FACULTY RETIREMENTS

Dr. Joan Bell, Mathematics, 31 years
Dr. Clara Camero, Foreign Languages, 15 years
Dr. Bill Corbett, History, 27 years
Dr. Billy Joe Davis, History, 47 years
Dr. Mark Giese, Health & Kinesiology, 26 years
Tony O’eseland, English, 11 years
Delores Sumner, Library, 33 years
Dr. Mike Toyne, Finance, 18 years

Dr. Kevin Wang’s students, Alexia Dicey and Yves Hall, presented two posters at NSU Research Day on April 22, 2015. Alexia Dickey received Sponsor's Award for Best Poster- First Place on “Overexpression of lumbrokinase in plant for application as a potential oral antithrombotic”.

Dr. Wang and Alexia Dickey
Academic Promotion and Tenure
The following faculty members are recommended for advancement in rank effective with the beginning of the 2015 fall semester. They have been recommended by the respective College Dean and the Provost. Faculty members recommended for tenure are noted with an asterisk *

College of Business and Technology
Dr. Jitendra Tewari*, Associate Professor to Professor
Dr. James Briley*, Assistant Professor to Associate Professor

College of Education
Dr. Karen Carey, Dr. Allyson Watson, Dr. Linda Wilson, and Dr. Joan Wipf, Associate Professor to Professor
Dr. Takahiro Yamaguchi*, Assistant Professor to Associate Professor
Dr. Jericho Hobson, Instructor to Assistant Professor
Dr. Rachel Green*
Dr. April Phillips*

College of Liberal Arts
Dr. Diane Boze, Dr. Jennifer Edwards and Mr. Lance Hunter, Associate Professor to Professor
Dr. Tommy Poole*, Dr. Robyn Pursley*, Dr. Melissa Strong*, and Dr. Dennis Vovchenko*, Assistant Professor to Associate Professor
Dr. Kendra Zoellner*

College of Science and Health Professions
Dr. Edgarita Long, Associate Professor to Professor
Dr. Joseph Ahlander*, Dr. Dragos Albinescu*, Dr. Kevin Wang*, and Dr. Rui Zhang*, Assistant Professor to Associate Professor

Oklahoma College of Optometry
Dr. Jenna Lighthizer, Assistant Professor to Associate Professor
NSU senior Amanda Abell (left) receives a $1,000 scholarship check at the April meeting of the Tulsa Chapter of the Institute for Supply Management at the Broken Arrow campus. Making the presentation are Susan Carrillo, ISM-Tulsa Vice-Chair and incoming President, and K. Scott Mullins, Education Chair and incoming Vice-Chair. Amanda Abell is a Material Control Coordinator for Linde Process Plants. Sue Carrillo, Adjunct Professor of Supply Chain Management at NSU, and Mullins are employed by NORDAM.

Dr. Mitch Ricketts, Assistant Professor, Information Systems and Technology, is the author of a peer-reviewed article in the May 2015 issue of the journal, Professional Safety. The article is entitled "Using Stories to Teach Safety: Practical, Research-based Tips." Research demonstrates that story-based health interventions can lead to important and lasting changes in peoples’ behavior. The article explores methods for creating interventions based on educational stories about particular workplace tragedies. Among other research-based tips, the article recommends using stories that illustrate key points of a message, without creating distractions; using stories that clearly demonstrate convincing cause-and-effect relationships; using stories with central characters who share important attributes with audience members; using stories that involve familiar situations, but unexpected outcomes; and using stories in which outcomes would change if characters acted differently.
Circle of Excellence
Each year, three faculty are selected by their peers to receive the Faculty Council Circle of Excellence. Teaching, Research and Service award recipients will receive a brick bearing their name and award to be placed within the Circle of Excellence in front of Seminary Hall. Their photo will be included in a formal display in the Tahlequah Administration Building and receive their choice of a $2,500 check or $2,500 in program funds. The awards were presented by Dr. Cheryl Van Den Handel, Faculty Council President and Dr. Steve Turner, NSU President. Tom Rink, Circle of Excellence for Service is not pictured.

Dr. Kathi McDowell, Circle of Excellence for Teaching

Dr. Joseph Ahlander, Circle of Excellence for Research
Grant Awards

**Award Name:** Great Expectations 2015-16  
**Award Dates:** May 1, 2015 - April 30, 2016  
**Award Amount:** $2,304,208.00  
**Project Director:** Dr. Linda Dzialo  
**Funding Agency:** Other Sources-Private Foundation  
**Purpose of Award:** To teach innovative and inspirational education techniques to school teachers in order to help revolutionize the classroom educational experience of children.

**Award Name:** Tulsa Area Bioscience Research & Education Consortium (TABERC) Summer Internship Program 2015  
**Award Dates:** 06/01/2015- 07/31/2015  
**Award Amount:** $1,500  
**Project Director:** Dr. Ratnakar Deole  
**Funding Agency:** Tulsa Area Bioscience Research & Education Consortium Foundation - (TABERC)  
**Purpose of Award:** To provide funding for support of one undergraduate internship for summer 2015. The student participant will be chosen by TABERC Foundation and will participate in an eight week internship program for the months of June and July 2015.
Each year, the President’s Model the Way Award is presented to two faculty and two staff members who exemplify service above self, tireless effort to promote the mission of the University, and a sense of community and collegiality among their fellow employees. The honorees received a $1,000 check from the NSU Foundation and will have their name engraved on a plaque that resides in the Administration Building.

Dr. Steven Byers, Assistant Professor, Psychology, College of Education
Dr. Neil Whittle, Assistant Professor, Oklahoma College of Optometry
Chris Adney, Director of Auxiliary Services, University Center
Monica Barnett, Executive Assistant/Budget Analyst, Academic Affairs
Oklahoma College of Optometry

Dr. Alissa Proctor, Associate Professor presented a poster on “InfantSEE Utilization by NSUOCO Optometrists” at the 45th Annual College of Vision Development Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada April 16, 2015. She is seen pictured with fourth year optometry student and co-researcher, Mikaela Bolejack.

Dr. Richard Castillo, NSU ophthalmologist, conducted a 3 day surgical workshop at the Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago. This is the seventh year that Dr. Castillo has been invited to bring his program back to ICO.

College of Science and Health Professions

Three students working on research projects with Dr. Cindy Cisar presented posters at Oklahoma Research Day on March 13, 2015. Alejandra Meera presented a poster on Digestive Tract Microbiota Analysis of Sceloporus consobrinus (co-PI Dr. Mark Paulissen). Ashley Bonea and Kayla Schroeder presented a poster on Sequencing of Plasmids Carrying Genes for Ofloxacin Resistance (co-PI Dr. John de Banzie).

Research students from Dr. Das-Bradoo’s lab presented four research posters at the 16th Annual Oklahoma Research Day held on March 13, 2015 on the NSU Tahlequah campus.
Dr. Das-Bradoo’s research student, Dawn Bender, represented NSU at “Research Day at the Capitol” on March 31, 2015. The research day is organized by Oklahoma Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research that is funded by National Science Foundation. Dawn’s poster entitled “A new role of Mcm10 in the DNA damage checkpoint pathway” was very well-appreciated.

Dr. Das-Bradoo attended the NSU Undergraduate Research Day at Tahlequah on April 22, 2015. Four research projects from her lab were selected for poster presentations. The undergraduate students involved in these research projects were Joseph Cameron, Shaina Riggs, Cody Miller, Todd Smith, Ofelia Patrick and Justin Parrish. Lyndsey Weeks and Holly McIntyre’s project was awarded second place.

Dr. Sapna Das-Bradoo, Assistant Professor of Biology

- was invited to review a research grant for National Research Foundation (NSF).
- organized the Biology and Chemistry seminar series on the Broken Arrow campus featuring 4 speaker during the spring semester. The last two talks were ITV to Tahlequah with about 120 attendees on each day.
- was awarded an Oklahoma IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence mini-research grant to continue her research on “Understanding the function of Mcm10 and Polymerase epsilon interaction in yeast”.
- was selected through OK-INBRE to mentor a research undergraduate student this summer.
- was awarded a NSU Faculty Research Grant for her project “Proteomic approach to identify protein interactions for genome stability and cancer”.
- attended a symposium titled “Emerging topics in genome instability” at Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Oklahoma City on April 9-10, 2015. Brandy Fultz from her laboratory was selected to present a poster entitled “Investigating novel interactions of Mcm10 in DNA replication and S phase checkpoint pathways” at the symposium.

Heather Fenton, Jodi Gooden, Diana Mashburn, Jennifer O’Conner, and Staci Quant, NSU Nursing faculty, coordinated six groups of undergraduate nursing students’ poster and podium presentations at the Evidence Based Practice Symposium on April 23, 2015. This annual event is held in collaboration with the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa nursing faculty and sponsored by area health care facilities.

Deb Hyde presented a poster titled "Effect of Microbial Alkaline Phosphatase on Soluble Reactive Phosphorus in Stream Water" at the Oklahoma Clean Lakes and Watersheds Conference in Stillwater, OK on April 8-9, 2015.

Dr. Suneeti Jog gave an invited talk entitled "Vegetation Approaches to Wetland Quality Assessment" on March 11th at the departmental seminar at NSU.

Dr. Suneeti Jog received a National Science Foundation EPSCoR Research Opportunity Award Plus for a research project titled "Partitioning effects of climate change and human disturbance using vegetation approaches".

Diana Mashburn, faculty member and Chair of the RN-BSN Program was selected as an American Nurses Association Credentialing Center content expert in Medical Surgical Nursing and attended the American Nurses Credentialing Center Item Writing Workshop for the national certification examination in Silver Springs, Maryland April 20-22, 2015.

Judy Melvin, Interim Chair, Department of Health Professions and Director, Occupational Therapy Program attended the American Occupational Therapy Association’s Academic Leadership Council Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee on April 14 and 15, 2015.

Dr. Mark Paulissen hosted a group of students from the Claremore High School Anatomy Class on a visit to the NSU human cadaver lab. NSU alumnus and CHS teacher Jay Stout brought 6 of his students to the cadaver lab; the students participated in dissection of the chest cavity and heart.
Dr. John Diamantopoulos, Professor of Mathematics

- was invited to judge the Mathematical Association of America Undergraduate poster competition at the Joint Mathematics Meeting in San Antonio, TX on January 6-10, 2015.
- participated in two focus groups "Delivery of Digital Learning Materials for First Year Math Courses" and "College Algebra Focus Group" by Cengage Learning at the same meeting.

At the OK-AR section meeting of the Mathematical Association of America held at the University of Tulsa in April, Dr. John Diamantopoulos

- presented "Humor in the Classroom".
- moderated the Math Jeopardy student competition.
- organized two student teams of three students to compete in Math Jeopardy. One team advanced to the second round and won fourth place.
- worked with representatives of book companies to provide prizes and pizza for competing teams.

Math Jeopardy student teams included Cindy Jeffcoat, Cheyenne Phillips, Skylar Wapato, Christopher Stratton, Ethan Peck, and Blake Farguson.
Dr. Kyeorda Kemp, Assistant Professor

- has been invited to speak at the Fort Gibson Early Education Center for Community Helper Week about scientist and science.
- taught the Fort Gibson pre-K students about what scientist do and the scientific method.
- was awarded a Faculty Research Council grant for $8,000 for her proposal "In vitro studies of the Unfolded protein response pathway associated gene expression upon T cell activation in human cells".
- presented at the Northeastern Oklahoma Mathematics and Science Teacher Association Annual Spring Conference about using common household items to extract pigments from leaves and teaching children about photosynthesis and why leaves change.
- organized the "Graduate, the what?" presentation from Dr. Duncan, the Program Manager of the National Institutes of Health’s Broadening Experiences in Scientific Training, and Dr. Williams, the Co-Director of the Vanderbilt University Summer Science Academy and Coordinator of the Initiative for Maximizing Student Diversity at Vanderbilt University.
- was chosen as a mentor for the IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence Summer Research Program.
- was awarded an Oklahoma EPSCoR Research Opportunity Award Plus (ROA+) for her proposal “Determining how the unfolded protein response pathway and plant immunity are induced in watermelon upon exposure to biotic stressors” for $12,500.
Dr. Jim Hicks, Assistant Professor of Physics

- met with representatives from the University of Arkansas physics department and College of Engineering to discuss an articulated degree program.
- made arrangements to attend the 2015 meeting of the Division of Molecular, Optical and Atomic Physics division of the American Physical Society.
- continued working on a research project (wireless power transfer via magnetic resonant coupling) with an undergraduate student, Tucker Mastin.

Dr. Spence Pilcher presented an "Introduction to Polymers" at the Region IV American Indian Science and Engineering Society Conference on April 10, 2015.

Dr. Michael Shaughnessy

- received the museum cases required to update the storage facilities in the vertebrate collection.
- published an article in the journal, Checklist entitled, "New records of Merriam's shrew (Sorex merriami) from western North Dakota."

Dr. Wang, Dr. Jessica Martin, Dr. Sung Kun (Sean) Kim and Dr. Pamela Hathorn attended the Council on Undergraduate Research workshop for INBRE program in OKC from April 10 to April 12, 2015.

Dr. Kevin Wang, Associate Professor of Biology

- presented “Low cost clot-dissolving protein from transgenic plants for stroke treatment at the OK-INBRE external advisory committee meeting in OKC on March 17, 2015.
- presented “Plant-derived protein for potential anti-clot application” at the Experimental Biology Annual meeting in Boston from March 28-April 1, 2015.
- attended NSU Research Day held in NSU-Tahlequah on April 22, 2015.
- received $2,200 from INBRE for mentoring a summer research student.
- co-authored a peer-reviewed paper “Expression and characterization of camel chymosin in Pichia pastoris”. It was accepted and published on-line by Protein Expression and Purification.
Seventeen students from Dr. Kevin Yueju Wang’s Molecular Biology and Cellular Biology Laboratory class and Research in Biology presented posters at the Oklahoma Research Day held in NSU-Tahlequah on March 13, 2015.

**Dr. Sue Woods** did an experiment with the 5th grade classes at Caney Valley Elementary School on May 6 and May 13, 2015. They isolated and learned about bacteria and fungi. Dr. Woods also shared information about microorganisms by showing samples from her huge collection of Giant Microbes.

**Dr. Sue Woods** discussed health care professions with the AVID students at Caney Valley High School on May 7, 2015. Advancement Via Individual Determination is a program for students whose families have not traditionally pursued formal education following high school. Dr. Woods discussed college coursework, volunteering and shadowing that are important for anyone pursuing a career as a health care professional.

### STAR and Rising STAR Award

Nominees for the STAR Awards consistently demonstrate commitment and excellence in job performance and dedication to the core values of our institution, as well as a dedication to the professional development of staff on our campuses. **Michelle Farris**, Academic Advisor for the Dean of Muskogee Campus received this year’s STAR Award. **Justin Garrett**, Access Services Assistant for the Library was the recipient of the Rising STAR Award.