Letter from the Provost

Welcome to our first Academic Times for the spring semester, 2012. We hope you enjoy reviewing the professional and scholarly contributions of our faculty and staff. There are outstanding people at NSU, and that is reinforced every January as I review the tenure and promotion files that come through Academic Affairs. It is reinforced every single day as I see and hear about service that is rendered, events that are planned and carried out, and lives that are changed. It is reinforced by this newsletter that reminds me every month of the outstanding work being done here for our students and the citizens of eastern Oklahoma.

Enjoy this issue, and remember to thank Lindsey Taylor for her outstanding work in putting this together for us every month. She graduates this spring, and will be sorely missed!

Dr. Martin Tadlock
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Faculty in the M. Ed. Mathematics Education program [Dr. Joan Bell, Dr. Deborah Carment, Mr. Luke Foster, Dr. Dorothy Radin, Dr. Martha Parrott, Dr. Steven Wilkinson] are key players in a state-wide initiative to develop a new mathematics certification for experienced teachers, the Oklahoma Elementary Mathematics Specialist. Oklahoma will be one of 13 states to offer this certification. NSU candidates will be able to pursue a graduate degree concurrently with this certificate program.

Dr. Jody Buckholtz, Dr. James Hicks, and Dr. Mark Paulissen are teaching Supplemental Instruction sections of General Chemistry I, General Physical Science, and General Biological Science respectively. Dr. Tiffany Maher is the Supplemental Instruction Coordinator.


Dr. Kathi McDowell, Dr. Martha Parrott and Dr. Pamela Christol were awarded funding for the third year of the grant entitled “Get Green for Blue: Outdoor Investigations to Connect Water to You”. The grant is from Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education’s Summer Academy 2012 Program with a direct cost of $14,175.

Dr. Martha Parrott was awarded a fourth service-learning grant in support of the Mathematics Clinic at the Broken Arrow campus. The Mathematics Clinic provides tutor training to pre-service elementary and middle school teachers who, in turn, provide one-on-one help to young children struggling with mathematics. With funding just awarded by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in support of the Oklahoma Algebra Project, Dr. Martha Parrott, in collaboration with Tulsa Public Schools and other higher education institutions will host a summer institute for Algebra I teachers from northeast Oklahoma on the Broken Arrow campus, July 2012.


Patrick Harrington presented “Going to Graduate School in Computer Science,” November 2011, to STEM scholarship students in Tahlequah.
Dr. Erik Terdal’s proposed talk to the Heartland eLearning Conference, “Distance learning, distance teaching: Coral Reef Ecology taught from the Caribbean” was accepted following peer review.

Dr. Joyce Van Nostrand was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Institute for Oklahoma Nursing Education (IONE) as a Representative at Large.

Dr. Frank Yuan-Yeu Yau presented a poster titled, “Transient assay of site-specific recombination assay in planta” at Oklahoma Research Day on November 4, 2011. The poster was authored by Dr. Frank Yuan-Yeu Yau and Dr. Kevin Yueju Wang. The research focuses on the development of transient assays to test site-specific recombination systems in planta. Dr. Frank Yuan-Yeu Yau and Dr. Kevin Yueju Wang’s submission of a manuscript has been accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal on November 29, 2011. Yuan-Yeu Yau and Kevin Wang, Increased regeneration of transformed carrot callus in B5 medium, Journal of Applied Horticulture. Dr. Kevin Yueju Wang and Dr. Frank Yuan-Yeu Yau attended NIH OK-INBRE External Advisory Committee Meeting on November 17, 2011 at PHF Conference Center in Oklahoma City. Dr. Wang presented a talk on Low cost clot-dissolving protein from transgenic plants for stroke treatment.

The NSU Geography Club and Geography faculty (Dr. Mark Carper, Dr. Christine Hallman, and Dr. John Milbauer) sponsored activities for Geography Awareness Week Nov 13-19th. The theme was “DISCOVERING GEOGRAPHY THROUGH COMMUNITY EXPLORATION”. Speakers for this endeavor were Dr. Martin Tadlock (Interim NSU President), Melissa & Dean Bennett (Guadalupe Oaks Farm, Hulbert, OK), Rick Nation (Clear Creek Seeds, Locust Grove, OK), Leslie Moyer (Sustainable Tahlequah, Tahlequah, OK), Dr. Chuck Ziehr (VP for Teaching & Learning), Jamie Goddard (Cherokee Nation Geodata Center), Ed Goss (City of Tahlequah), Elizabeth Montgomery-Anderson (Cherokee Nation Geodata Center), Marty Kimble (Cherokee County 911), Brad Asbill (Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs), and Doug Moore (City of Tahlequah). The week ended with a walking tour of Tahlequah led by Dr. Milbauer.

Kristopher Copeland, instructor of communication, will present a paper on Assessment at the Central States Communication Annual Conference in Cleveland, Ohio in March.

Dr. Brian Cowlishaw, associate professor of English, will be chairing Science Fiction/Fantasy panels at the annual SW/TX PCA/ACA conference in Albuquerque, Feb. 8-11. Many English graduate students will be attending and presenting papers.

Dr. Jason Dovel, assistant professor of music, played trumpet in concerts with the Arkansas Philharmonic Orchestra and the Symphony of Northwest Arkansas in December.

Dr. Christine Hallman, assistant professor of geography, Dr. Peggy Lisenbee, assistant professor of elementary education and Dr. Debbie Landry, associate professor of elementary education, were awarded an Elementary and Secondary Education Act Grant through the OK State Regents of Higher Education. The grant is part of the Improving Teacher Quality State Grant program. The grant project entitled, Geocaching is Catching Students’ Attention in the Classroom, will be a hands-on learning experience which will place teachers in the role of learner. This experience will enable teachers to apply their first-hand knowledge of GPS units and geocaching with effective problem-solving and discovery learning instructional methods. NSU Faculty will be working with teachers in the Nowata Independent School District during the 2012-2013 academic year to implement this grant.

Dr. Ben Kracht, professor of sociology and American Indian studies presented “New Interpretations of Revitalization Movements: A Kiowa Example,” at the 69th Annual Plains Anthropological Conference, Tucson, Arizona last October. He also presented the “Tales of the Maya Skies,” at the Tulsa Air and Space Museum and Planetarium last November.
Dr. Kimberli Lee, assistant professor of English, will be presenting at the annual CCCC’s conference in St. Louis in March as a member of the panel entitled “Rhetorics of Survivance: Challenging Boundaries of Colonial Thought in Interdisciplinary Texts.” Her paper focuses on American Indian women songwriters who are currently performing and producing in the US music industry.

For the second year in a row Dr. David Madden, assistant professor of criminal justice, has prepared a student mock trial team to compete in the American Mock Trial Association regional competition. The American Mock Trial Association competition is centered around trial simulations. Students develop critical thinking and public speaking skills, and become familiar with legal practices and procedures. This year’s team has nine members, including students who competed last year on the inaugural team. The team competed in November at the Billiken Barristers Invitational at St. Louis University against teams like Eastern Michigan University, Washington University, Indiana University, Missouri University, Indiana University, and Kansas University. The team is now preparing for regional competition in Topeka, Kansas in February at Washburn University.

Dr. Melissa Strong, assistant professor of English, presented a paper entitled “Gerty Farish’s Girls’ Club and the Work of Class Mediation in The House of Mirth” at the 2011 Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association conference in November. At the Modern Language Association convention in January 2012, she presented a paper entitled “The Economy of Philanthropy in Huckleberry Finn” and participated in a roundtable in which she discussed using art and popular culture to teach transcendentalism and American romanticism at NSU. Her paper “Survival of the Stupid: The Year of the Flood’s Anti-Darwinism” has been accepted for the ORU Conference on Science and Science Fiction in April 2012.

Assistant Professor of History Dr. Denis Vovchenko’s article, “Modernizing Orthodoxy: Russia and the Christian East (1856-1914),” will be published in the Journal of the History of Ideas in April 2012.

Dr. Anne A. Watson, assistant professor of clarinet, has been asked to perform at the International Clarinet Association’s ClarinetFest® 2012 in Lincoln, Nebraska. She will perform on two separate recitals, one featuring her as a soloist and the other as a member of the Ironwood Trio. Locally, Dr. Watson will be performing in the 2011-12 season with the Tulsa Opera.

Dr. Paul Westbrook, professor of communication, will serve as producer of the Vagina Monologues for the eleventh year. The play is a fund-raising activity for Help-In-Crisis. Traci Clark will direct, and cast members will include NSU students, staff and faculty as well as members of the Tahlequah community. Show dates are March 2, 3 and 4.

Dr. Virginia Whitekiller, associate professor of social work, and Dr. Satara Armstrong, assistant professor of social work, presented their current study, “Attitudes toward the aged: Can one community education assignment make a difference?” at the Council on Social Work Education Meeting last October in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Whitekiller also presented, “Family group conferencing: An indigenous perspective,” at the Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare Conference last November in Midwest City, Oklahoma. Dr. Whitekiller, PI, Child Welfare Traineeship, applied for and received an additional $60,805.00 in federal supplemental funding for FY 2012.

Kin Thompson was named chairman of the Oklahoma Tourism Industry Association (OTIA) at the Governor’s Conference on Tourism this past October. Kin is seen here with Nancy Phillips, Governor Fallin and Max Paty. OTIA is the state’s leading association of tourism professionals.
Dr. Vanessa Anton, Dr. Kathy Hixon (front left to right) and Rhea Johnston (back left) pose with Health and Kinesiology students who participated in their presentation at the Oklahoma Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance convention. Their session was titled "Kaleidescope: Native American Hoop Dance for Physical Education".

NSU Teacher Candidate and Health and Physical Education (HPE) Intern, Shaunda Petree (left), wins the SNAG Award (Starting New at Golf) for the Fall 2011 semester. Her intern coordinator, Dr. Vanessa Anton (right), presented the $2,700 in golf equipment to Shaunda at their final internship seminar in Broken Arrow. Shaunda competed against other HPE interns by writing a paper describing how she would use golf in the community and in her school. The judges were SNAG corporate leaders from Boulder, CO, and Tucson, AZ. This is an award that the NSU Health and Kinesiology Department gives each semester to an outstanding HPE intern.

Dr. Kathy Hixon attended the McGraw-Hill Personal Health Symposium in October at the Ritz Carlton in Amelia Island Florida. The purpose of the symposium was to share idea's and experiences in teaching Personal Health with other attendees from Universities around the US and with the McGraw-Hill Health and Human Performance Team.

Dr. Sophia Sweeney, Ms. Devin Basinger, Dr. Renée Cambiano, Dr. Karen Carey, Ms. Emily Finney, Ms. Cindi Fries, Dr. Judy Moody, Dr. Jocelyn Payne, & Mr. Josh Silver were awarded the grant: Through Their Eyes: Northeastern State University Grant Program in Collaborative Course Redesign. The team is redesigning the education course EDUC 3313 Clinical Teaching/Pre-Internship I.

Dr. Tobi Thompson and Ingrid Ahrens Massey have partnered with Bell Elementary in Stilwell, OK in an effort to increase student achievement in reading and literacy skills. Bell students will be served by graduate reading students in the reading clinic weekly during the spring semester. In addition, Dr. Thompson and Ms. Massey will provide on-site consulting and technical assistance to Bell faculty.

Dr. DaRos-Voseles and Anita Ede presented at the National Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators annual conference November 1-4. The title of their presentation was, “The Family Involvement Plan: Expanding Teacher Candidates’ Understanding of Children’s Families.”

Dr. Allyson L. Watson presented to the Gates Millennium Scholars Advisory Council, NSU Gates Scholars A Year in Review this past November in Los Angeles, California. Dr. Watson also co-authored a chapter, "Your Story is My Story: Examining the Research Literature on Black Women in Teacher Education", in the edited book, Women of Color in Higher Education: Turbulent Past, Promising Future (Jean-Marie, G. & Lloyd-Jones, B.) (Eds.). The book was released this past December. Dr. Watson was responsible for the methodology and summative literature portions. Dr. Watson also recently provided a guest editorial for the Broken Arrow Ledger in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. Watson wrote a grant this summer in partnership with Dr. Debbie Landry to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Office of Minority Teacher Recruitment. The grant award was $9,800 and will co-sponsor the annual College of Education Celebration of Teaching Conference in March 2012. Dr. Watson has been invited to serve as an external doctoral committee member for Mrs. Valerie Willis (NSU Alumni) at the University of Oklahoma, Tulsa. Mrs. Willis will complete her doctoral studies in Educational Administration, Curriculum and Supervision at OU.

Dr. Joan Brogan Wipf, Associate Professor in Curriculum and Instruction, and Dr. Denise DaRos-Voseles, Professor in Curriculum and Instruction co-wrote an article that was accepted for publication and appears in the January/February 2012 issue of Library Media Connection. The title of the article is “Lost Opportunities: Rediscovering Fairy Tales.” In the article the authors discuss how fairy tales play an important role in connecting readers to their emotional lives and how children connect to fairy tales on an emotional level that helps guide them through the complexities of everyday life. Children easily identify with tales rich in universal feelings, characters that are often reflection of themselves, and messages of hope.
Dr. Pamela Louderback has been elected to the President-Elect position of the Oklahoma Chapter of the Special Libraries Association.

Mr. Tom Rink has been elected Secretary of the Oklahoma Chapter of the Special Libraries Association.

Ms. Paula Settoon has been chosen to be the co-chair of the Oklahoma Chautauqua, Oklahoma’s largest humanities event. She has also been elected as the President of the Community Action Project of Tulsa County.

On January 11, 2012 Dr. Richard Castillo attended the Laser and Office Surgery Task for meeting of the National Board of Examiner in Optometry. He was appointed chair of that committee.

Award Name: Oklahoma INBRE-Assessing Quasilattice Structure in Imidazolium-based Room Temperature Ionic Liquids
Award Dates: 01/01/2012-05/31/2012 - Spring 2012
Award Amount: $11,330
Project Director: Dr. Chris Burba

Award Name: Cooper Vision 2012
Award Dates: January 1, 2012 - December 31, 2012
Award Amount: $36,100
Project Director: Dr. Thomas Salmon

Award Name: Alternative Education Delivery Program 2012
Award Dates: January 1, 2012 - December 31, 2012
Award Amount: $300,000
Project Director(s): Dr. Karen Patterson
Funding Agency: U.S. Department of Education

Award Name: AISES-EPSCoR 2011
Award Dates: 09/01/2011-12/31/2011
Award Amount: $6,000
Project Director: Dr. Phyllis Fife
Funding Agency: Oklahoma EPSCoR

October - December 2011 Grant Awards

Award Name: Teaching & Urban Reform Network (TURN) 2011-2012
Award Dates: September 01, 2011 - June 21, 2012
Award Amount: $9,840
Project Director: Dr. Alyson Watson
Funding Agency: OSRHE- Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

Award Name: Child Welfare Specialization Training Program 2011-2012
Award Dates: September 30, 2011 - September 29, 2012
Award Amount: $170,805
Project Director: Dr. Virginia Whitekiller
Funding Agency: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services-Children’s Bureau through the University at Albany, State University of New York
January 2012 Grant Awards

Award Name: **Science at the Zoo 2012**
Award Dates: January 1, 2012- September 30, 2012
Award Amount: $14,410.00
Project Director(s): Dr. Erik Terdal & Dr. Pamela Christol

Award Name: **INBRE-Equipment Grant 2012**
Award Dates: 12/01/2011 - 03/31/2012
Award Amount: $31,939
Project Director: Dr. Martin Venneman

Award Name: **Cherokee Language Degree Program 2011-2012**
Award Dates: 10/01/11 - 09/30/12
Award Amount: $100,000
Project Director: Dr. Leslie Hannah
Project Faculty Coordinator: Mr. Wyman Kirk
Funding Agency: Cherokee Nation

If you have any information that you would like to have posted in the next 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 February issue is February 15. Any information sent after that will be in the following newsletter.