center. I would like to see the Wellness Center get more lifting equipment, including squat racks, plates and cable machines.

Deshawn Frazier, a senior at Northwestern, wanted to share his thoughts on the Wellness Center: "It should be 24/7, because most college students have jobs to where they can't make it to the gym before 9 on weekdays, and what they should do instead of putting money into more treadmills is to get some more equipment for the lifters."

While I disagree that the Wellness Center should be open 24/7, I concur that it does need new equipment. Most college students do have jobs and cannot make it until about 9 p.m., but you are not going to find many college students who want to stay up all night while others are lifting.

Chris Ortiz, another senior,



Photo by Devyn Lansden

J.R. Holder Wellness Center equipment is shown on Monday.

puts it best: "The Welly has always been a part of my college life, and as someone who goes daily, it could use a little upgrade. Many students on campus think the same thing."

Buying new equipment for the Wellness Center is especially important because more students are using the facility.

Bailie Gooch, assistant director of the Wellness Center, said more students come in after the start of the New Year.

"I find this time to be inspiring and motivating," Gooch said. "It makes me excited to see the students, employees and community members who are choosing to

dedicate time for themselves and improving their health and wellness."

I enjoy seeing all of the new faces that are showing up at the Wellness Center. It adds a sense that the gym is louder, which makes it easier for me to work out. This is probably because of my years of playing football. I need music and noise in the atmosphere.

I hope that this does not change from January to February. Seeing everyone in the Wellness Center becoming the best versions of themselves always makes me happy.

Even though there's not

enough equipment in the Wellness Center, students are able to improvise. But the proper equipment would greatly enhance the facility.

Outdated equipment makes people feel unsafe, and newer equipment would help students feel more confident. Though I've never heard of accidents there, we should always err on the side of caution.

"It's important to have all equipment up to date and safe for use," Ortiz said.

I'm not trying to say only bad things about the Wellness Center. It has plenty of positive features. It has more than enough cardio equipment for people who are trying to improve their endurance. Even for the average lifter, cardio is one of the most important things. It helps to improve overall health and wellness, and it releases endorphins.

The Wellness Center reminds me of a gym back in my hometown of Tuttle. It had some good equipment, but it also lacked machines. The thing that kept me there was the people. This is what keeps people going to a gym. The gym eventually did get all the equipment it needed, and its revenue increased dramatically.

The Wellness Center has acquired some new preset dumbbells. However, there is always room for improvement when it comes to workout equipment.

Seeing this place develop into what it needs to be would make students happy. I believe other students feel the same way.

# OPINION

## We all need to get barked at

**JORDAN GREEN SAYS**



JORDAN GREEN

Sometimes, we all need to be barked at.

A few days ago, a couple of my friends asked me to babysit their dog. They were on a trip, and Coe – a rambunctious, overly excitable

blue heeler – needed company. And someone to let him outside.

Coe typically greets entrants to his home with a loud bark and a big jump, placing his sometimes muddy paws all over your clothes. All one can do is laugh and marvel in the joy of this little creature – and then go wash up.

After we played fetch in the backyard, Coe and I came back inside where the air was warmer. A few minutes passed before I fell back into an old, familiar habit: pulling out my cellphone and scrolling endlessly through Facebook.

Avoiding this is harder than one might think, especially when there's no one there to tell you: "Put that thing away!"

But on this day, there was. Coe barked at me for pulling out my phone. Literally.

I looked down at him, and he was staring at me. Then he barked another time – a firm reminder that technology is not allowed when he's holding the rubber ball in his mouth.

I burst into laughter. And I put my phone away.

Coe would not accept anything less than my full, undivided attention, and he told me so. Shouldn't we be giving that same attention to everyone whose company we're in?

When we whip out our phones and computers, we're distracting ourselves and making more difficult – if not impossible – the act of living in the moment.

In a 2018 study chronicled in *Psychology Today*, 89% of respondents said they used their cellphones during a recent social encounter. Keep in mind that, according to the article, 77% of Americans own a smartphone.

Using a cellphone in the company of friends or family isn't always bad. Using the built-in camera to take a group picture, thereby preserving a precious moment in time, is a great idea. But cellphones usually give people a reason not to talk to one another, stifling meaningful conversations. That's a problem.

Quality conversations among young people seem rarer and rarer, and my generation is worse off because of it. Getting to know people is hard enough, and when nobody wants to talk, it's nearly impossible.

If we weren't so glued to our phones, we'd be more intellectually and emotionally available for talks that produce valuable connections.

I was fortunate that most of my

childhood was smartphone-free. My friends and I had to talk to one another, and we'd play games together – and they were real games, not the kind to download from an app.

We were physically healthier because we were active, and we were mentally stronger because we were engaging our creative minds. We were also more socially adaptable because we were used to interacting and talking with others.

Those joys seem lacking in the lives of little lads and lasses today, and what a shame it is. I believe it's partly because kids are being handed cellphones and tablets at the age of 4. Some parents see technology as an excuse to avoid doing their jobs as caregivers and teachers, and our world is suffering because of it.

When playing on a cellphone becomes a habit that replaces conversation, we've got problems. Those habits are hard to break, and they cause us to neglect the simple joys in life – like socializing with friends and playing with our favorite felines and K9s.

Adults are just as guilty of using their phones too much, too. Myself included. But luckily, someone has barked at me and reminded me to put the phone away.

The next time you're with friends and family, keep your phone in your pocket and your heart in the conversation. Otherwise, you might need to get barked at.



Photo by Caitlin Hofen

Coe, a blue heeler owned by Northwestern News Features Editor Caitlin Hofen, is shown in this photo. Coe is a bundle of joy, the author said.

## News literacy an important skill for modern students, educators

By **ALAN MILLER** and **ADAM SYMSON**  
Guest Columnists

Today's educators and college students play an important role in sharing news and information. But, as Spider-Man's Uncle Ben said, "With great power comes great responsibility."

The sharing of misinformation has contributed to a division in our communities and, likely, on your campus.

That's what makes this third annual National News Literacy Week (Jan. 24-28) so important.

News literacy involves discerning fact from fiction and understanding what sources to trust. National News Literacy Week was created to raise awareness of news literacy as an essential life skill in a healthy democracy.

Whether you are working for the student news media, sharing information on social media or talking about what you have seen or heard in the news, ev-

eryone has a role in separating harmful and divisive rhetoric from fact-based reports.

Please take a moment to ask:

- Do you consider yourself news literate?
- What about your friends and family?
- Do you share only credible, truthful, verified information?
- Do you pause before you post or tweet?
- Are you contributing to uniting others around credible information or are you sowing division?

We all have more to do to ensure that our communities are well-informed.

Please make the commitment to be news literate and encourage others to do the same. Visit [www.newslit.org](http://www.newslit.org) [newslit.org] to learn more.

*Alan Miller is the founder and CEO of the News Literacy Project.*

*Adam Symson is the president and CEO of the E.W. Scripps Company.*

## POLITICS

# Is war on the horizon?

By **TYLER GREGORY**  
Guest Columnist

As inflation increases, as mortgage rates increase, and as some grocery store shelves are bare, there seems to be an "out" that is not truly being discussed by many on either side of the political aisle.

As much as I disagree with this next statement, it may serve to be true: Wars pull struggling economies from the ground up onto their feet as shown with Nazi Germany or the United States.

By mobilizing a nation towards war, subsidies flow, economies grow and citizens' passions show. This movement from struggling welfare economies to stronger warfare economies has been a great tool for major nations.

With this preface, I believe the Biden Administration is moving us further and further towards war in Europe. Russian-Ukrainian tensions are reaching a boiling point, and last week, President Biden supposed that Vladimir Pu-

tin will likely move into Ukraine.

Also during the last week, Senate Democrats shot down Republican efforts at placing sanctions on Russia's Nord Stream 2 Pipeline, thus limiting the economic path to battling the Russian movement forward onto Ukraine. This line runs from Russia to Germany and is projected to provide 70% of Germany with natural gas. Yet Germany remains in NATO.

Other projections indicate this will cut Ukraine out of the natural gas economy in Europe, thus weakening them. With this laid out, it is easy to see what Putin is trying to accomplish here: the weakening of Ukraine, creating a dependent Germany and the economic boost Russia will receive from the pipeline all prove to be beneficial to the Politick.

This claim is supported by the fact that the most recent Department of Defense Budget provided an additional \$24 billion more than what the Biden Administration requested.

Another issue regarding the growing tensions in Eastern Eu-

rope is the question of why the United States is being drug into this by nations that refuse to stand up to Russia themselves.

As mentioned above, Germany remains a member of NATO for the military protection benefits against Russia and yet still funnels billions of dollars to Russia. Other NATO members boost their welfare programs while outsourcing their national defense to the United States through alliances.

This brings us to the question I believe can be answered by our first president: Should the United States be bound up in permanent treaties that require massive amounts of taxpayer spending?

In 1796, President Washington forewarned the young nation of the danger of these lasting entanglements and insisted that the United States avoid permanent treaties and only rely on temporary, emergency treaties as needed. This is also the opinion I hold regarding these treaties.

*Tyler Gregory is the vice-chairman of the Northwestern College Republicans Club.*

# Northwestern presidents: Leading the Rangers since 1897



**James E. Ament**  
1897 - 1902

James E. Ament was the first president of Northwestern and helped make the school into a successful university. Ament was also a professor and taught pedagogy, psychology and ethics.

He was seen as a natural-born leader and a terrific educator. The first building at the school was built under Ament and was called "The Castle on the Hill." The building had a maximum capacity of 600 students.

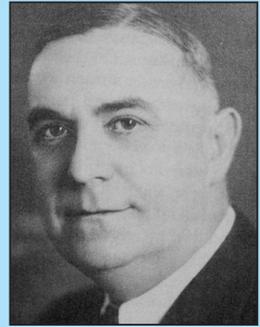
The first graduating class under Ament was in 1900.

A professor by the name of John Davis was hired under Ament and was named the director of the sports program. In 1898, the men at the school made a football team.

The first Northwestern baseball team was also created during Ament's presidency in 1899. A new athletic field was built in 1900, and new activities started, including women's basketball. Ament was asked to resign in January 1902.



**LEFT:** Northwestern's Castle on the Hill, the first academic building for the institution, was built from 1898 to 1899. It burned down in 1935. The university's first president, James Ament, led the university at the time of its construction. **ABOVE:** The Jesse Dunn building, which was built to replace the Castle on the Hill, is shown above. The Jesse Dunn building was constructed under the direction of Sabin C. Percefull, who served as Northwestern's president four times.



**Sabin C. Percefull**  
1935 - 1936;  
1943 - 1955\*

Sabin C. Percefull served as the president of Northwestern four times.

Percefull was tasked with raising funds for new buildings on campus and getting more state funding for the university.

The new science building and the Jesse Dunn buildings that were built in 1936 highlighted Percefull's time as president during his 1935-1936 tenure.

Percefull's next term, from 1943 to 1955, was the longest term of any Northwestern president up to that point.

The college converted several prisoner of war barracks into apartments in April 1946. The apartments became known as "Kollege Kamp."

Plans to revive the annual Homecoming celebration, which had been put on hiatus, started in October 1946.

In the fall of 1948, a guidance counseling office was set up in the school to work with freshmen, and an orientation course became a requirement for freshman.

School officials announced a new school song, written by a 1940 Northwestern graduate, named "Ride, Rangers, Ride," in March 1949. The 50th commencement in the school's history also took place in 1949.

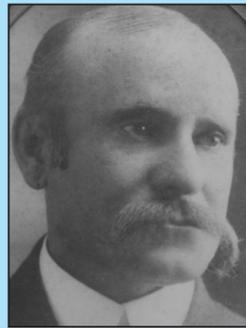
Funds were secured for a new physical education building in 1951, although work did not begin until mid-1952.

In January 1953, the Board of Regents named the science annex next to Jesse Dunn the "T.C. Carter Hall." The natural history museum is credited to Carter.

The board approved a master of teaching degree program in January 1954. Percefull announced his retirement plans that month.

Through his tenure, Percefull was responsible for \$1.1 million in new construction, and other projects were pending. The Percefull family donated an assortment of items to the music department before Percefull left office.

\* Percefull's two shorter terms are not listed here.



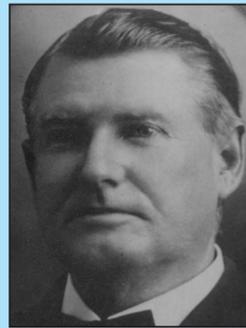
**T.W. Conway**  
1902 - 1908

T. W. Conway was the successor to James Ament and was well received when he began doing work. Conway hired 11 new faculty members after getting rid of six members from Ament's staff. Conway increased the number of faculty to 23.

Conway had magazines and books added to the library, which was in the original university building. He also repaired the building and created a commercial course, which added a fourth way for students to receive a degree.

Extracurricular programs were fully established by the end of the fall term in 1902 under Conway. They were handled by the literary societies that were also created, titled "Orient" and "Occident."

A new library and science building was built in 1907 under Conway. His presidency ended after the fall term of 1907.

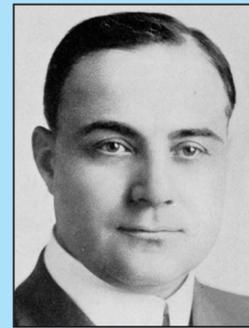


**Walter Lee Ross**  
1908 - 1910

Under Walter Lee Ross, debate clubs and musical clubs were created. They were well received throughout the Alva community and school.

The school newspaper, The Northwestern, was created under Ross. It had been the first paper in three years and stayed the longest of the two.

Ross resigned in 1910 after students requested his resignation.



**Grant Grumbine**  
1910 - 1916

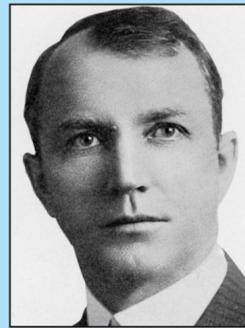
Grant B. Grumbine, like James Ament, was seen as a great leader and educator.

Many saw his way of running the school as professional and organized. In 1913, Grumbine helped lead an exhibit at the Oklahoma State Fair aiming to quell an effort to get rid of the school.

The students and staff under Grumbine all saw him as someone they could follow, and so did the community.

Under Grumbine, the education program at the school was improved.

Grumbine donated money to local chapels, which won over student popularity. Under Grumbine, the athletic program began to receive statewide recognition.



**J.W. Graves**  
1916 - 1917

J. W. Graves had the shortest stint as president in Northwestern's history.

He was a strong advocate for men and women participating in sports.

He traveled with the teams around the country, including to states such as Oregon, Colorado, Montana and Wyoming. Grave was unexpectedly transferred to Central State Normal College to end his run at Northwestern.



**A.S. Faulkner**  
1917 - 1919

During A.S. Faulkner's short tenure as president, he helped raise funds and provide supplies for World War I. During his years, enrollment was low because of the war. However, Faulkner was still a popular president.

He helped raise the number of faculty to 39 and had more than 600 teachers in the summer school program. Faulkner started two building contracts during his time, but neither of those bills would be passed during his presidency.



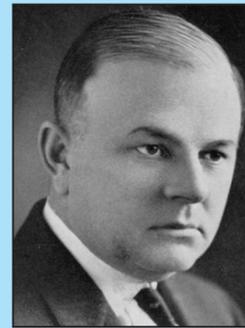
**James Battenberg**  
1919 - 1928

Under James P. Battenberg, the college was turned into a four-year teacher's college. For the first time, it offered the opportunity for students to receive a bachelor's degree.

Battenberg advocated for raising funds for the president's house and for the student welfare fund. In 1919, he received funds for the construction of a gym. Reconstruction of sidewalks and walkways on campus also began.

In the summer of 1920, Battenberg started Northwestern's first "senior school," and more than 750 teachers attended. Battenberg took a leave of absence, and Sabin C. Percefull took over the president's job.

Battenberg was up for election for the state superintendent of public instruction's seat in 1922. Battenberg fought for better state appropriations for Northwestern and also pushed for budget increases at every session of Oklahoma Legislature during his campaign for superintendent.

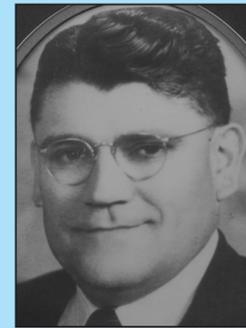


**Walter W. Parker**  
1928 - 1933

Walter W. Parker was the eighth president of Northwestern and was seen as a strong leader.

He helped Northwestern's summer school for teachers to have more than 1,000 students.

He was thought of as an impressive speaker and often spoke at the chapel. Parker's presidency did not last long, though, because Oklahoma's governor - Democrat William H. Murray - did not agree with Parker's beliefs.



**O.E. Hatcher**  
1933 - 1935

O.E. Hatcher was one of Northwestern's less popular presidents.

Hatcher brought in a new office staff and got rid of the concept of section heads. He believed that all faculty and staff were beneath him - and him only.

Hatcher improved the training and science courses, but the Castle on the Hill burned down during his tenure.

*Editor's Note: The biographies in this edition were written by Northwestern News reporters Kaylea Brown and Gavin Mendoza. The information for the biographies of presidents between 1897 and 1997 comes from a book written by former Northwestern professor Wayne Lane, titled "Northwestern Oklahoma State University: A Centennial History."*

Continued on Page 8

# NWOSU presidents lead the Rangers, continued



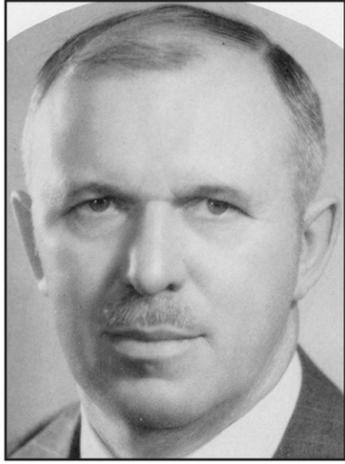
**Ernest E. Brown**  
1936 - 1939

Ernest E. Brown was responsible for the instillation of a master clock that controlled all campus clocks starting in August 1936. Renovations were approved in October 1936 to convert the Science Hall into the Fine Arts building.

In 1937, under Brown's administration, first lady Eleanor Roosevelt dedicated the Jesse Dunn building.

Plans for two new dormitories were contracted in December 1938. Finished in September 1939, the two dorms were named Minnie Shockley Hall and A.G. Vinson Hall.

In April 1939, the school's name changed to be Northwestern State College.



**Chester O. Newlun**  
1939 - 1942

Chester O. Newlun was named president July 31, 1939.

During his presidency, Northwestern received approval to host a government school to train airplane construction workers for the defense industry.

In 1939, the school received approval from the Civil Aeronautics Authority to be an air training center.

The position of dean of men existed for the first time in 1940 under Newlun's administration.

The school also adopted a policy for students who were drafted or volunteered for military service. They received a full refund of enrollment fees before the 10th week or school or full credit for courses after the 10th week.

## PRESIDENTIAL FAST FACTS:

- Longest-serving Northwestern president:

*Joe Struckle,*  
1975 - 2000

- Second longest-serving president:

*Janet Cunningham,*  
2006 - 2022

- Buildings named after presidents:

- *J.W. Martin Library*
- *Percefull Fieldhouse*
- *Ament Hall,*
- *Joe J. Struckle Education Center*

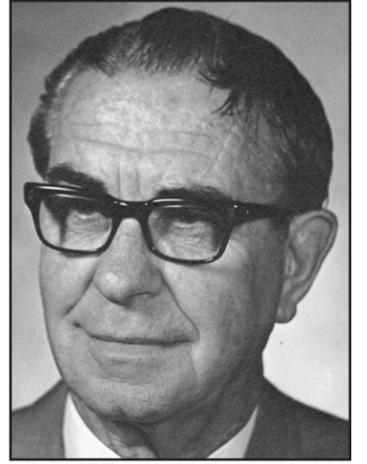


**Luther D. Brown**  
1955 - 1956

Under Luther D. Brown's administration, Northwestern became the first college to offer a program for handicapped students as part of the physical education curriculum.

In 1955, Brown-Crossley Construction Co. of Alva remodeled the president's home, including an addition on the south side, work on the air conditioning and heating systems and the kitchen. The college set up a store to sell textbooks in the Fine Arts building that year.

Housing for male and female students switched locations to prepare for higher enrollment. The names of the buildings, Shockley Hall and Vinson Hall, were also switched. In December 1955, the Student Center was built.



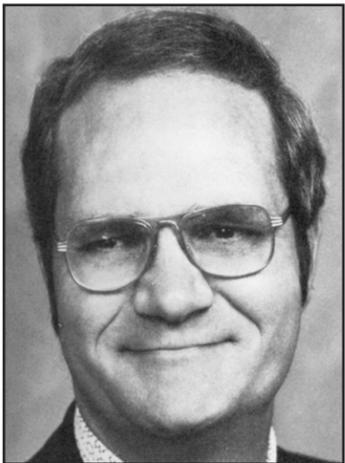
**Jesse W. Martin**  
1956 - 1972

Jesse W. Martin's administration built the university's Industrial Arts building.

In February 1958, Kollege Kamp sold at an auction. A few months later, the Northwestern State College Foundation, Inc. was chartered.

Work began on the construction of a new library and science hall in February 1962.

New residence halls were built in the 1960s. The dorm on the northwest corner of campus became known as Oklahoma Hall. Ament Hall became the name of the dorm on the southwest corner, and the newest and biggest dorm was named Coronado Hall. Also in 1968, work on the stadium advanced, and the Northwestern News changed to a weekly paper.



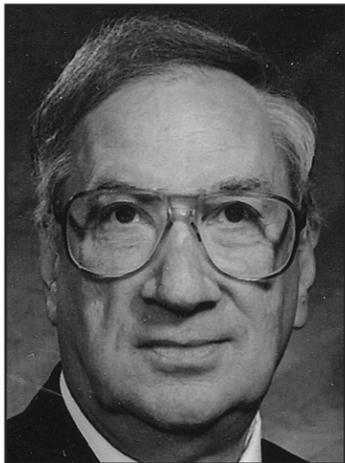
**R. William Wygle**  
1972 - 1975

One of the first things R. William Wygle did after he took the office was to establish an admissions office. The office was to be responsible for recruitment, testing programs and pre-admission work.

Naming distinguished graduates and presenting these graduates with Outstanding Alumni Awards was first done in 1973 under Wygle.

Many campus improvement projects started in 1973. A bond announced that fall funded renovations to the Fine Arts Building and a new lighting system for the campus. Later work for the campus included landscaping.

In 1974, the school name changed to Northwestern Oklahoma State University.



**Joe J. Struckle**  
1975 - 2000

In April 1978, the first evaluations of professors were done by students. This practice continues today with some changes.

In 1978, funds were received to make improvements to facilities, including an all-weather track at Ranger Field, softball fields and new tennis courts.

A degree program in nursing was approved in December 1980.

The land the university had for the school farm was given up in 1984 when the City of Alva needed to trade it. To keep the program, the school purchased 160 acres of land a little over seven miles west of town that October.

House Bill 2164 was introduced and passed as the 1995-1996 school year ended. This bill established Northwestern campuses in Enid and Woodward.



**Tom J. McDaniel**  
2000 - 2001

The first graduate of Northwestern to become the president of the university was Tom J. McDaniel.

Dr. Stephen Thompson, a professor of biology, said McDaniel brought a lot of excitement to the campus with his new ideas.

Having no previous experience in higher education, McDaniel planned to rely on the vice president for academic affairs and his lower-level staff.

McDaniel left Northwestern in 2001 to become president at Oklahoma City University.



**Paul B. Beran**  
2001 - 2006

The resignation of McDaniel brought an outsider to the campus. Paul B. Beran took the office in 2001.

Dr. Roger Hardaway, who has been at Northwestern since 1990, remembers when Beran came into office.

"His whole career had been in higher education," Hardaway said. "He had never been a president ... and he had been at large community colleges in Houston, St. Louis and Boston."

Throughout Beran's time at Northwestern, a coffee shop was put in Coronado Hall. The tradition of faculty and staff putting an ornament on a Christmas tree in the president's house started. Beran was also the first president of the university to attend department meetings rather than large faculty meetings.



**Janet Cunningham**  
2006 - 2022

The first female president of Northwestern, Janet Cunningham took office in 2006. In early 2022, she announced her plans to retire that June.

Cunningham's administration was responsible for the university sports teams' move to NCAA Division II. During her tenure, the university has remodeled buildings and added new academic programs.

For a full-length feature of Cunningham's career, visit the Northwestern News website or read the Jan. 20 edition of the paper. Online readers can access the article by following this link: <https://northwesternnews.rangerpulse.com/as-first-female-president-of-northwestern-cunningham-leaves-legacy-of-leadership/>.

# ENTERTAINMENT



Photos provided

The Northwestern Oklahoma State University Singers pose for a photo on the salt flats at the Great Salt Plains National Park. The choir took photos for their OKMEA program in Tulsa.

## For this singer, a six-month journey to find new love for music

By **CAITLIN HOFEN**  
Features Editor

Six months.

We had been working on the same six songs for six months. The same notes, phrases and harmonies. Two songs in languages none of us understood.

Each piece had a story, and somehow, we needed to find a way to relate their meanings to our own lives.

When I learned Northwestern Singers group had been selected to perform at the Oklahoma Music Educators Association Winter Conference, I felt excitement.

We'd worked for years on submitting recordings to be selected as an honor choir.

When we were given our performance music, it didn't mean much to me.

It was August, and January was months away. We had three concerts before then, and I had an entire semester of classwork to get through.

Throughout the fall, I struggled to balance the workload of classes, work and music. Rehearsals felt monotonous, and I wasn't finding joy in performance anymore.

In October, I tested positive for COVID-19. My symptoms were minimal, but I still missed almost two weeks of class.

In that timeframe, the rest of the choir moved on with the music. A new piece was introduced, and the pronunciation of our German piece was solidified.

I came back feeling more lost than ever. I played catch-up and got back on track, but the excitement was gone.

I trudged through the end of the fall semester. By then, most of our music was memorized, but there were no emotions behind the words.



The choir poses for a photo on the Tulsa First Baptist Church stage after its final rehearsal Jan. 20. The choir was selected as an honor choir for the 2022 Oklahoma Music Educators Association Winter Conference.

I felt relief in knowing I'd get a month off from rehearsing with everyone else.

I listened to our rehearsal tracks every once in a while over break, but I still wasn't enjoying the music or relating the messages to my own life.

Classes began in January, and I was determined to enjoy my time in choir again.

I went in with a positive mindset that we were going to sound even better than before we left. I wasn't far off as we sounded rejuvenated, with a little more life in each piece.

We had one week to polish our set for Tulsa, and that week was the longest of my life.

We went over every song with a fine-toothed comb. We corrected rhythms, vowel shapes and

worked our Icelandic and German pronunciations to perfection.

Extra rehearsals were scheduled, and hours were spent pouring over trouble spots. But I still didn't think it would all be worth it.

Thursday morning, I pulled up to Ryerson Hall at 6 a.m. to load up for Tulsa. Almost all our plans for the week were changed because of COVID-19, but we were still going to perform.

As I pulled on my long, black dress and curled my hair before the performance, I realized we were finally at the end of the journey we started in August.

All we had to do was take the final step.

When we walked out onto the stage of the Tulsa First Baptist Church, emotions were high, and

excitement was felt across the choir.

As we sang the first song, our sound filled the hall with the sto-

ries we were about to tell.

We took the audience on a journey, from praising the might of God to feeling lost and alone. Wonderment and hope were turned into pleading to be free from pain and suffering. Finally, the red knight of death ushered in the joy and peace found in paradise.

As the last note rang through the hall, my eyes filled with tears. It didn't matter if millions of people were listening or a dozen. We told the story.

I felt the love I once had for performance return. A feeling I had missed so much.

The months of frustration, hard work and doubt were all behind us. Instead, feelings of accomplishment, relief and joy were felt as we walked off-stage to two standing ovations.

Hugs and tears were passed around as we realized it was all over. We accomplished what we had worked to do: to show that the little choir in northwest Oklahoma is capable of so much more than anyone imagined.

I think I speak for everyone when I say we left it all on that stage, and we aren't looking back.

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# SPORTS

## MEN'S BASKETBALL



*Photos provided*

Larry White attempts a layup during Northwestern's game against Oklahoma Baptist on Jan. 15 at the Noble Complex in Shawnee. The Rangers lost to the Bison, 82-75.

## Rangers rebound with road wins



Ravel Moody dribbles the ball during Northwestern's game against Oklahoma Baptist Jan. 15 in Shawnee. The Rangers lost to the Bison, 82-75. The Rangers defeated Harding and Arkansas Tech Jan. 20 and Saturday.

By CADE KENNEDY  
*Sports Editor*

The Northwestern men's basketball team concluded its road trip in Arkansas with wins over Harding and Arkansas Tech.

The two wins that the Rangers strung together required the team to play with one of their signature traits: their toughness.

"The biggest thing about this team is that we're tough," said Jordan Franz, the associate head coach of the Rangers. "We're a very tough team, and we've played really really hard."

The Rangers started the trip on Jan. 20 by travelling to Searcy, Arkansas to take on a Harding squad that had not played a game in two weeks.

The Rangers battled with the Bisons for most of the first half, but the Rangers went on a 9-4 run in the final three minutes of the half to take a seven-point lead heading into halftime, 41-34.

The Rangers and Bisons continued to trade baskets throughout much of the second half, with Northwestern having a twelve-point lead with 10:56 remaining in the game off a layup by Bubba Furlong.

The Bisons proceeded to rally back over the next nine minutes to take an 80-78 lead over the

Rangers with only 1:25 left in the game. Each team tried to take control of the game with a minute left, but both teams came up empty on their next possession.

The Rangers tried to score, but could not, as both Malik Parsons and Furlong missed shots. Brian Free then broke free, snatched the ball out of the air and drew a foul, which gave the Rangers a chance at tying the game.

Free made both free throws, and made another pair help give the Rangers an 83-80 victory.

On Saturday, the Rangers rolled into Russellville, Arkansas to face a scrappy Arkansas Tech team.

The Wonder Boys controlled most of the first half, and built up a nine-point lead over the Rangers. Over the final three minutes of the first half, the Rangers went on a 9-0 run to take the momentum with them to the locker room with the scored tied at 34.

The Rangers continued to suffocate the Wonder Boys in the second half, as Arkansas Tech only scored three points in the opening five minutes.

The Wonder Boys eventually scored, but they found themselves in a 56-40 hole when they did. The Ranger lead continued to hover around 16 points, and the Rangers secured another win, 83-67.

# SPORTS

## TRACK AND FIELD

# Rangers off to quick start

By **DEVYN LANSDEN**  
Photo Editor

The Northwestern track and field team's 2022 season has officially begun.

The Rangers just had their second meet on January 21 and 22. The first day consisted of weight throwing and the two Rangers who beat their personal best were Kelsey Swindle, a junior from Woodward, and Shaylee Beck, a sophomore from White Deer, Texas. Swindle threw 11.78m, and Beck threw 8.13m.

On day two of the meet, freshman Kenya Jackson led the Rangers in the 60-meter race with a time of 8.24 seconds. Shakira Lane, a sophomore from Stillwater, placed sixth in the 200-meter run with a time of 28.09 seconds.

Gina Wilson, a senior from Perry, placed fifth in the 300-meter run with a time of 46.90 seconds. Ladashery Bell, a senior from Alva, placed fourth in the 600y event with a time of 1:37.61.

Jaeden Coon, a junior from Sapulpa, placed second in the 800-meter race with a time of 2:55.75. Mallory Boden, a freshman, placed 17th in the one-mile run with a time of 5:52.82. Boden also placed eighth in the 3000-meter event.

Emily Smith, a freshman from Holdenville, placed fifth in the

60-meter hurdles. The Rangers placed sixth in the 400-meter relay, the runners were Smith, Alexa Leyva, a junior from El Paso, Texas, Tavonyia Lacy, a freshman and Berthe Bright, with a time of 4:32.82.

Takia Zachary, a freshman, placed second in the high jump event with a height cleared of 1.53 meters. Leyva placed sixth in the long jump with a length of 5.05 meters.

The Lady Rangers' next meet will be February 4 in Wichita, Kansas.

The first track and field meet was on January 13. Jill Lancaster, head coach, was pleased with the performance of the Lady Rangers.

"They showed all of the promise in the world that we have the jewels to get where we want to be," Lancaster said.

Lancaster said she uses the indoor meets for the athletes to gain experience and uses the competitions as their best training days.

Lancaster said last year they were thrown into competition without the right amount of training.

She said the athletes got the whole fall semester to train this year, and that has made a difference for the players.

"I just feel like we are carrying more experience and more talent as a whole," Lancaster said.

Sterling Broomfield, the assistant coach, said the athletes did outstanding and competed hard at the meet but said there is always room to improve.

Broomfield said the goals for this year are, as a team, to get third or fourth in the conference and to continue to break the records in all aspects.

"I definitely feel this is one of the more diverse and most talented group of athletes that we have here so far being our third year of competing," Broomfield said. "I feel like this is a group that can really make a difference for Northwestern."

Bianna Brantley is a freshman from Amarillo, Texas, and placed top five in the 200-meter run in the first meet.

Brantley said her thought process before the meet was her telling herself to do her best in her first college meet.

"I wasn't planning on getting top five at all, so basically I was just proud of myself for making it to the finish line and doing well," Brantley said.

Brantley said her goals for this year are to better herself. Meaning getting faster, contributing to her team and to put Northwestern on the map.

"You probably haven't heard of us [Northwestern] before, but by the end of the season you know who we are," Brantley said.



Track and field team member Jaeden Coon runs down the track during the GAC championship on April 15, 2021, at Magnolia, Arkansas. Photo by Chris Maple



Josena Frame prepares to shoot during Northwestern's game against Oklahoma Baptist on Jan. 15 in Shawnee. The Lady Rangers lost, 68-52. Photo provided

## Lady Rangers seeking to end three-game losing spell

By **CONNOR GRAY**  
Assistant Editor

The Northwestern Lady Rangers are hoping to snap their three game losing streak against the Arkansas-Monticello Cotton Blossoms Thursday and Southern Arkansas Muleriders Saturday.

The Lady Rangers are still struggling after coming off their biggest win in history as they continue to have a difficult time putting points on the board.

The Lady Rangers shot 23.5% from the field against Harding, which is the lowest shooting percentage of the season.

The Lady Rangers scored only one basket in the first quarter as they started the game with 2-0 lead and never led again, going on to lose, 61-39.

Scout Frame led the team with 11 points followed by Carly Craig and Camille Thomas with seven. Thomas went 7-8 at the free throw line.

Scout Frame led the team in both steals and rebounds at 3 and

11 each. This marks her third double-double of the year.

The team had a bounce back performance against Arkansas Tech with their shooting percentage going up and Bailey Brown scoring 23 points, but it was not enough to win.

Arkansas Tech won, 65-58, as the Lady Rangers cut the deficit to five in the second half, but could not complete the comeback.

Brown led the Lady Rangers with 23 points and went 11-12 at the free throw line. Scout Frame followed with 18 points.

Brown also led the team in rebounds with 13 for her fifth double-double of the season and 27th of her career. Craig was second with nine rebounds on the afternoon.

Assistant coach Jakeria Otey talked about what the team needed to improve on from their three game road stretch.

"In practice we've been looking to make shots as we have been struggling," Otey said. "We've been looking for people to make shots and get the open ones."

Otey also said that the team is looking forward to these upcoming home games to help them advance later in the season. Otey then said that she hopes the team is ready to make that push.

Both the Cotton Blossoms and the Muleriders have already played the Lady Rangers this season, as Northwestern defeated each team during the seven-game win streak.

In their last ten matchups with Arkansas-Monticello and Southern Arkansas, the Lady Rangers have maintained a 6-4 record.

The Blossoms are currently winless in 18 games so far and the Muleriders have maintained a record of 9-9.

The Lady Rangers are currently in sixth place in the Great American Conference standings with a 6-6 record in conference play. Northwestern is tied with Arkansas Tech and Oklahoma Baptist for sixth.

The Lady Rangers will need to get these two games to keep pushing for better postseason seeding for the conference tournament.

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# THEIR SONG IS SUNG

The Northwestern Singers performed in Herod Hall on Monday night a few days after returning from the Oklahoma Music Educators Association's Winter Conference, which takes place in conjunction with the annual Oklahoma All-State Honor Choir for high school students. The Singers, the university's top-ranking choir, were selected to perform during the convention. The choir commissioned pieces and performed them both during the convention and during the concert on Monday.

Photos by Devyn Lansden

