Letter from the Interim Provost

Greetings to Faculty and Staff,

Welcome back to NSU for another exciting academic year. Now that we have had a break in the hot weather, I think I can detect a little higher spring in everyone’s step. I have recently been reading the draft of the HLC self-study and as we address the criteria and core components we must provide evidence that our faculty and staff are engaged with their professional association, scholarly activity and the community. Over the past year and a half, the best evidence of this engagement is the information contained in each issue of the Academic Times. We are a community of scholars with student learning at the forefront. Congratulations to each of you for your contributions. Keep up the good work and have a wonderful semester.

Janet E. Bahr
Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Dr. Jude Abia completed summer research on an EPSCoR grant in collaboration with Dr. Ruya Ozer at Tulsa University on ‘Development of Catalytic Ionic Liquids’. Results of this work are being drafted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. A lecture on this work is also being scheduled to be delivered at Tulsa Community College-Metro campus in the fall of 2011.

Dr. April Adams submitted a National Science Foundation grant proposal entitled, “Building Robots As a Pathway to STEM Careers” ($832,331 for three years). Mr. Daniel Faddis, Director of STEM Outreach Programs for Cherokee Nation is Co-PI and Dr. James Hicks and Dr. Sophia Sweeny are Senior Personnel. If funded the project will expand Cherokee Nation’s VEX Robotics Program to an additional 35 middle schools and high schools in a 14 county area and develop an NSU college robotics team. Dr. Adams was a lead reviewer for NCATE/NSTA national reviews of Science Teacher Preparation programs.

Dr. Pamela Christol and Dr. Erik Terdal submitted an Environmental Protection Agency Environmental Education Grant “Environmental Education: Making Connections.” Dr. Pamela Christol presented to the KIPP Academy 7th graders on August 22.

The Pentagon is the official magazine of Kappa Mu Epsilon, national mathematics honor society. The Pentagon poses challenging problems for students to solve. Dr. Joan E. Bell recently led four students in solving problems posed in The Pentagon. The individual student solutions were submitted as activities in Dr. Bell’s Introduction to Proof class.


Dr. Cindy Cisar presented a poster entitled “Fluoroquinolone Resistant Escherichia coli from Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Effluent and Downstream Sediment” at the annual American Society for Microbiology conference May 21-24 in New Orleans, La.

Dr. Cindy Cisar was awarded $10,462 from the Oklahoma INBRE program and OK State Regents for Higher Education for release time during the fall 2011 semester to write a grant proposal.

Dr. Cindy Cisar participated in a Council for Undergraduate Research (CUR) Proposal Writing Institute July 17-22 in Poughkeepsie, NY. Two NSU undergraduate students, Mandy Lambros and Jacob Curley, received OK INBRE fellowships to perform research in Dr. Cindy Cisar’s laboratory for 8 weeks over the summer. They each presented a poster on their research at the OK INBRE summer research conference in Oklahoma City on July 22.


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Dr. John de Banzie organized a panel of speakers for the fall2011 Science and Technology Seminar Series. He created several new web-based teaching tools for Biochemistry, Developmental Biology, Genetics, and Microbiology and modified several hundred teaching web pages to make them more accessible to students using iPhones.
The Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education selected **Ms. Heather Fenton**, a new nursing faculty, as the Outstanding Allied Health Educator.

**Dr. Edgarita Long** had a presentation accepted for OSHA and ASHA conventions. **Dr. Karen Patterson** and **Ms. Amber Burris-George** also had a presentation accepted by ASHA. Dr. Edgarita Long’s article “Perspectives on Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Populations” was published in the ASHA journal.

**The SLP Program** added another $100,000 contract for school services, which provides SLP graduate students several additional clinical sites. Another SLP Clinical Instructor, **Ms. Autumn Mahaney**, was hired to supervise the graduate students.

- **Dr. Kathi McDowell** is the NSU campus coordinator for the Oklahoma Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program (STEP) sponsored by the National Science Foundation. This five year program is in its third year and has a yearly budget of $62,750. There were 14 entering freshman accepted into the program in July 2011. Invited speakers (faculty) included **Dr. April Adams**, **Dr. Darryl Linde**, **Dr. Tiffany Maher**, **Dr. Rick Matzen**, **Dr. Jessica Martin**, **Dr. Marvita McGuire**, **Dr. Mark Paulissen** and **Dr. Kevin Wang**. Students conducted research with their faculty mentors: **Dr. Joseph Ahlander** and **Dr. Spence Pilcher** and will have the opportunity to continue the research during the fall semester.

- **Dr. Kathi McDowell** presented a report of activities to a joint Internal and External Advisory Committee meeting for the Oklahoma Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program (STEP) sponsored by the National Science Foundation. The meeting was held August 4, 2011 at held the Oklahoma State Regents office in Oklahoma City.

- **Dr. Kathi McDowell**, **Dr. Pamela Cristol** and **Dr. Martha Parrott** conducted a one week Summer Academy program (June 6-10, 2011) entitled “Get Green for Blue: Outdoor Investigations to Connect Water to You” sponsored by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education with a budget of $14,125. This Summer Academy program was featured on Good Day Tulsa Monday, May 30th (Memorial Day) and on the Oklahoma News Report on OETA television on June 6, 2011. They also expect a feature on Broken Arrow TV (Cox channel 20) sometime this fall.

- **Ms. Lori Murray** started nursing doctoral studies at the University of Kansas. **Ms. Heather Fenton** and **Ms. Diana Mashburn** continue their nursing dissertation activities. **Ms. Vickie Brown-Racy** continues her University of Arkansas-Fayetteville doctoral studies.

- **Dr. Mia Revels** was an invited speaker at the American Ornithologists’ Union in Jacksonville, Florida, July 25-28, where she gave a presentation titled “Using online ornithological data in a freshman level, semester long course on how to do science” in the “Teaching with Cutting Edge Bird Data” workshop.

- **Dr. Steven Wilkinson**, **Dr. Martha Parrott**, and **Dr. Pamela Cristol** conducted a two week summer institute for in-service teachers in northeastern Oklahoma as part of a Mathematics Science Partnership grant [July 18-29, 2011]. As a team, NSU faculty approached mathematics and science from an integrated perspective which included experiences that supported critical thinking, reasoning, and outdoor education.

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Optometry professor, Dr. Thomas Salmon, spent most of July in Japan doing research work, volunteering with tsunami recovery and visiting NSU graduates. During the first week, he attended the annual meeting of the Japan Contact Lens Society as a part of his research grant with CooperVision-Japan. Dr. Salmon then traveled to northeastern Japan and spent two weeks working with the people of Ishinomaki, which was one of the hardest hit cities in Japan. Over 5,000 people died from the March 11 tsunami in Ishinomaki. In his last few days in Japan, Dr. Salmon traveled all over the country visiting Japanese NSU graduates, students and their families.

Mark Bighley was granted the “Faithful Servant Award” of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians on July 25th at the thirteenth biennial conference of the organization in Seattle. He was a founding member, chaired the constitution committee, chaired a national convention committee (1989), was the first national vice president (1985-89) and edited the journal CrossAccent from 2003-2011.

Dr. Jason Dovel, assistant professor of music, served on the faculty of the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan in July and August, where he played trumpet in the Festival Orchestra, Festival Band, and Faculty Brass Quintet. In June, he served on the faculty of the Bowling Green State University Summer Music Institute in Ohio as well as participated in the Northwestern University Trumpet Workshop (Illinois) and Oberlin Baroque Performance Institute (Ohio). In May, he served as principal trumpet for the recording session of Daniel Baldwin’s Fanfare for the Fallen, which was recorded on the campus of the University of Oklahoma in Norman. In addition, NSU trumpet students pursued summer music study at the University of Denver, University of North Texas, and the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp.

Dr. Patrick Enright’s paper “Rocketmen” was read at the Popular Culture Conference in San Antonio in April. Because he was on medical leave, Dr. Enright could not attend.

Omissive II, a new watercolor painting by Lance Hunter was selected for the 41st International Exhibition of the Louisiana Watercolor Society in New Orleans. The painting was published in a full color catalog showcasing the exhibition. Hunter also had Under the Surface II selected for the 2011 Member Juried Exhibition of the National Watercolor Society held in San Pedro, California in May and June. In late July, Hunter taught a workshop on figure drawing and painting in Long Beach, California. At the end of the Spring semester, Hunter conducted a two day mural workshop at Texas A&M University. The mural was painted in the G. Rollie White Plaza in front of the TAMU Bookstore. The mural was designed by Hunter, and it celebrates diversity by highlighting the contributions of minorities and women along with the six Aggie core values. During two days in the sun, forty
Texas A&M students worked on the mural in shifts under Hunter’s direction. **Sylvia Nitti**, artist and NSU instructor also provided invaluable assistance with the project.

The completed mural was temporarily hung in the Texas A&M University Club. When renovations are completed next year on the Memorial Student Center, the mural will be moved and permanently installed in the MSC facility on the TAMU campus. **Myiesha Gordon** provided the vision and coordination for sponsoring the mural project, the Coordinator of Exhibitions and Programs at Texas A&M. Myiesha is an NSU Art alumni and a former student of Hunter’s.

Locally, Hunter completed a series of panels installed in T-Bones Restaurant in Tahlequah in June. He designed the T-Bones characters and he painted the mural on the stage with the assistance of **Sylvia Nitti** and NSU art student, Ashlyn Metcalf earlier in the year.

**NSU Theatre faculty member Christopher Miller** completed an original play for children based on the classic tale Hansel and Gretel. The piece will be work shopped and produced by the NSU Theatre Company in September 2011. Another original piece by Miller, a drama titled Bird and Fish, will also be produced as a part of the 2011-2012 NSUTC season.

**Tony O’seland** was sworn in as the Chairman of the Cherokee County Veterans Council for the 2011-2012 year. He is the Commander of Blackfox-Hartness American Legion Post 135, Oklahoma American Legion District 2A Chaplain, and the Chair of CCVC.

**Dr. Tommy Poole** was a guest clinician for the Oklahoma Bandmaster’s Association 2011 Convention at the Renaissance Hotel in Tulsa. In addition, his jazz quintet headlined at the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame in Tulsa.

**Drs. Tommy Poole, Norman Wika, and Jason Dovel** performed with Grammy award-winning singer Gloria Gaynor during her 2011 summer concert in Oklahoma. Gaynor is best known for her #1 disco-era hit, “I Will Survive.”

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**Timothy Saucier** performed the role of the silver-tongued attorney, Billy Flynn, in Muskogee Little Theatre’s production of CHICAGO the musical. At the 2010-2011 “Milties”, CHICAGO won SHOW OF THE YEAR, and Timothy was awarded the honor of FAVORITE FEATURED MALE in the production. Moreover, Timothy was MLT’s ACTOR OF THE YEAR.

The Sequoyah Institute’s Galaxy of Stars Series was awarded $15,252 by the Oklahoma Arts Council for its 2011-2012 season. The grant, written by **Amber Cowan**, provides funding for a series of performances in addition to educational outreach events. This series provides the community with quality arts experiences that educate and engage the audience through a culturally diverse series. For more information on the season, visit www.nsuok.edu/si.

The NSU Stars in the Summer: River City Players presented an acclaimed summer season of rock and roll music revues under the artistic direction of **Robyn Pursley** (NSU Theatre) along with her artistic team including technical director **Scott Pursley** (NSU Theatre), music director **Tommy Poole** (NSU Jazz Studies), and **Margie Green** (NSU Alumni).
Dr. Norman Wika conducted the Tulsa Camerata on May 19, 2011 at the Cascia Hall Performing Arts Center. The program included Octandre by Edgard Varèse and L'Histoire du Soldat by Igor Stravinsky, which featured narrator Dan McGeehan and dancers from the Portico Dans Theatre. The Tulsa Camerata is Tulsa's resident chamber orchestra, made up of professional musicians from Oklahoma and Arkansas. Dr. Jason Dovel was the featured trumpet player with the Tulsa Camerata. Over the July 4th weekend, Dr. Wika performed with the festival orchestra at the First United Methodist Church in Tulsa. The program featured choir, orchestra, and organ playing patriotic music.

Ms. Ingrid Ahrens-Massey is continuing a service-learning experience through an undergraduate reading course that provides clinical reading services to area children.

Donna Shelton conducted a technology workshop for world language educators August 4 and 5 at Oklahoma City University. The workshop, titled “A Window to the World: Authentic Materials and the World Language Classroom,” was sponsored by the Oklahoma Foreign Language Teachers’ Association.

Melissa Strong has been awarded a Caleb Loring, Jr. Fellowship from the Boston Athenaeum for 2011-2012.

Dr. Anne Watson performed as principal clarinet with the 2011 season of Light Opera Oklahoma. She also attended ClarinetFest Convention, in Los Angeles, CA.

Dr. Virginia Whitekiller, associate professor of Social Work, published the manuscript “Bringing Back the Tobacco: Cherokee Stories of Cultural Resilience” in the Fall 2011 issue of Cultural Survival Quarterly, Cambridge, Massachusetts. The NSU Faculty Research Development Funds and the Smithsonian Native American Community Scholar Award made the supportive research for this article possible.

Dr. Tobi Thompson is collaborating with Interim Library Director, Paula Setoon, to explore ways the NSU Reading Department may collaborate with the NSU Literacy Center (housed in the NSU Library).

Stephanie Ingold has joined the team at the Broken Arrow Library. Stephanie comes to us from RSU.

Dr. Stephan Sargent, Dr. Mary Swanson, and Ms. Meagan Eeg-Moreland are publishing an article entitled, “Clinic Experiences that Promote Transfer to School Contexts: What Matters in Clinical Teacher Preparation,” in the 2011 Yearbook of the National Reading Conference.

Dr. Stephan Sargent and Dr. Joan Wipf published “NSU Student PTA Offers Future Teachers a Unique Place in PTA” in PTA's national magazine, Our Children.

Dr. Stephan Sargent and Dr. Mindy Smith are publishing, “Improving Oral Reading Fluency through Readers Theatre” in Reading Horizons (a publication of The International Reading Association - IRA)

Dr. Stephan Sargent is publishing a chapter in Timothy Rasinski's edited book entitled, "Reading Fluency Revisited: Much more than Fast and Accurate Reading."

Dr. Stephan Sargent has recently assumed the role as Literacy Research Association (LRC/NRC) Field Council Representative for the State of Oklahoma (2011-2013).

Dr. Stephan Sargent was awarded NSU’s “Model the Way Award” at the university-wide opening meeting.

Dr. Mindy Smith and Dr. Stephan Sargent have published, “Teachers Leisure Reading Habits and Knowledge of Children's Books: Do They Relate to the Teaching Practices of Elementary School Teachers?” in Reading Improvement.

Dr. Mindy Smith, Ms. Meagan Eeg-Moreland, and Dr. Peggy Lisenee coordinated a summer collegiate experience at NSU in conjunction with the Tulsa Area Community Schools Initiative (TACS) to help bridge the achievement gap and increase physical activity by bringing rich summer learning opportunities to Tulsa's most vulnerable children.

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NSU secures ETS funding for Tahlequah, Broken Arrow programs

Tahlequah, Okla.—Being the first person in one’s family to attend college can be daunting. There are new experiences such as applying for financial aid and scholarships, ACT preparation and career exploration.

Thanks to funding recently secured for Educational Talent Search programs at Northeastern State University, up to 1,000 lower income first generation students will receive assistance in helping prepare for this transition.

ETS provides college and career counseling and helps students recognize their strengths through educational, cultural and adventure activities. ETS is a federally funded TRIO service through the U.S. Department of Education.

“This is an exciting time for ETS at Northeastern,” said Diane Walker, program director. “The schools that will be served by the new Broken Arrow program are happy to be able to work with us. They have students who need these services, so this will be a very productive collaboration.”

ETS is available on both the Tahlequah and Broken Arrow campuses. The Tahlequah ETS program serves students at Chouteau, Coweta, Hilldale, Inola, Jay, Kansas, Ketchum, Keys, Wagoner and Tahlequah. The program at NSUBA will serve students at Depew, Edison, Kellyville, Mannford, Memorial, Ownton, Sand Springs and Sapulpa. Once open at Broken Arrow, the combined ETS programs will assist more than 1,000 students and their families in northeast Oklahoma.

The funding on the Tahlequah campus renews one of the federal TRIO services established at NSU in 2002. However, the ETS at Broken Arrow is a new program which will serve high schools farther west. The funding supports operations through August 31, 2016. Each program will receive $230,000 for the 2011-12 academic year.

“To get funding for a new program at Broken Arrow was almost miraculous,” said Walker, writer of the grant applications. “The three readers gave perfect scores to our BA proposal. That doesn’t happen very often.”

Walker said funding for the established Tahlequah operation was more easily secured, because “we have blown the roof off” all objectives and evaluations. However, she said further services and evaluation will be required by the U.S. Department of Education.

“We must track students that graduate from our program and file a six-year report on the secondary degrees they obtain, whether they be vocational, associate’s or bachelor’s degrees,” she said. “They also are requiring us to provide a financial literacy component for parents of students in ETS. We will offer workshops with instruction on planning and paying for a college education.”

Another added requirement is that a percentage of ETS students must complete a rigorous high school curriculum as defined by Oklahoma’s Promise, which pays the college tuition of students from low-income families provided the students prepare academically for college. Oklahoma’s Promise requires candidates to take four units of English, three of lab science, three of mathematics, three of history and citizenship skills, two of foreign language or computer technology, an additional unit from any of the required subjects and a unit of fine arts with at least a 2.5 overall grade-point average.

ETS organizes on-campus events for students in grades 8-12. One such event, “The College Encounter,” was held July 28 at the Tahlequah campus for new high school seniors.

The ETS staff facilitated activities and discussed topics such as financial aid and scholarships, StrengthsQuest, scholarship resumes and searches, ACT registration, Accuplacer and on-line college applications.

“StrengthsQuest helps students identify their talents and Accuplacer helps students determine which college courses they are ready to enroll in,” Walker said. “Many of these students went through our Learning and Leadership Summit after their freshman years. Some have been attending our events since middle school. The College Encounter is where we get serious about preparations for college.”

The students ended the day with a four-course dinner which included an etiquette lesson.

“Each of the seniors who attended has a wonderful opportunity to succeed during the last year of high school,” said Ryan Eller, an ETS guidance specialist. “They will be more competitive in scholarship selections and the college acceptance process.”

ETS is a federally funded TRIO service. The other TRIO program offered by NSU is Student Support Services. Since funded in 1993, the SSS program assists students in college. All TRIO programs target students from disadvantaged backgrounds.
(Broken Arrow, OK) – Northeastern State University will open a new college this fall semester created specifically for non-traditional students who want to complete a college degree or advance in their careers. Housed on the Broken Arrow campus, the new College of Extended Learning empowers students to successfully fit schoolwork into schedules that are often full of other priorities.

“As a public university, Northeastern State University has an obligation to provide as much access as possible to everyone in our region, regardless of their circumstances,” said Dr. Martin Tadlock, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at NSU. “The College of Extended Learning is designed to provide that access through quality courses and degree completion programs created to meet the needs of working adults in the Tulsa region.”

Degree programs in the College of Extended Learning focus on both quality and convenience, offering a mixture of accelerated eight-week courses; blended, online and weekend classes; and expanded support services. The College of Extended Learning not only offers adults an affordable, customized option to complete a degree but also serves as a valuable resource for the region’s employers.

“This is not just an education issue; it is an economic development issue,” said Dr. Christee Jenlink, dean of the NSU-Broken Arrow campus and interim dean of the College of Extended Learning. “Increasing the number of college graduates in the Tulsa region provides companies – both existing and new – with the talented workforce they need to meet the demands of today’s global economy.”

Research by CEOs for Cities, a national business and education organization, revealed 185,000 individuals in the Tulsa area have some college credit but do not hold a degree. According to the organization, raising the number of college graduates by just 1 percentage point, or around 5,900 graduates, would mean a $646 million impact for the Tulsa region.

NSU’s Degree Completion Programs are the first set of programs offered through the College of Extended Learning and provide adult students the opportunity to go from an associate’s degree to a bachelor’s degree in two years. Areas of study include criminal justice, health care administration, human and family sciences, and, through the statewide Reach Higher program, organizational leadership.

“The College of Extended Learning allows adult students to meet their educational goals in a collaborative, student-centered environment while working with professional and experienced instructors who understand the unique challenges working students face,” said Dr. Cari Keller, chair of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies for NSU. “Flexible schedules and convenient access to services and information is critical to non-traditional learners, and we are excited to provide these opportunities through the new college.”

The College of Extended Learning will add continuing education courses and other degree programs for the spring 2012 semester.

For enrollment information, contact Kris Rider at (918) 449-6225 or riderka@nsuok.edu
• Grant Project: Oklahoma INBRE-Junior Investigator
  Antabiotic Research 2011
  Sponsor: OUHSC through National Institutes of Health (NIH)
  Award Amount: $63,355
  PI or Director: Dr. Cindy Cisar

• Grant Project: Oklahoma INBRE 2011
  Sponsor: National Institutes of Health through Board of Regents
  of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
  Award Amount: $11,675
  PI or Director: Dr. John de Banzie

• Grant Project: INBRE Mentor Program 2011
  Sponsor: Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
  Award Amount: $6,600
  PI or Director: Dr. Cindy Cisar, Dr. Joseph Ahlander

• Grant Project: Great Expectations 2011
  Sponsor: Other Sources-Private Foundation
  Award Amount: $2,382,876
  PI or Director: Dr. Linda Dzialo

• Grant Project: Development of Catalytic Ionic Liquids
  Sponsor: Oklahoma EPScOR
  Award Amount: $10,000
  PI or Director: Dr. Jude Abia

• Grant Project: Project I'm Ready 2011-2012
  Award Dates: 08/01/2011 - 07/31/2012 (Year 2 of 3)
  Award Amount: $332,964
  Project Director: Dr. Pamela Louderback
  Award Length: (3) years
  Sponsor: Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

• Grant Project: Oklahoma Alliance for Manufacturing Excellence 2012
  Award Dates: July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012
  Award Amount: $111,680
  Project Director: Mr. Curtis Evans

• Grant Project: Stream Bioassessment 2012
  Award Dates: July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012
  Award Amount: $51,100
  Project Director: Dr. Amy Smith
  Funding Agency: Oklahoma Conservation Commission

• Grant Project: Oklahoma Small Business Development Center 2011
  Award Dates: January 1, 2011 - December 31, 2011
  Award Amount: $234,981 (Combined Federal and State funding)
  Project Director: Mr. John Blue
  Purpose of Award: To provide comprehensive services and
  resources to existing and potential small businesses
  in the state of Oklahoma

• Grant Project: Educational Talent Search 2012 - (Tahlequah Campus), Year I of V
  Award Amount: $230,000
  Funding Agency: U.S. Department of Education
  Project Director: Diane Walker

• Grant Project: Educational Talent Search 2012 - (Broken Arrow Campus), Year I of V
  Award Dates: September 1, 2011 - August 31, 2012
  Award Amount: $230,000
  Funding Agency: U.S. Department of Education
  Project Director: Diane Walker

• Grant Project: Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students
  Funding Agency: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)
  Award Amount: $20,751
  Project Director: Natalie Batt

If you have any information that you would like to have posted in the October issue of the Academic Times newsletter, please work through your dean's office. Please submit information in the form of a word document. If you have any questions, contact Monica Barnett at barnettm@nsuok.edu. The deadline for the October issue is September 15. Any information sent after that will be in the following newsletter.