Letter from the Provost

It is great to be in Oklahoma working with dedicated and talented faculty, staff and students. We hope you take a few minutes to read through this month’s listing of a few outstanding contributions to teaching, scholarship and service from our faculty and staff across NSU. While there is no way to recognize all of the professional accomplishments of faculty and staff, every individual effort that goes beyond the call of duty, or all of the daily positive interactions with students, we hope to share what we can on a monthly basis through this newsletter.

Our thanks go to Lindsey Taylor, our outstanding student in Visual Communications and an inspiration to all of us in the Academic Affairs office for her work in compiling this collection.

Faculty and Staff Accomplishments

Dr. Terri Baker published an essay “Settling Oklahoma: Women’s Journey Stories” in the November 2009 issue of “Oklahoma Humanities, the Magazine of the Oklahoma Humanities Council.” Additionally, in connection with the program “Museum on Main Street” which is a service that brings Smithsonian exhibits to small town America, Dr. Baker presented programs on “Oklahoma’s Pioneer Women’s Travel Stories” in Miami at the Miami Public Library and in Durant at The Three Valley Museum.


Dr. Ronald Chioldi, College of Liberal Arts, has a piano student, Michiko Saiki, who was a finalist in the Delta Symphony Orchestra’s annual Concerto Competition. The competition took place in Jonesboro, Arkansas. He also coauthored his fourth textbook on group piano for adults. Keyboard Musicianship Book 2, published by Stipes of Champaign, Illinois is in its 9th edition.

Dr. Craig Clifford, Department of Natural Sciences, chairs the Inclusion, Collaboration and Shared Leadership Task Force for the University Planning Group. This group is charged with developing this strategic goal (Goal 3) for the revised Strategic Plan.

Kristopher Copeland’s speech and debate team attended three tournaments last semester and won a total of 8 awards. He also received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Carl Albert State College January 28 in Poteau.

Dr. Kevin M. David, Department of Psychology & Counseling, College of Education, published an article in the March 2009 issue of The Journal of Positive Psychology. The article, “Maternal Reports of Marital Quality and Preschoolers’ Positive Peer Relations: The Moderating Roles of Effortful Control, Positive Emotionality, and Gender”, focuses on individual differences in the links between positive marital interactions and children’s relationships with their peers. Of primary interest was the finding that children who have difficulty regulating their emotions and behavior seem to benefit the most from positive interactions between their parents.

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Dr. Denise Deason-Toyne was nominated for the Medal of Excellence for Teaching at a Regional University.

As a recordings reviewer for the International Trumpet Guild Journal, Jason Dovel's review of the Royal Academy of Music Symphonic Brass's "Richard Strauss - Complete Music for Brass Ensemble" was published in the October 2009 issue of the ITG journal and his review of Charles Lazarus's "Zabaya" was published in the January 2010 issue of the ITG journal.

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Dr. Martha Parrott is sponsoring a mathematics clinic at the Broken Arrow campus. NSU education majors are learning how to tutor students in math, and elementary age students are getting the help they need to succeed. It is a service learning project that greatly benefits both groups and generates plenty of goodwill.

Dr. Spence Pilcher, Department of Natural Sciences, has pretest/posttest scores for his General Chemistry students that demonstrate effective teaching. On the American Chemical Society First Semester General Chemistry Standardized Exam, his students’ results (Mean=32.64) were comparable to the results of students nationwide (Mean=34.37).

Dr. Tom Salmon has been notified of the extension of his Funded Research with CooperVision Japan in which he provides consulting and clinical research on the improvement of certain aspects of CVJ contact lenses. As part of his work with CooperVision Japan, Dr. Salmon will attend the meeting of the Japanese Contact Lens Society in Shinjuku, Tokyo in July 2010. Dr. Salmon has published several articles during 2009 that included articles in the Journal of the Japanese Optometric Association and Clinical Experimental Optometry.

Drs. Tom Salmon and Roger West co-authored an article in the publication Optometry Visual Science.

Dr. Stephen Sargent and Dr. Mindy Smith have an article summarizing a research project on the preparation of reading teachers that has just been accepted in the Yearbook of the Association of Literacy and Educational Researchers, entitled, “What’s Old Is New Again… Is the Foundation of Comprehension Instruction Still Solid?”

Dr. Donna Shelton recently completed the Grammar Handbook supplement to the second edition of ¡Con brío!, a first-year university Spanish textbook from John Wiley & Sons. The Grammar Handbook expands upon the explanations included in the textbook for instructors interested in more in-depth grammar practice or the practice of concepts that are not included in the book. In addition to the explanations, the handbook includes original, contextualized exercises that build on the cultural themes of the textbook.
Dr. Mindy Smith and Dr. Stephan Sargent had the findings of their research study published in the 2010 Winter Edition of Reading Improvement, entitled: "Newspapers for Boys? Newspapers for Girls? Newspapers for Everyone!"

Andrew Vassar escorted NSU’s very first visiting Fulbright scholar, Dr. Muhammed Syamsuddin from Gadjah Madjah University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, to over forty-five presentations throughout the Tulsa area through a unique program that brought direct access to the Muslim world via contact with the Tulsa Islamic Society, St. John’s Episcopal Church, Tulsa, Tulsa Community College and Connors State College. At the end of Dr. Syamsuddin’s visit, he gave presentations in Miami Oklahoma, on Route 66: on October 8 he shared a double bill at the Miami public library with the famed Michael Wallis, speaking about his Route 66: The Mother Road. On November 24th, in lieu of the opening of the Smithsonian Institution’s “Journey Stories” traveling exhibit at the Miami public library, he had the opportunity to introduce the movie “Bones of the Old Road” at the beautiful Art Deco Coleman Theater in Miami with the filmmakers Jerry McClanahan and Jim Ross. He has been invited back to open the Journey Stories reading series for Miami’s Let’s Talk About It Oklahoma series with the Odyssey on February 11th.

Allyson Watson has been selected by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to serve as a board member on the Executive Council of Advisers for the Gates Millennium Scholars program. This is a tremendous responsibility and awesome opportunity. She is one of 8 representatives selected from across the country. The foundation will provide for her training in Washington DC with the President and council members March 5-7th. She will return on the 7th. She is excited to be representing Oklahoma and NSU! http://www.gmsalumni.org/alumni-leadership.html

Anne Watson has had two clarinet literature reviews in The Clarinet, Magazine for the International Clarinet Association. She has also been asked to perform as a featured artist with the Claribel Clarinet Choir (Oostend kerke, Belgium) at the Texas Music Educators Convention in February 2010.

Dr. Virginia Whitekiller is the principal investigator on a grant awarded by the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute.

Mike Wilds taught forensics to 32 high school juniors and seniors at Union Collegiate Academy from January 4-22. In that the Academy is designed for students planning to attend college, it looks like NSU will net 7-12 of the 32 students!

Other News

The Criminal Justice and Legal Studies Department will begin operation of a free legal clinic for veterans on the Tahlequah and Broken Arrow campuses on February 1, 2010. Office hours for Tahlequah will be Mondays 1:00PM-2:30PM in room 337 and Broken Arrow 3:00PM-4:30PM in room 156G every Wednesday. Department Chair Cari Keller and assistant professor David Madden will offer free legal advice on a range of issues for veterans in both locations. Students majoring in legal studies will assist Dr. Keller and Dr. Madden. Advertising for the project will be done through the University. This effort is the result of a Learning Services project submitted by Dr. Keller.

This semester SPAN 2313, Intermediate Spanish Conversation, is using a wiki rather than a traditional textbook. The wiki allows us to gather resources for current and future use in the course. It is still under construction, but it will eventually include all the vocabulary and major activities for all three units. It also has the instructions for speaking tasks that the students will complete using Google Voice and an online media album called VoiceThread. The wiki may be viewed at http://span2313.wikispaces.com/

Deans and Division & Department Chairs

College of Liberal Arts
Dr. Paul Westbrook - Dean
Dr. Mike Chanslor - Communication & Art
Dr. Mark Bighley - Performing Arts
Dr. Les Hannah - Languages and Literature
Dr. Chuck Ziehr - Social Sciences
Dr. Virginia Whitekiller - Professional Studies
Dr. Kari Keller - Criminal Justice
Jason Junkens - Military Science

College of Education
Dr. John Schleede - Dean
Dr. Fritz Laux - Accounting & Finance
Dr. Anne Davey - Business Administration
Dr. Michael Turner - IS & Technology

College of Science & Health Professions
Dr. Martin Venneman - Dean
Dr. April Adams - Natural Sciences
Dr. Darryl Linde - Mathematics & Computer Science
Dr. Joyce VanNostrand - Health Professions

College of Optometry
Dr. Doug Penisten

Muskogee Campus
Dr. Tim McElroy - Dean

Broken Arrow Campus
Dr. Christee Jenlink - Interim Dean

If you have any information that you would like to have posted in the April issue of the Academic Times newsletter, please send it to Monica Barnett at barnettm@nsuok.edu. The deadline for the April issue is March 15. Any information sent after that will be in the following newsletter.