

## Chi Alpha

Read about new campus ministry on Page 3.



## Profile

Lilly Anderson makes impact on students through soccer. Page 6 & 7



# NORTHWESTERN NEWS

PRSR.T. STD.  
Permit # 5  
Alva, OK 73717

Address Service Requested

Volume No. 87, Issue 2

Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva, Oklahoma

September 4, 2025

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## Meet the Rangers Fall 2025



Photo by Sarah Brashears

Meet the Rangers was held Tuesday night at Ranger field, kicking off the 2025-2026 athletic season. Athletes from every team came together, along with students and fans, to display school spirit and pride for the Rangers. The evening was filled with games, cheers, and a school spirit competition. One thing was clear; Rangers know how to be Rowdy! Congratulations to the Ranger Marching Band, who claimed the Rowdy Ranger award presented by SGA at the end of the night. The award recognized the loudest and most spirited group, and the band lived up to the title. Football and soccer both kick off the season, at home, Thursday. Soccer plays at 2 against Eastern New Mexico University. Football kicks off at 6 against Harding University.

# NWOSU allows alcohol this fall

By JAXYN CLOUD  
Senior Reporter

NWOSU is bringing booze to the bleachers this football season.

NWOSU is set to partner with Alva Beer Co. and Troubadour to sell beer at home football games this fall.

"The idea had been brought up multiple times in conversation and the executive team here started researching how it could be implemented at NWOSU," said Kelsey Martin, Director of Marketing and University Relations at NWOSU.

After consideration by university administration, Dr. Hanaford presented the idea to the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents in April and they ultimately decided to approve of alcohol sales.

The board also approved Southeastern Oklahoma State University to sell alcoholic beverages out of their concession stands during their April meeting. Many schools in the Great American Conference serve alcohol and it is becoming more commonly practiced.

There are some people who worry about how alcohol will decrease safety at these events, but others believe it won't change much about the gameday atmosphere. "I just hope this doesn't raise the risk of drunk drivers after the ballgames," said Teagen Wright, a senior elementary education major from Fairmont, OK.

Local officials say they aren't as concerned about these safety issues. "We are a small enough campus that it's more of a family thing. You're going to see student's parents, kids, people from

town and alumni come to games," said Dennis Kilmer, chief of police at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, "We don't draw the crazy crowd."

Kilmer said he didn't anticipate the same problems that bigger schools face with alcohol sales. He said he doesn't think it will be a problem at all.

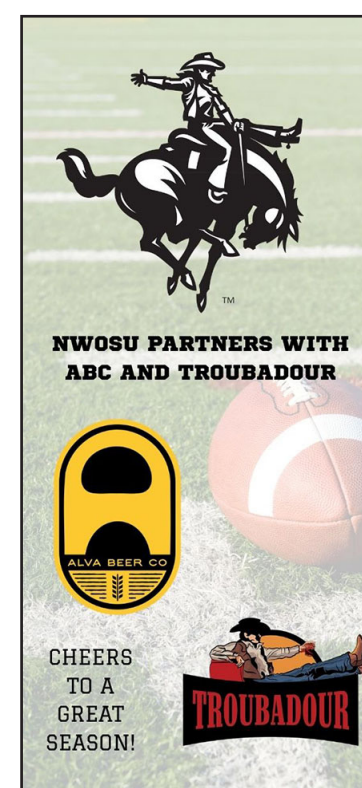
NWOSU will not allow anyone to bring outside alcoholic drinks. All alcoholic beverages will need to be purchased through Troubadour or Alva Beer Co. The licensed bartenders will be responsible for ID'ing customers. Underage drinking will be monitored and those who supply underage students with alcohol will be held responsible by campus law enforcement.

"As long as everyone's responsible it's no different than going to a steakhouse and having a beer

with your supper," Kilmer said, "I think most people around here are more mature than that. They're going to do the right thing."

NWOSU is still technically a dry campus even though they're allowing alcohol sales. There will be strict parameters around the area and it will be clear where alcohol is or isn't allowed. Alcoholic beverages still won't be allowed at the dorms, but will be allowed in the stadium. If caught with alcohol on campus outside the gates of Ranger Field, students will be held responsible by campus police. The alcohol ban in the dorms is because of federal guidelines and the fact that most students living in the dorms aren't old enough to legally consume alcohol. Alcohol being allowed at games doesn't change policies

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# NEWS

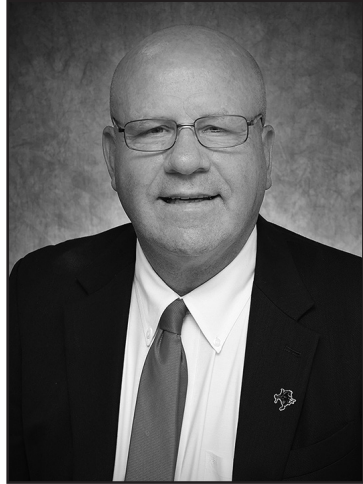
## Leadership expands on campus

By SARAH BRASHEARS  
Co Editor-in-Chief

Northwestern Oklahoma State University has promoted two of its most familiar faces to vice president: Brad Franz moving from director of athletics to vice president of athletics, and Caleb Mosburg from dean for student services and enrollment management to vice president for student services and enrollment management.

These appointments set a significant step for both, having nearly three decades of service to NWOSU combined. Colleagues and students both describe the promotions as well-deserved, recognizing years of commitment and innovation, along with a deep belief in Northwestern's mission.

Franz has led the Ranger athletic department for nearly 10 years, being no stranger to large transitions. Under Franz, Northwestern smoothly navigated the transition from NAIA to NCAA Division II; a process that was successful due to his supportive leadership and planning. "It's



Brad Franz

never just about athletics," said former graduate assistant George Rutherford. "He is a firm believer in ensuring our student-athletes show up in the classroom too. That balance is what sets him apart."

Under Franz's leadership, during the 2024-2025 school year Northwestern athletes posted a combined GPA of 3.21. In addition, 127 student-athletes received national academic honors, the highest mark in the Great American Conference.



Caleb Mosburg

Outside of academics, Franz has expanded athletic opportunities. He was the voice in launching the women's track and field program in 2019, followed by the men's program in 2023. Renovations to facilities in multiple departments also bear his fingerprints.

"Brad has a vision," said Rutherford. "He doesn't put a bandaid on things. He improves the department by thinking long term about what will make the university better."

While Franz has strengthened the athletic side of campus, Mosburg has grown the department for academics and student services. Starting in 2007 in recruitment, Mosburg helped bring in some of the largest freshman classes in school history. This accolade led to him moving to retention coordinator and assistant director of recruitment. From there, his leadership promoted him to director of financial aid and later dean of student services and enrollment management.

While dean, Mosburg oversaw initiatives increasing concurrent high school enrollment by more than 100% and contributed to overall growth for three years straight. Colleagues credit him with building successful recruitment systems while keeping students at the center of decision making.

"He cares very much for each student that steps onto campus," Rutherford noted. "One call from Mosburg can bring a student here."

Both leaders offer connections to the university that are deeper than job titles. Franz earned

both his bachelor's and master's at Northwestern, while Mosburg has spent most of his career here.

Their promotions are noted to be about preparing for the future. With enrollment growth always a priority, as well as athletics playing a central role on campus and in the community, Franz and Mosburg highly contribute to guiding Northwestern into its next chapter.

***"They each have a deep love and passion for NWOSU. This promotion was not shocking to hear."***

— George Rutherford.

The community backs both men in whatever comes next. "They've proven their dedication time and time again," Rutherford said. "For them, it's not just a job. It's simply who they are."

## Chi Alpha returns to NWOSU

By PIPER GALLAGHER  
Senior Reporter

Chi Alpha will be returning to Northwestern's club lineup this semester.

Joining the on-campus ministries, Chi Alpha is a Christian faith-based organization that stems from the Assemblies of God church denomination.

According to the Chi Alpha Campus Ministry website, there are over 300 Chi Alpha clubs at universities across the nation.

"Chi Alpha is a non-denominational student organization that exists on secular university campuses only," said Mark Bagley. Bagley is a computer science instructor at Northwestern, and he is the on-campus sponsor for the Chi Alpha club.

He has a background in pastoring in the Assemblies of God church before he came to Northwestern to teach computer science and robotics.

Bagley was also a part of Chi Alpha during his college days at Oklahoma State University.

Although Bagley is the sponsor for the club, it will be led by campus minister Maddy Dunn.

Dunn graduated from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma where she was very involved in her Chi Alpha organization.

Dunn is also an ordained minister, so she's trained in scripture and counseling services, which really helps her connect to students and help them with whatever

they need.

"We don't really have a really specific denomination," Dunn said. "More so, we're trying to welcome every denomination."

Chi Alpha is actually a club that has been on Northwestern's campus before.

"The young people have a real need to identify with something. And they're going to find something to identify with, and that can be a positive or it can be a negative," Bagley said.

"Everybody's welcome. Any walk of life, anywhere you're at," Dunn said.

Even though Assemblies of God sponsors and supports the organization, the club is open to anyone on campus regardless of faith.

Chi Alpha aims to connect students and support them through their college days.

Chi Alpha is not a Greek organization, despite having Greek letters in the name.

The name comes from the bible verse 2 Corinthians 5:20 that says, "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God." Chi Alpha stands for Christ's Ambassadors.

Dunn said that it's easy to come to college and get isolated. It can be hard to connect with new people and find new friends.

Chi Alpha is here to give students that place to find their people on campus.

"I don't want anyone to have to



Photo by Maddy Dunn

Chi Alpha director Maddy Dunn leads womens small group in prayer at the ending of the first Chi Alpha night. The event took place on Tuesday night, August 26, in the ballroom above the student center on campus.

be in that bad place. If they want to be around people, and they just don't know how, we're that place just to find friendship and to find community," Dunn said.

The club has already started activities on campus this semester.

During Howdy Week they did outreach all throughout the week to meet new people and tell students about Chi Alpha. Every Tuesday they have an outreach on campus.

The club also meets every

Tuesday at 6pm, typically in the student center.

"I've always wanted to be a part of campus ministry, so that was like an open door," said Jamie Torres-Franco, a junior from Hennessey, Oklahoma.

She's also a part of the launch team for Chi Alpha, and has been participating in their outreach opportunities.

Chi Alpha members will also have the chance to meet with other Chi Alpha clubs across Oklahoma at a retreat later in the year.

This will allow students to meet and find ministry with other students across the state, and get to participate in fun activities throughout the event to help them grow their faith and find community.

Chi Alpha is a club that wants anybody who walks into it to feel like they have a place to belong and that they are worth something because of this they are working to make friendships and connections to anyone they come across during their outreaches.

# NEWS

## WHAT'S UP

4

Woods County Fair 3-9 P.M  
Fairgrounds Alva, OK

- First Friday Art Walk 6 -8 P.M  
Downtown Alva
- Woods County Fair 3-9 P.M Fairgrounds Alva, Ok

5

6 Young Eagles Flights 8:30 A.M-10 A.M Alva Regional Airport

- Dr. Eduardo Moreira Piano Recital 7 - 8:30 P.M. Fellers Family Auditorium
- OBI Blood Drive 10-4 Student Center

9

10 OBI Blood Drive 10-4 Student Center

## PARTNERSHIPS

Continued from Page 1

regarding other areas of campus.

Football might not be the only sport allowing alcohol in the stands. It is very possible and likely that this trend will carry over to basketball season this year.

Coincidentally, the city of Alva also made a decision relating to alcohol served on public property at the beginning of last week.

Although it is completely random timing, the city of Alva decided on an emergency ordinance allowing alcohol to be consumed on city property with proper reg-

istration, licenses and paying a special event occupation tax to the city. This decision was made August 25, 2025 with a vote of 7-2.

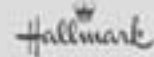
The meeting minutes say the reason for emergency status was because the city has special events coming up in the near future and passing this immediately would benefit the city by bringing more people to these events. It is suggested that the upcoming car show might be the first to serve alcohol on city property under this ordinance.

Together, these policy changes suggest a shift in how the locals view public alcohol consumption.

### FREE FOOD:

- Bible Chair, Tuesday 11:30 a.m - 1:15 p.m., East of Vinson Hall
- BCM Noonday, Wednesday 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., East of Carter Hall
- Wesley House, Thursday 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., West of Shockley Hall

### HOLDER DRUG



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*Lets do lunch!*

## NORTHWESTERN NEWS

Official Newspaper  
Northwestern Oklahoma State  
University

709 Oklahoma Blvd.  
Alva, OK 73717

Published weekly throughout the school  
year except during examination periods  
and holidays and distributed to students  
and staff.

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The News is printed by the Alva Re-  
view-Courier

The opinions and comments contained  
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Regional University System of Oklahoma.  
Four hundred copies have been prepared and  
distributed at a cost to the taxpayers of the  
State of Oklahoma of \$368.00.

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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  
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ters via e-mail are acceptable as long as they  
follow the rules stated above and can be sent  
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# OPINION

## Asbestos almost stopped paper

### Super heroes regularly solve campus crises

By **DR. KAYLENE ARMSTRONG**  
*Adviser*

The newspaper published as usual on  
Thursday this week, so readers are probably  
not aware of some of the challenges that went  
into getting it done, and that a campus super  
hero almost had to make it happen.

First, the asbestos cleanup in the Jes-  
se Dunn Annex continues to be a headache.  
While the broadcast areas, student lounge and  
two professors' offices have been off limits,  
the newspaper newsroom and one professor's  
office have been open because we have had  
access through the print shop in Jesse Dunn.

So we were able to put out our first issue  
with no problems.

But Thursday, the newsroom was closed,  
so workers spraying noxious chemicals in the  
hallway and in the newsroom could do Step  
1 of the cleanup process. Because the news-  
room is adjacent to the annex hallway, it had  
to be sprayed even though we were told it was  
safe to work there and we had been doing so  
for most of the first two weeks of the semester.

We were also told on Thursday that it could  
be closed until the end of all the cleaning and  
asbestos removal. This process also includes  
having an inspector come from Oklahoma  
City after the first step of cleaning with a spe-  
cial chemical and then again after the final  
step of removing the old tile glue that contains  
the asbestos.

So when will the final inspection open the  
annex? Insert shrug emoji.

By the way, it is not uncommon to have to  
wait days or even weeks for inspectors to fit  
your job into their schedules.

With that knowledge on Thursday, we  
quickly realized we would not be able to get  
the newspaper out this week if the newsroom  
remained closed for long.

That's when a campus super hero went into  
action: Craig Ricke, campus IT director.

Ricke quickly came up with a solution. The  
newspaper could operate on laptops checked  
out from the library that he would set up in  
the student center. He would link the laptops  
to the desktops of the computers in our news-  
room, so we could access everything we need-  
ed to design and layout the newspaper.

He arranged to borrow laptops from the  
Faculty Development Center in the library  
and talked to campus police about opening the  
Wyatt room for our use—they were willing  
to do so, even on Sunday and Labor Day if  
necessary.

Then he began the time-consuming task  
of setting up the protocols necessary for the

laptops to communicate with our newsroom  
computers.

On Friday afternoon, things changed when  
we got good news and bad news from Aaron  
Vermillion, campus health and safety officer.

Good news: We could return immediately  
to the newsroom to work. Yippee!

Bad news: An inspector coming Tuesday at  
11 a.m. would likely boot us out again for the  
second step in the process. How long would  
that second step take? Insert another shrug  
emoji.

For our editors, it was also additional bad  
news. They had to cut their Labor Day week-  
end short and come in Monday to work on the  
paper. Everything but a few final edits would  
have to be done by 11 a.m. on Tuesday instead  
of the usual Wednesday when the paper is due  
to the press.

Ricke being willing to come to our rescue  
is just one example of someone in the North-  
western family going the extra mile to keep  
things going here. Many people on campus  
have similar stories as well about other mem-  
bers of the faculty and staff helping them  
solve a crisis.

We're hoping that we will be back full time  
in the newsroom for the next edition, and also  
that people can finally visit us through our  
main door because the hallway opened.

If that doesn't happen, however, we will  
likely have to rely on Ricke to get us through  
it by doing just what a campus super hero  
does: put on his cape and help us get it done.

## Scary for a reason

# Why readers should watch 'Weapons'

By **ASH CRITES**  
*Guest Columnist*

Hello, my name is Ash Crites,  
and I am an aspiring educator tell-  
ing y'all to watch a horror movie  
that features education.

The truth is as follows: If  
you love to read, and love be-  
ing scared, you will love Zack  
Cregger's new film "Weapons."  
I am using the "author is dead"  
approach (meaning my interpre-  
tations do not rely on Zack Creg-  
ger's intentions) to highlight the  
movie's literary aspects. Hopeful-  
ly, this inspires literature lovers to  
watch "Weapons."

**SPOILER WARNING!!** Al-  
though I will not go into explicit  
detail about the movie's themes,  
you will encounter some light  
spoilery.

Audiences may be disap-  
pointed to discover the little girl  
from the trailer's identity is not  
revealed during "Weapons." She

begins and ends the story with  
voiceover narration.

This is the part of the story  
where horror and nonhorror fans  
collectively ask, "Hey director,  
why would you do this to me?"

Believe  
me, I asked  
the same  
question.  
This may not  
ease your  
pain, but this  
storytelling  
decision is

called a "frame narrative," a lit-  
erature device where authors tell  
a story within a story. Although  
I would say most questions are  
answered either explicitly or im-  
plicitly, leaving audiences with  
an open-ended question, or a light  
"cliffhanger," adds a small ter-  
ror's touch to the film's overarch-  
ing mysterious air.

"Weapons" turns audience  
members into detectives. Its plot  
follows a "braided narrative."

This means the movie splices it-  
self into different character per-  
spectives, letting the mystery  
piece itself together with some  
help from watchers.

Readers, you know what I'm  
talking about.  
It is those mo-  
ments where  
prose transports  
you into the  
world through  
fascinating de-  
tail.

"Weapons"  
does this by sprinkling its clues  
with creepy visuals, dream se-  
quences, lighting cues, and cam-  
era work. If you love reading or  
going to the movies so much your  
eyes have practically become a  
silver screen, then you will ap-  
preciate this aspect. If not, then it  
may sound boring, but I promise  
it is scary for a reason!

The most famous scene from  
"Weapons" is the one where a  
child wearing clown makeup

looks up at the audience with a  
smile. This scene embodies the  
main "theme," or central idea:  
child abuse.

Later in the movie, it is re-  
vealed that the makeup the child  
is wearing is the villain's signa-  
ture look. Projecting the bad guy  
onto the child mirrors abusive sit-  
uations, especially with children  
involved. This gives the audience  
a new perspective by adding lay-  
ers to the story. What is supposed  
to be scary has permanently shift-  
ed.

Looking beyond the fear,  
"Weapons" asks audiences to  
make connections that recontext-  
ualize our thoughts and emo-  
tions. It reminds us of what scary  
really is. Fear is not just about  
what looks different. It is about  
vulnerability, and "Weapons"  
shows us exactly what is at risk.

To all the readers who love to  
be scared, go into this movie like  
you are watching a living novel,  
you won't be disappointed.



## Let your voice be heard!

## Columnists wanted

Contact us at [nwnews@nwosu.edu](mailto:nwnews@nwosu.edu)

# OPINION

## College by the numbers

### 6 greatest challenges college students face

1. Financial uncertainty
  2. Time management (juggling jobs, classes, family)
  3. Inadequate academic preparedness. According to EdWeek.org, in 2022, U.S. had the lowest ACT scores in 30 years
  4. Accessibility challenges for students with disabilities, accessibility needs or learning challenges.
  5. Living environment challenges (bad roommates, lack of privacy, shared bathrooms, shared laundry facilities, small spaces, lack of sleep, cleanliness, illnesses)
  6. Mental health and wellness issues: Research.com found 71% of students face mental health challenges, and 78% report sustained or increased levels compared to the previous year.
- Watermarkinsights.com (college data management service)

### No. 1 Mental health stressor

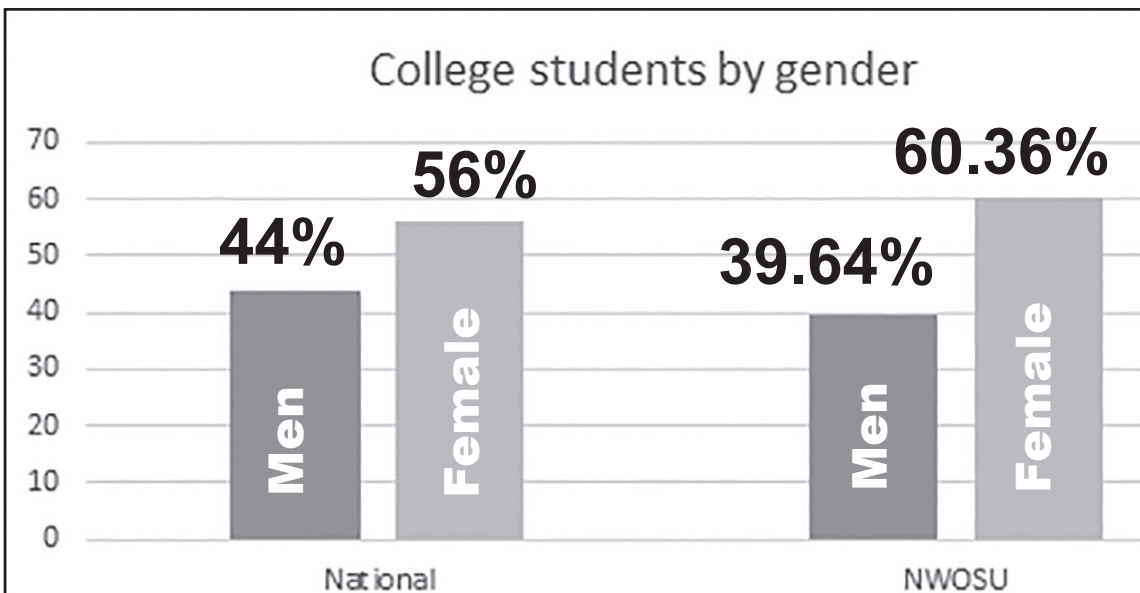
Academic stress may be the single most dominant stress factor that affects the mental well-being of college students.  
— National Library of Medicine

### Top 3 Mental health issues

2021-24

Anxiety	45.1%
Depression	31.9%
Adjustment disorders	29.2%

—Center for Collegiate Mental Health



**22** shootings on college campuses this year  
— CNN.com

### GAC student athlete academic awards

**2024-25**

<b>NWOSU</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>Southern Arkansas University</b>	<b>121</b>
<b>Harding University</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>East Central University</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>Arkansas Tech University</b>	<b>78</b>
<b>SWOSU</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>University of Arkansas at Monticello</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>SOSU</b>	<b>67</b>

—D2 Athletics Directors Association

### Student loan debt

2024 averages  
Oklahoma: \$32,245  
Federal: \$39,075

—Educationdata.org

NWOSU reported in Aug.:  
**59%** graduated debt free  
2024-25, up from 49%  
in 2023-24

Student: Faculty ratio

**16:1—NWOSU**  
**21.1—U.S.**

—Appily.com

### Value of being involved at college

HIGHLY-INVOLVED STUDENTS WERE:	MODERATELY-INVOLVED STUDENTS WERE:	HIGHLY-INVOLVED STUDENTS WERE RATED AS:	MODERATELY-INVOLVED STUDENTS WERE RATED AS:
<b>3X</b> MORE LIKELY	<b>2X</b> MORE LIKELY	<b>18%</b> MORE CAREER-READY	<b>11%</b> MORE CAREER-READY
to be considered for the job by employers than the <b>uninvolved</b> students	to be considered for the job by employers than the <b>uninvolved</b> students	than the <b>uninvolved</b> students	than the <b>uninvolved</b> students

—cssl.osu.edu/

# Car accident changes player's life: The story of Lily Anderson

By EMMA GOTT  
Staff Reporter

A serious car wreck during her time at NWOSU didn't stop her—it gave her a new perspective that now shapes her passion as a coach.

Lily Anderson endured a life changing car wreck during the spring season of her senior year at Northwestern. At the time of the wreck, she was a midfielder for the women's soccer team and was looking forward to her last few spring games as a Ranger. Little did she know, God had a different plan for her. In January of 2024, Anderson was driving to Stillwater around 8:30 a.m. on a snowy Tuesday, when a semi-truck was driving towards her on a two-lane road. She was one mile out from her exit when the semi-truck had a sheet of ice fly off the top and come directly at her car.

"I thought the sheet of ice would just barely hit my window or miss me but that wasn't the case," she said.

Next thing you know she was in the ditch on the side of the interstate and in complete shock.

"I remember it being so loud," she said. "Blood was everywhere, glass was everywhere, ice was everywhere."

Her car also detected the crash and called 911, which she said was a big help. She managed to get out of her car and said she was screaming for help, in hopes that someone would pull over. Thankfully, a man pulled over who was a nurse and rushed to help her. Another woman, who was an ultrasound tech at the hospital she ended up going to, came to help as well.

"They were definitely angels looking over me," she said.

"God was watching over me."

They assisted her and tried to stop the bleeding and calm her down until the paramedics arrived. Her eye was swollen shut and she had no idea what she looked like at the time. At the hospital, she got two sets of stitches above her eyebrow and also got a CT scan to make sure there was no bleeding in her brain. She suffered a concussion, a broken cheek bone, fractured her sinus and her eye was swollen shut for three days. The first time she saw herself was the next day and she said she was in complete shock.

"I did not know that's what I was going to look like," she said.

Her eye was bloodshot and extremely dilated. When she was able to start opening her eye again about three days later, things were blurry for her. She then went back to the eye doctor and was told that she was legally blind. After having 20/20 vision her whole life, this was scary for her. Thankfully now, Anderson is healthy and can use this story as a testimony of her faith.

Anderson would then go on to finish that spring semester and come back in the fall of 2024 to play her final season as a Ranger. She served as a captain for her final two years on the pitch and would then become the next assistant coach for the women's soccer team, alongside head coach, Alex Piekarski. Piekarski says it was a combination of factors for why he chose Anderson to be the next assistant coach.

"I knew it would be something she'd be interested in because of her career goals," he said.

"I knew she'd be a great choice because she had invested so much into our program as a fifth-year player. She's a great representation of ranger soccer and I want that to pass along

to the current and future players too."

Anderson said becoming the assistant coach made sense for where she is in her life right now and what she wants her future to look like.

"My five years were up and I wasn't ready to let go of the sport I've played my entire life," she said. "I knew the best way to continue to be a part of the sport would be to coach and give back to the program I played with."

Anderson has used all her strengths and passions to help the team be successful and grow throughout her first semester as a coach. When talking to one of her former teammates and current players, Braxtyn Turner, she mentioned she loved to play with Anderson for her first year as a ranger.

"Lily is always so positive and uplifting and she just has such good energy," she said. "I think that's a good quality to have to be able to pick your teammates and players up."

Another former teammate, Reese Welch, had nothing but good things to say about Anderson.

"She's always upbeat and her energy is contagious," she said. "She's a great friend and looks out for others."

Anderson is not just a coach and a student working on her masters, but also an aspiring math teacher.

She is not the type of person to brag on herself so some may not know about her accomplishments.

"She was a math major; I mean she's incredibly smart and had phenomenal grades," Piekarski said.

Anderson also has a great support system through her family back home in Texas, where she has one younger brother along with her parents. Her dad, Chuck, said what he admires most about Anderson is her heart and dedication.

"Lily's freshman year in high school was tough for her," he said. "Since she was used to starting and playing most of the game and she didn't play a lot that year, but the team still awarded her the Silver Star award that year, as well as the next two years, based on her heart, dedication and overall team player. Her coach then named her Captain for the next three years."

This is a testimony to who Anderson is as a person and how she has persevered through the hard times in her soccer career and off of the field as well. Her father said he has many great memories with her as she was growing up to now but he has one that he will never forget.

"My favorite memory, with so many options between two graduations and soccer memories, would have to be our last Daddy Daughter Dance," he said. "I got dressed up, and she wore a dress that she didn't wear often. I got her a small corsage, we went out to dinner and then went to the dance where although we didn't dance a ton, we did dance some and had fun taking pictures and playing with the balloons at the dance."

While her dad's favorite memory shows Andersons softer side, Piekarski's favorite memory of Anderson reflects her grit, resilience, and competitive spirit.

Piekarski said his favorite memory of Anderson is a picture where she is wearing a knee brace, head gear, goggles and had her ankle taped too.

"I think that just kind of sums her up, that she's such a tough person but also showed that she still wanted to play and played really well," he said.

Anderson said her greatest accomplishment so far includes graduating with her bachelor's degree from Northwestern, because she was the first in her family to do so. She also said being able to play college soccer for



Lily Anderson (left) sits with Reese Welch (right) at a Ranger's baseball game in New Mexico. The Rangers won that game 24-3 against New Mexico Highlands University and won the series 3-1.

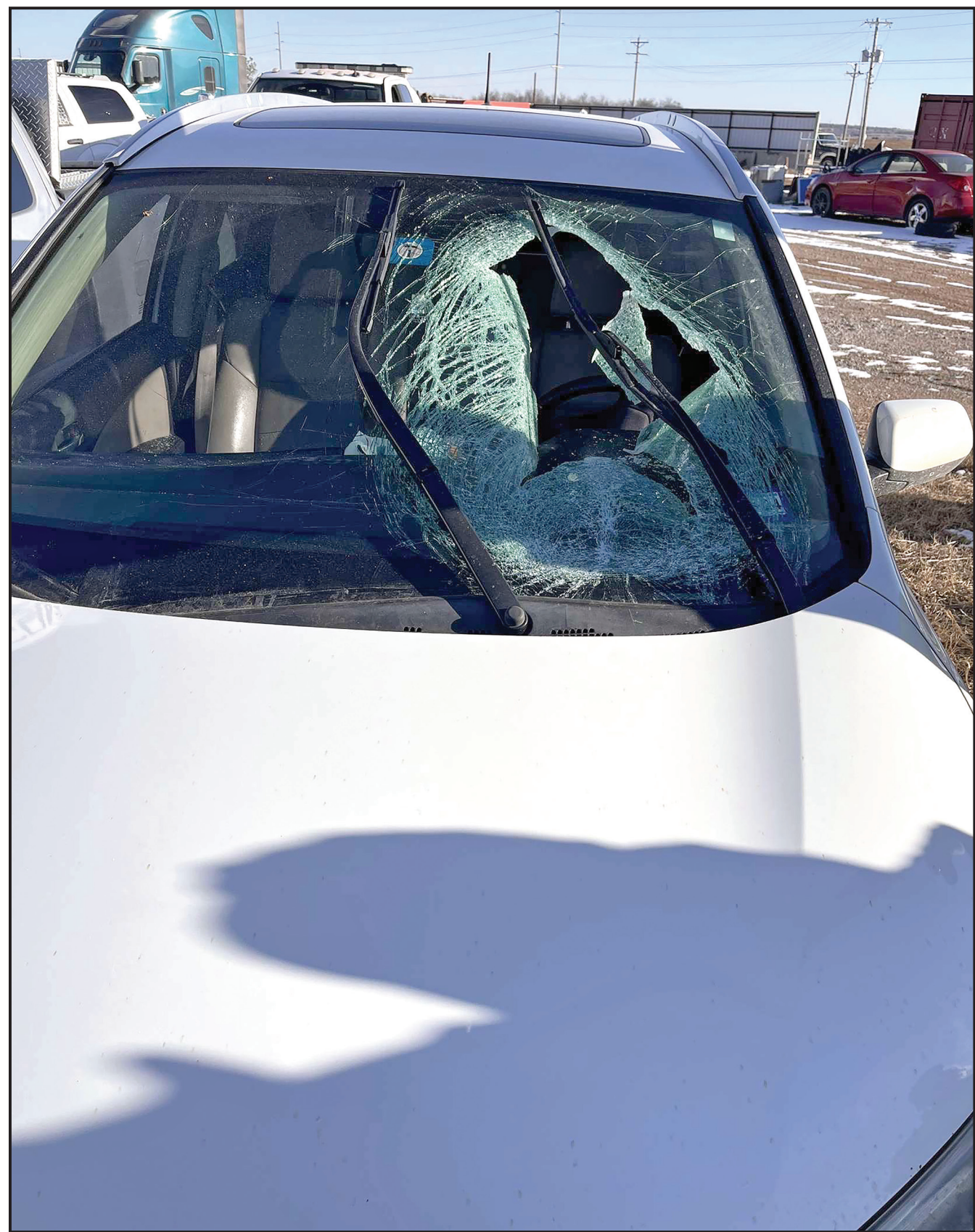


Photo provided

Lily Anderson's car after an ice sheet collided with her windshield causing her to swerve into a ditch just outside of Stillwater.



Lily Anderson, Graduate Assistant Soccer Coach.

five years and not be in debt afterwards.

Her plan after she leaves Northwestern is to become a high school math teacher and continue to be a soccer coach.

"I hope my goal in the classroom is to not just teach math but also develop good people as well," she said. "When they enter the real world, I want them to be good people and know how to respect others, work with others and just be themselves. At the end of the day, I don't care if they know the Pythagorean theorem, I want them to be good people. I also want to help soccer players develop and accomplish their goals as athletes."

After talking to two former teammates, her father and her now coaching partner but former coach, they all described her in one word. They said Anderson is passionate, encouraging, cheerful and upbeat.

Anderson also shared what she believes are her strongest traits.

"I think I'm an optimistic person," she said. "I want to continue spreading joy in this world and stay positive."



Lily Anderson (center) runs through a tunnel of her teammates and gives out high-fives to everyone as she passes them by.

# FEATURE

## Let's be real

# Authenticity over people pleasing

By SARAH BRASHEARS  
Co Editor-in-Chief

We don't always notice when we start people pleasing. It begins small, a simple yes to the extra project at work even though you are already overwhelmed by what is on your plate. You laugh at a joke that doesn't sit right with you because you don't want to be the overly sensitive friend at the table. Keeping your true thoughts hidden to keep the peace.

In the moment, it feels like you are being softer, kinder even. Because in the end, everyone was happy. But were you happy? Again, being real, whenever you abandon your voice and beliefs, when you say yes without having the time, to make someone else happy, you put yourself on the back burner. Your dreams, your beliefs, your identity. Every time you begin the process of people pleasing, slowly and silently, you chip away at who you are! I know this, because I am guilty too.

In the moment, people-pleasing rarely looks harmful. It is like a mask, giving the appearance of kindness, softness, and being a team player. Be honest, who doesn't want to be agreeable and dependable?

However, people-pleasing is giving into the power that fear holds. The fear of rejection. The fear of being disliked. The fear of being selfish, difficult, and "too much." It is fear that leads us into shaping ourselves to be comfortable, even though that comfortability makes us uncomfortable and suffocated.

Let's get real: people-pleasing is not about how nice we are. It's



a survival tool. We have trained ourselves into believing that approval is safety. Maybe you come from a home where peace was rare, so you learned to not muddy the waters. Maybe you discovered that when you are "easy"

more people love you or at least accept you. Maybe you compare your self-worth to how helpful you were to others. But the tools we learn as children, can trap us as adults. At some point, your safety net holds you back.

Here's the truth, ending the cycle of people-pleasing does not mean you don't care. It means you love yourself while caring for others. Stopping the cycle can look like this – saying no without giving an extensive apology, giv-

ing your truthful opinion even if it's unpopular, not scrambling to fix everything when people begin to feel disappointed, choosing your values before validation, chasing your dreams uncomfortably.

In the beginning, breaking the cycle will feel uncomfortable, almost wrong even. But don't let that stop you. The more you do it, the more you realize the weight of the world does not fall onto you. In fact, the world starts to feel like everything is in place exactly as it should be.

Authenticity leads to many benefits. You gain clarity without the voice of everyone's expectations over your own. You build confidence as you start trusting yourself again. People respect you more, ironically, as your "yes" is not an automatic response. You live a life that feels like yours, not a life that seems like you are a puppet on a string. But most importantly, your dreams have room to breathe and grow. All the things you once put on the back burner are now staring you in the face, ready to take a leap.

If this is you, here's my challenge: over the next few days, take note of every yes you say when you don't want to. Notice when you are biting your tongue to keep others happy with your answers. Awareness is the first step to ending the habit. Then, choose one moment, even if it's small, to say no or give your honest review. It is scary, but it is freeing.

Your dreams are waiting, sitting on the back burner, as they always have. They will sit there, until you decide to pick them up and choose you.

# Are vintage items making a comeback?

By JESSICA SCHIEBER  
Co Editor-in-Chief

One huge item that has made a comeback in the past five years has been the vinyl record. Sure, vinyl records were still produced and sold but according to Jilayne Jordan and the camion associates in 2021 vinyl records had a 68% increase in total sales.

It's not only vinyl that has been making a comeback either.

Many old fashion trends are returning and what most thought was old, outdated furniture, like cane and rattan furniture, is also making its own comeback.

But why are these things making such a big comeback? It is because people are seeking ways to reduce waste.

So, what can we suspect to be the next big thing? Many signs are already pointing to the comeback of cassette tapes.

Taylor Swift recently announced the release of her next album "Life of a Showgirl" and with that she announced that it will be included for streaming,

vinyl and be released on cassette tape.

So, what exactly is a cassette tape? It is a compact, plastic-cased magnetic tape cartridge.

A cassette tape was once one of the most common ways to listen to music and it overtook vinyl in the 1980s according to Jordan Valinsky of CNN. In 2023 436,400 cassettes were sold in the U.S. They reported.

Since Taylor Swift is such a huge artist it wouldn't be shocking if the release of "Life of a Showgirl" brought back the life of a cassette tape.

Taylor Swift is not the only artist that has been releasing cassette tapes. Other artists like Billie Eilish, Dua Lipa and Sabrina Carpenter have all released their albums on cassette as well.

Is it safe to say that vintage is back in yet? No one can say for sure but with how things are coming around in a few years it might just look that way.

It is often said that history repeats itself and with the rise and fall of certain items that statement seems to be a lot more real. We

never know exactly what is going to be making a comeback but it always seems that something is coming back.

People still collect old cards, people still listen to old classic music and people are always bringing back old trends. These comebacks are just a way of life to most of the world.

It happens in a cycle, something will be outdated for several years and then all of the sudden the younger generation is finding interest in these old things. People still us VHS tapes to watch old movies.

It is hard to tell if the cassette tape comeback will be as big as the vinyl return to mainstream but it is easier to tell that the cassette tape is making a comeback.

Even if it just a small comeback there is no denying that there was a recent surge in the bying of cassette tapes.

Are artists actively trying to bring these things back? Most likely not but they are aware that there have been a greater amount of these items being bought in the recent years.

## Top 5 best selling cassette tapes of all time

- 1.) FLEETWOOD MAC- RUMORS
- 2.) BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN- BORN IN THE U.S.A.
- 3.) DIRE STRAITS- BROTHERS IN ARMS
- 4.) MICHAEL JACKSON- THRILLER
- 5.) THE EAGLES- GREATEST HITS 1971-1975



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# ENTERTAINMENT

## UK's new law can harm gamers

By KEVIN KAUMANS  
Entertainment Editor

Is anyone reading this old enough to remember the late-1900s, back when it seemed like anyone in the world over the age of 30 got this thought in their heads that video games could turn kids into sadistic, deranged murderers?

Remember the Columbine High School Massacre of 1999 when it was revealed that the two shooters, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, were fans of the 1993 first person shooter game "Doom"? Remember how after that, almost every politician in America at that time blamed any video game that had even a modicum of violence in it for influencing school shootings.

Obviously you can not attribute video games alone as the sole reason the mentally ill of our society commit heinous actions. Sure, maybe too many hours of killing demons was the tipping point that finally made Harris and Klebold do what they did.

But maybe, just maybe, it could instead have something to do with their upbringing, their history of mental illness, or a million other things. But good luck trying to use logic and common sense when arguing with a politician, especially those who were around during the Columbine In-

cident.

But why are politicians like this? Why are they so adamant on blaming one source for the cause of tragedy without looking at the others?

If you were to ask an optimist this question, they would probably tell you that it is because our poor government officials just care about us too much and want to find the quickest way possible to fix the problems in our country.

If you were to ask a pessimist, they would probably say that it is because those in power have their heads so far up you-know-what that the only voices they want to listen to is from their clique who agrees with everything they say.

As for me, I would say that it is a heavy mixture of both. After all, I'm sure that there are people in our Congress who genuinely love their citizens. The problem is that they are usually drowned out by the louder voices of the other government officials who do not. I'm sure by now you are all asking: "But Kevin, what does all this have to do with a new law in the UK?"

Well, I'm glad you asked, because today we will be talking about a little something called The Online Safety Act. Granted, the law is not all that "new," considering it was passed all the way in 2023. However, it was not until this year when this law began gaining traction across Europe to even all the way to America. You



The UK shows us how you can not always hide behind patriotism when committing questionable acts.

see, as its namesake suggests, The Online Safety Act was passed to protect children and adults alike. In theory, this law would make sure children on the web do not get exposed to illegal or adult-centered content.

So what's so bad about this law? From what I have listed so far, it sounds more than reasonable. Who wouldn't want to protect the future generation of this world from depraved individuals hiding behind their screens. Well, put down your pitch forks and let me explain before you judge me.

You see, when a powerful government makes a new law, they tend to try to enforce said law to places outside their country's bor-

ders. Before long, other powerful governments, like America, have been making similar laws to try to enforce age verification across all platforms, even where it is not needed.

For example, remember when porn websites started closing their platform temporarily due to the U.S. asking them to require those who visit them to show their ID before being allowed to enter, which many US citizens rightfully call an invasion of privacy? Or when "Youtube" started using AI to see if you are really an adult or not based on the videos you watch, even if you use your legal government name to make an account? Which, surprising to

no one, has already been seeing pushback by users for trusting an AI to not make mistakes.

Where do video games come into this? Well, recently, a well-known gaming store for PC players called Steam has been facing pushback by some credit card companies. MasterCard and Visa have been denying payments to Steam's customers who use their cards to buy games the credit card companies consider inappropriate. The companies have been saying that this was to prevent users from buying adult-rated video games.

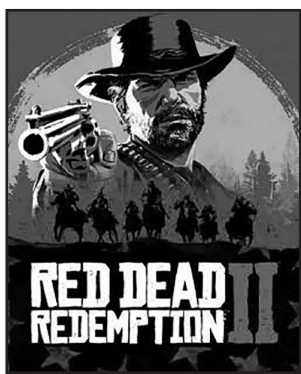
"But Kevin," I hear you ask. "What's the best deal? Are you really throwing a fit because you can no longer buy porn games with certain cards?" But here is the thing: The problem here is not about protecting kids, it is about controlling what citizens can and can not do with their money.

Sure, today they are only coming after adult-rated games. But whose to say they will not come after FPS and TPS games next? Whose to say that kids games with any depiction of violence no matter how little will be removed?

I have no problem whatsoever with protecting kids on the internet. Trust me, I am well aware of the dangers of social media and unsupervised webs. But interfering with citizens' privacy or rights to purchase is not, and never will be, the answer.

### Old video games to try (before someone decides to ban them)

- "Red Dead Redemption 2"
- "Fallout: New Vegas"
- "Far Cry 3"
- "Watch Dogs"
- "Batman: Arkham Knight"
- "Mass Effect"
- "Team Fortress 2"
- "Grand Theft Auto V"
- "Borderlands"
- "Telltale's The Walking"



### Books may help you spot tyranny

- "1984" by George Orwell
- "The Giver" by Lois Lowry
- "Fahrenheit 451" by Ray Bradbury
- "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood
- "Animal Farm" by George Orwell
- "The Long Walk" by Stephen King
- "We" by Yevgeny Zamyatin



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"In order to write about life, first you must live it."

—Ernest Hemmingway

# SPORTS

## Tough season approaching

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**  
Sports Editor

Before the 2025 season has even started, it is looking to be a tall hill to climb for the NWOSU football team. The Rangers are set to face off against one of the 2024 GAC Champions, the Harding University Bison. The game against Harding will be the Rangers' home opener.

Last year, the Rangers faced the Bison while on the road. They were shut out 0-62. This year, with the game being at home, there is hope for a better result.

The Rangers are faced with heavy hitters at the start of the year, beginning with Harding. They have two easier opponents next, the Arkansas Tech University Wonderboys and the Oklahoma Baptist University Bison, both of which are away.

The Rangers defeated Oklahoma Baptist in a close game, 30-28. They then face the East Central University Tigers at home, followed by a tough game against Southern Arkansas University, which is also home.

They continue with tough games with two away games against Henderson State and Southeastern Oklahoma State. The homecoming game is next against Southern Nazarene University, whom the Rangers defeated last year 14-7.

Their final away game will be incredibly tough as they face Ouachita Baptist University.

Their final two games are at



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Ranger quarterback Gunner McElroy prepares to throw the ball during a scrimmage on August 23.

home. The University of Arkansas at Monticello Boll Weevils are first, and the final NWOSU football game in the 2025 season will be against the Southwestern

Oklahoma State Bulldogs.

The NWOSU Rangers were placed last in the 2025 Preseason GAC Poll. Their first opponent, Harding University, was placed

first in the poll.

Last year, on average, the Rangers were outscored 11-41. They were also out-rushed 1007-2433 rushed and out-passed 131-

212 yards. This year may be a challenge for the Rangers, as they play against tough opponent after tough opponent.

Although they were placed last in the GAC Preseason poll, and they no doubt have an incredibly tough season ahead, the Rangers still have the opportunity to prove the doubters wrong.

The Rangers were able to win multiple games last year.

They defeated Oklahoma Baptist and Southern Nazarene. They also had close losses against high-ranking opponents in the GAC.

Last year's game against Southeastern Oklahoma State ended with a late charge from the Rangers. They scored 21 points in the final half of the game, but had a turnover in the final minute of the game and gave the ball to the Savage Storm. Had they been able to complete that final charge, they would have had a chance to win the game by one point.

The other close loss was against East Central University. With another late-game charge from the Rangers, they attempted an onside kick to regain possession in the closing moments of the game. Unfortunately, they were not able to recover the kick, and the Tigers defeated the Rangers by just one point.

The skill and abilities are there, and with confidence and their 100% abilities, the Rangers can defy the odds and get the football team in the spot that they deserve to be in.

### Football schedule

Sep 4 @ 6pm	vs Harding University
Sep 11 @ 7pm	@ Arkansas Tech
Sep 20 @ 7pm	@ Oklahoma Baptist
Sep 27 @ 6pm	vs East Central
Oct 3 @ 2pm	vs Southern Arkansas
Oct 11 @ 1pm	@ Henderson State
Oct 18 @ 2pm	@ Southeastern Oklahoma
Oct 25 @ 3pm	vs Southern Nazarene
Nov 1 @ 1pm	@ Ouachita Baptist
Nov 8 @ 2pm	vs Arkansas at Monticello
Nov 15 @ 3pm	vs Southwestern Oklahoma

### GAC Preseason Poll

1st 119 Points	Harding University
2nd 108 Points	Ouachita Baptist University
3rd 99 Points	Southern Arkansas University
4th 96 Points	Henderson State University
5th 72 Points	Southeastern Oklahoma State
6th 68 Points	East Central University
7th 66 Points	Arkansas Tech University
8th 42 Points	Southwestern Oklahoma State
9th 41 Points	University of Arkansas Monticello
10th 39 Points	Southern Nazarene University
11th 26 Points	Oklahoma Baptist University
12th 16 Points	Northwestern Oklahoma State

The GAC Preseason Poll consists of the ranking of the teams that the Great American Conference voted by the coaches.

The Ranger's first opponent, Harding University, is ranked number one in the preseason poll.

Northwestern Oklahoma State is ranked last in 12th.

The two teams that NWO-SU defeated in the 2024 season, Oklahoma Baptist and Southern Nazarene are ranked in 11th and 10th.

Southeastern is ranked 5th and East Central is ranked 6th.

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# SPORTS

## Volleyball can find success

By **OAKLEE FIELDER**  
Sports Editor

The Lady Rangers head into the 2025 season with many doubters. Although they saw a fair amount of success last year, they are still ranked low in the 2025 preseason poll.

The Lady Rangers are ranked 10th in the twelve-team conference. Last year, the Lady Rangers finished the year ranked number seven, making the eight-team tournament.

The idea that they are ranked so low after making the GAC championships is close to being hard to believe.

With the doubters on high blast, the Lady Rangers look to prove them wrong heading into the 2025 season.

The Lady Rangers finished off 2024 with a 13-16 overall record. Although they left the season on a four-game losing streak, they had large high points in the year.

Many of their losses were close matches, losing 3-2 many times. They also shut out multiple conference rivals throughout the season.

They defeated Southern Nazarene, Oklahoma Baptist, and East Central 3-0. They also had a six-game winning streak in the middle portion of the year.

The NWOSU Volleyball team has proved that they have the



Photo by Ingrid Maldonado

Current Lady Ranger Ivanny Blackwood, No. 15, spikes the ball in a 2024 game against the Ouachita Baptist University Tigers, NWOSU lost 3-2.

skillset to perform well throughout the season. Only time will tell if they will do it again this season.

The Lady Rangers open the season in Rolla, Missouri. They play Missouri Southern and Missouri S&T on September 5.

They then play Minnesota State University, Mankato, and Christian Brothers University on September 6.

The Lady Rangers don't come home for a game until September 25, when they play Southern Naz-

arene University at 6 pm.

Last year their record against SNU was 1-1. They defeated SNU while on the road and lost at home.

There are a lot of possibilities for the Lady Rangers heading

into the 2025 season.

They saw incredible highs and lows last season. With their skillset and luck on their side, they can transform from being the underdogs to a one to beat.

## Volleyball schedule

Sep 5	vs Missouri Southern
Sep 5	vs Missouri S&T
Sep 6	vs Minnesota State, Mankato
Sep 6	vs Christian Brothers University
Sep 11	vs Bethel College
Sep 12	vs Fort Hays State University
Sep 12	vs New Mexico Highlands
Sep 16	@ East Central University
Sep 19	@ University of Central Oklahoma
Sep 20	vs Fort Hays State University
Sep 20	vs Newman University
Sep 23	@ Southeastern Oklahoma State
Sep 25	vs Southern Nazarene

Sep 30	vs Oklahoma Baptist University
Oct 2	@ Southwestern Oklahoma State
Oct 9	@ Henderson State University
Oct 10	@ Ouachita Baptist University
Oct 16	vs Harding University
Oct 17	vs Arkansas Tech University
Oct 23	@ Southern Arkansas University
Oct 24	@ University of Arkansas at Monticello
Oct 28	vs McPherson College
Oct 30	vs East Central University
Nov 4	@ Southern Nazarene University

Nov 6	vs Southeastern Oklahoma State
Nov 11	@ Oklahoma Baptist University
Nov 13	vs Southwestern Oklahoma State
Nov 20-22	GAC Tournament

The first seven games of the schedule are all on neutral ground.

The first three are in Rolla, Missouri. The four after are in Hays, Kansas. After those seven games, the Lady Rangers continue on the road and face one conference team, ECU and a non-conference team, UCO.

After two more non-conference games, they enter conference play. Starting with an away game against Southeastern Oklahoma State.

They only have one more non-conference game after that against McPherson College.

### Volleyball players to watch



**Ece Ozdemir**  
OH  
Redshirt Senior  
Antalya, Turkiye



**Ivanny Blackwood**  
Pin  
Junior  
Limon, Costa Rica



**Mikayla White**  
S  
Senior  
Paola, Kansas



**Cameryn Barclay**  
MH  
Junior  
Catoosa

# Outgoing, experience brought to NWOSU nursing program

By **KEN IRVING**  
Senior Reporter

Northwestern's nursing program will have a new professor to teach students this fall.

Dr. Hannah Hoppes will be a fresh addition to the already cemented nursing program.

Along with an outgoing personality, Hoppes also will be bringing her experience to the nursing field.

Hoppes earned her bachelor's from Calvary University in Kansas City.

Her first nursing degree was her associates at a community college before earning her bachelor's in nursing at Fort Hayes University.

She got her industrial degree from Kansas University. She worked as an adjunct teacher at

Wichita State University and the University of Tulsa.

Coming from a small town, Hoppes knows what it's like to be in the place of her students.

She uses her knowledge and experience of living in Midwest America to her advantage in her classes.

**Q: What sold you on coming to NWOSU?**

A: "I really liked the program. I liked that it was close to where I live. I loved the vision, I loved the campus, I loved the program. I really respect Dr. Collins and Dr. Holderby."

**Q: What is one of the first goals you want to accomplish here?**

A: "I want to get really familiar with the program and know my place in it. I'm going to be coordinating clinical assignments



Dr. Hannah Hoppes

*"I really just wanted to be a part of the team"*

— *Dr. Hannah Hoppes*

for our students, so I want to conserve all my resources to getting them to where they need to be. I also want to build relationships with my teammates with those in the BSN department and my students as well."

**Q: What is your favorite class to teach and why?**

A: "My favorite class to teach is Health Assessment. It teaches people to look at the body and figure out what's going on based on what you can use with your hands, eyes and ears. You get to use your hands and not your brain and you can use different tools like your stethoscope and otoscope and look a little bit deeper."

**Q: What is your superpower?**

A: I really like listening and developing relationships with people. I feel like I can be able

to develop relationships with students and I think that's really helpful."

**Q: What is something most people don't know about you?**

A: "Probably that I like to raise ducks. I like to raise them from ducklings to ducks. We live on a small ranch in south central Kansas so we got chickens and ducks and turkeys and cattle but the ducks are my favorite."

Hoppes will only not be bringing her experience to Northwestern, but also an outgoing personality and enthusiasm.

She will be teaching, planning, and coordinating nursing students to ensure that they will have the most successful experience at Northwestern that they can have.

Northwestern welcomes Dr. Hannah Hoppes to our nursing program.

# Easy going choir director at NWOSU

By **KEN IRVING**  
Senior Reporter

There will be lots of new faces in front of the classroom at Northwestern for the 2025 school year.

Dr. Kane Bradley was hired as the Choir director this fall. Bradley earned his Doctorate from the University of Memphis. He taught as a middle school and high school teacher for 8 years before moving to Northwestern.

He's been in and taught numerous musicals; over 20 shows to be exact. He is a technical teacher that emphasizes technique to build his students to become the best singers that they can be.

One of his goals is for his students to realize how versatile they can be.

**Q: What sold you on coming to NWOSU?**

A: "I really liked the size of the school. As a middle school and high school teacher for 8 years, I had always been teaching in the smaller schools. It kind of became my niche to go in and build up the smaller schools and I wanted to move on to another program who wanted my help. ... Listening to the choir in the spring, it really made me want to come work with them."

**Q: What is one of the first goals you hope to accomplish here?**

A: "I want to increase our music literacy around the state. I realize that is a big challenge and a big job, but we have to teach our music education majors how do you teach music literacy. I'm teaching them you teach music literacy by doing sight reading. We do sight reading every day. By learning sight reading they are then able to take that information that they've learned and put it into new pieces that they've never seen before and therefore learn these pieces faster than they've ever thought. ... Then they will be



Dr. Kane Bradley

able to teach their students music literacy and it'll grow and become a gift that keeps on giving."

**Q: What is your favorite class to teach and why?**

A: "I don't really consider Choir a class because to me, we get to have fun for an hour. I do teach other classes so right now I would say it's choral arranging. ... I want them to be able to look at and sing really high repertoire so they can be exposed to it and they won't be limited."

**Q: What is your "superpower"?**

A: "I guess my superpower would be easy going. ... I always try to maintain a positive attitude. Whenever I first started teaching, I was more grumpy. As I got older I understood that there's something else going on in their life if a student is having a bad day. Once I figured that out, it was a lot easier to let things roll on."

**Q: What is something most people don't know about you.**

A: "I really love musicals. I've probably been in over 20 shows, from the range of being in the chorus to being the star of the show."

Bradley is bringing his experience as a performer and ability to be understanding as a teacher to NWOSU. Northwestern welcomes Mr. Kane Bradley to the fine arts department.

# Annual NWOSU campus worship night

Last Wednesday, the BCM, Bible Chair, and Wesley House came together for a campus wide worship night. The intermural field was filled with students from front to back, playing games, and coming together to worship God.

This is the kickoff of all ministries on campus each year, becoming an annual event. The worship night consisted of mainly singing worship songs, lead by the BCM worship group, with a short sermon from the BCM pastor. The Bible Chair provided hotdogs and the Wesley House provided drinks.



# New insights in biology

By **KEN IRVING**  
Senior Reporter

Dr. Donald Pratt, who is the Associate Professor of Biology, will be taking charge of NWOSU's Botany classes and inserting a few of his own insights.

Pratt earned his Bachelor's of Science in Botany at BYU. He earned his Masters and P.H.D in Botany at Iowa State University.

Pratt taught at Stephen F. Austin University for 19 years before moving to Guatemala City where he taught and was a principal there.

Pratt has traveled across the globe and is bringing his wisdom and experience to NWOSU classrooms.

**Q: What sold you on coming to NWOSU?**

A: "I really liked the feel of the campus. The upper administration are actually very helpful. All of the professors and students that I met were very helpful, very kind, very courteous. I just really liked the way the campus felt."

**Q: What is one of the first goals you hope to accomplish here?**

A: "I actually want to start up some projects. I hope I can work with art. I'm a botanist

so I work with plants, and I'd like to start developing a data base of probably the plants of Gloss Mountain where we take high quality photos and we then provide information about the plants that will be publicly available for people to see it. It's a way to get students interested in studying my field but it's also a really nice service."

**Q: What is your favorite class to teach?**

A: "I really love teaching my upper division students. It's a small class but it's about the plants of Oklahoma. I'm also teaching the two sections of non-majors and I just really love teaching the two sections of large sections."

**Q: What is your superpower?**

A: "My superpower is actually being able to organize material intellectually. I'm really good at being able to make connections and I can put together presentations based off of that so I can pull different parts and pieces and put them together. I feel like in an academic sense, that would be my superpower."

**Q: "What is something most people don't know about you?"**

A: "I have lived eight years of my life abroad. Three years



Dr. Donald Pratt

of my life in Columbia whenever I was a teenager. Two years in my 20's in Finland and then three years in Guatemala City so I have a lot of experience living abroad. I speak Spanish fluently but my Finnish again, although I did used to speak it fluently. ... I really loved going abroad, I loved traveling. I really enjoyed living abroad for those times, but you really begin to miss home. I am very glad to be back in the states again."

Pratt is not only bringing his experience in the field as a professor for over two decades, but he is bringing the knowledge of wisdom from outside of the United States as well. Northwestern welcomes Dr. Donald Pratt to thier staff.