



## Wadley Clinic improves literacy of 89-year-old veteran

For adults, the skills of reading were achieved in days so bygone that they may barely remember how it occurred: the long hours of learning the alphabet, sounding out letters, then syllables, then whole words, then the years it took to go from spluttering over “Dick and Jane” to silently absorbing “The Outsiders” or Harry Potter.

In a lifetime now spanning 89 years, Cookson resident Ed Bray had not completed the process.

“I never could read very much,” he said. “I made myself learn to read cans in stores or recognize signs with pictures or symbols. But I couldn’t read the directions on the back of the cans.”

Hearing Bray recount his life, it seems improbable that he could hide his disability for so long.

He landed at Normandy on D-Day as a military policeman and was later pressed into front-line combat with the 94th Infantry Division as a replacement. He was awarded a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts.

After the war, Bray spent most of his civilian career working at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City. He moved to Cookson upon his retirement in 1982.

Dr. Tobi Thompson, director of the Capitola “Cappi” Wadley Center for Reading and Technology at NSU, began tutoring him in

October 2012. In late February, he read his first book by himself.

Bray had previously sought help with his reading skills, but other tutors either quit or declined due to his age, or he himself became frustrated.

The inspirational account of a war veteran determined to overcome illiteracy at age 89 has resonated beyond Tahlequah and Cherokee County. His story appeared on the CBS Evening News segment “On the Road With Steve Hartman” on March 1, and on Tulsa and Oklahoma City TV newscasts. The Huffington Post, MSN and other outlets as distant as Scotland picked up the story.

During his interview with CBS, Bray told viewers “Get in there and learn, baby, now! ‘Cause you ain’t gonna learn in that pine box.” The Wadley Center is printing Bray’s advice on T-shirts.

Thompson said the Wadley Center will always require outside financial support to fulfill its mission. Interested parties should contact Peggy Glenn of the NSU Foundation at 918-458-2143 for information about donating to the center.

“The work of the Wadley Center is particularly worthwhile,” Thompson said. “There are few if any skills in life that make a greater difference than the ability to read.”



L-R: Dr. Tobi Thompson and WWII veteran Ed Bray visit with Ernie Loganbill of Kansas. Loganbill presented Bray with a hand-carved walking stick that he made for the veteran after being inspired by his literacy story on CBS news.

## NSU named “with distinction” to President’s Community Service Honor Roll

For the fourth consecutive year, the Corporation for National and Community Service has named Northeastern State University to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. Additionally, NSU was named to the Honor Roll with Distinction. Seven other Oklahoma universities were placed on the roll, but NSU was the first in the state and the only institution named “with distinction.”

“I hope this recognition brings awareness to NSU’s strong commitment to community and civic engagement,” said Dr. Laura Boren, vice president for student affairs.

NSU has multiple service programs that enrich the community around it. The programs submitted for consideration for the honor roll were the Martin Luther King Jr.

Day of Service, the President’s Leadership Class Oaks Indian Mission Program, the Fall Festival Halloween Carnival, the NSU Reading Clinic, the hosting of students from Tulsa’s Knowledge is Power Program and the NSU Math Clinic.

“Service experiences empower students to create positive change,” said Boren. “Service experiences also build leadership skills. I believe that it is vital for all our students to engage in service because of the personal growth that occurs as a result of serving.”

Community service and projects also generate greater involvement for students on campus. Boren said students become more engaged in learning and with Northeastern, which results in positive experiences with and positive attitudes about NSU.

NSU’s commitment to service, and teaching the value of service to its students, has created a campus environment that receives national recognition.



## Theresa King named Principal of the Year at Roy Clark Elementary

Northeastern alumna, Theresa Kiger, principal at Roy Clark Elementary School, has been named the 2013-2014 Oklahoma Elementary Principal of the Year.

Kiger received a bachelor's degree in elementary education with an early childhood emphasis and a master's degree in educational leadership from NSU.

Roy Clark Elementary is part of the Tulsa Area Community Schools Initiative. Community schools develop partnerships between the school and its local community by providing not only academics to its students, but also social and health development programs to the community.

Dr. Stephan Sargent, assistant professor of

reading and literature at NSU, said Kiger is instrumental in the preparation of teachers at NSUBA in the reading program.

"She is actively involved in the READ 4063 course and has provided space weekly to us for our students for the past nine years," said Sargent.

Kiger said she absolutely loves her NSU students.

"Having NSU students here, talking about current research, builds such a huge bridge between the actual classroom and the work we do when we go to college," said Kiger. "Clark is such a diverse school with so many different levels of literacy, no matter what age the child is. Each NSU student is able to work with each child."

Kiger said she has already committed to hiring two teacher candidate interns to join the Roy Clark staff next fall.

"It's important when we are talking to new graduates that they understand that this school is a challenge and that there is some hard work ahead for them down the road," said Kiger. "But they will be supported and nurtured during that journey, and have a school that cares for them and wants them to be successful."



## 'Hotel Rwanda' humanitarian gives lecture

Internationally renowned humanitarian Paul Rusesabagina, whose efforts to save lives during the Rwandan genocide were recounted in the 2004 film *Hotel Rwanda*, delivered the Larry Adair Lectureship at Northeastern State University on March 26.

"NSU's mission is to empower individuals to become socially responsible global citizens," said Peggy Glenn, executive director of the NSU Foundation, which sponsored the event. "Most of our students do not have the means to travel to another country or continent, so we brought an international figure to Tahlequah to share his experiences and why we need to be aware of things that go on halfway around the world."

The Rwandan Civil War, virtually ignored by the outside world, was sparked when the plane of President Juvénal Habyarimana, a Hutu, was shot down on approach to the Rwandan capital of Kigali on April 6, 1994. Over the next 100 days, Hutu militias, or Interahamwe, killed about 800,000 Tutsis, political opponents and "moderate" Hutus.

Called "Africa's Oskar Schindler" by some, Rusesabagina used his leverage and contacts as a hotel manager in Kigali to shelter 1,268 Tutsi refugees during the genocide.



# Occupational Therapy Program receives \$200k Gift

Thanks to a generous gift of \$200,000 from Northeastern State University alumni Jesse and Marilyn Gailey, NSU-Muskogee will open a multifunctional living skills teaching laboratory. University officials, members of the Gailey family, Muskogee community

members and allied health partners gathered for the announcement March 1.

The keystone of Northeastern's new occupational therapy program, the lab will allow master's degree candidates to further their occupational therapy skills in

a real-world environment. The living skills lab will have all the comforts of home—a kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and washer/dryer for students to practice their skills. The occupational therapy program is scheduled to begin in January 2014 with 20 students.

"We are pleased to be able to make this kind of donation," said Mark Gailey, son of Marilyn and Jesse. "I know my father would be very happy."

A 1964 graduate of NSU, Jesse Gailey was the president of Totah Telephone Co. Inc. from 1966-1998 and served as chair the board of Totah Communications until his death in 2012. He served as a member of the NSU Foundation Board for 12 years.

"Occupational therapists help people be as independent as possible. We see people across the lifespan—from 6 months to 99 years old," said Dr. Judy Melvin, NSU Occupational Therapy Program Director.

For more information on Northeastern's OT program, contact Dr. Judy Melvin at 918-444-5232.



L-R: NSU Dean of the College of Science & Health Professions Dr. Martin Venneman, Mark and Marilyn Gailey, NSU OT Program Director Dr. Judy Melvin, NSU President Steve Turner and Muskogee Mayor Bob Coburn were on hand for the event.

# Successful first year in MIAA for basketball

The NSU men ended the regular season with a 19-7 record, and the team was rewarded with a berth in the 2013 NCAA Division II Men's Basketball Championship. The RiverHawks returned to the NCAA tournament for the first time since winning the national championship in 2003.

Northeastern State also finished in a three-way tie for third place in the final MIAA standings at 12-6. The RiverHawks earned a first-round bye in the 2013 MIAA Championship, but they fell 69-65 in the quarterfinals to upset-minded Northwest Missouri State.

Junior guard Bryton Hobbs finished third in the league in scoring and fifth in assists. Senior forward Jermaine Bransford led the conference in rebounding and was top 10 in the nation in double-doubles.

The NSU women finished the season 19-8 overall, and the team tied for second in the MIAA with a 14-4 league mark. The RiverHawks earned a bye in the 2013 MIAA Championship quarterfinals, but ended the season there with a 61-42 upset loss to No. 6 seed Fort Hays State.

Northeastern State toppled five ranked opponents and knocked off two top 10 opponents. NSU was 11-0 inside Jack Dobbins Field House, and the team said

goodbye to three seniors who compiled 97 wins and a 46-3 home record in their prestigious careers.

Those seniors were Taylor Lewis, Tosha Tyler and Sarah Green. Lewis was named the MIAA Co-Player of the Year after finishing the season second in the league in scoring at 18.1 points per game. She led the entire conference and was seventh in the nation in

free-throw percentage, three-point field-goal percentage and three-point field goals made per game. She was also named to the All-MIAA First Team and the 2012-13 Daktronics All-Central Region Second Team. Tyler and Green were both honorable mention selections, while junior Carrington Fox was named to the MIAA All-Defensive Team.



NSU forward Marcus Sheppard (center), Vivian, LA junior, goes up for a layup during the RiverHawks overtime win over the University of Central Oklahoma Feb. 27 at the last basketball game played at Jack Dobbins Field House.

# NSU embraces Gov. Fallin's college completion goals

## Top Five Ways D23 will make a difference to NSU and Complete College America

- » Provides a succinct and comprehensive institutional guide to achieving university-wide goals
- » Establishes long-term undergraduate and graduate enrollment goals
- » Reaffirms institution's commitment to eliminate barriers to learning
- » Increases opportunities and choices for students through multiple course offering formats
- » Closes the loop between degree completion and career placement

Since its kick-off in late 2011, Governor Mary Fallin's Complete College America (CCA) initiative has garnered recognition as a national model, heeding the call for improvement in higher education. On March 9, 2012, Northeastern State University formally embraced Gov. Fallin's CCA program.

NSU Destination 2023 (D23), an exciting and vigorous proposal led by President Steve Turner, was announced during the Jan. 2013 Spring Opening Meeting. By establishing D23, Northeastern has set an example as a proactive ally with Gov. Fallin, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and Complete College America. Significant progress is being made as the culture of completion spreads throughout the NSU system.

D23 establishes a unified approach to fulfilling NSU's mission of helping individuals achieve their personal education goals, and it provides the framework for how NSU will increase its base enrollment to 11,000 students by 2023. In order for this project to be successful, said Turner, all areas of the campus must be engaged in the process of improving student success

by applying the traditional values of teaching and learning with a keen eye on outcomes. All which can be accomplished through a culture of caring.

"Student retention and graduation have always been a high priority at NSU, but D23 provides an even stronger emphasis on accountability, meaning that departments and colleges will be evaluated based on qualitative and quantitative measures," said Turner.

Retention and graduation standards will play a major role in the routine evaluation of courses and programs in the future. But ultimately, D23 will move far beyond metrics, goals and standards and enhance the core of NSU's mission.

"Our students need and deserve an institution that is committed to assisting them obtain their life goals. Clearly, the pathway to the middle class and beyond is higher education," said Turner. "Whether it is delivered online or on one of NSU's three locations, rigorous instruction backed by robust student services will allow our graduates to be more competitive and meet the challenges that are ahead of us.

# 41<sup>st</sup> Annual NSU Symposium on the American Indian

41<sup>st</sup> Annual Northeastern State University April 8-13, 2013

# SYMPOSIUM

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- April 10 Opening Ceremony
- April 10-12 Concurrent Sessions
- April 12 Cherokee Heritage Center Showcase
- April 12-13 ONLA Indigenous Language Seminar
- April 12-13 NSU Powwow
- April 13-14 OWNAL Linguistics Workshop

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

- Bunky Echo-Hawk
- Dr. Daniel Littlefield
- Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald

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