

ISSUE

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Yearly

Newsletter

College of Education Northeastern State University Alumni Newsletter



this issue

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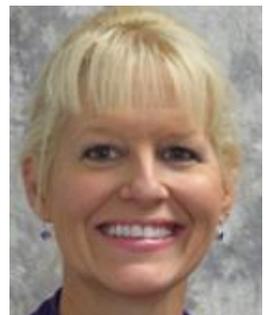
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We are so pleased to share the fourth annual NSU College of Education alumni newsletter! Our College of Education is continuously looking for innovative ways to connect and collaborate with our alum. In each issue you will find information on events within the College of Education, new programs available and program changes being implemented, as well as a spotlight on alumni making a difference within our nation, state, and/or community.

A message from Dr. Vanessa Anton, Dean of the College of Education:

Greetings! It has certainly been a busy year—full of new initiatives and creative thinking. I am always so impressed by the resilience and forward-thinking skills that our faculty, staff, students, and community partners exhibit. By reaching out for feedback and collaborating with others, we are continuing to offer a wide range of course delivery modes, immersive learning experiences, and professional development to best meet the needs of those we serve. We continue to ramp up recruitment and retention efforts in our communities in order to provide fully prepared educators, counselors, and fitness/health professionals. The College of Education offers undergraduate and graduate degrees (15) and several certificates. Whether your dream career centers around teaching in the schools, assisting those seeking healthier lives (physically/mentally), or furthering your knowledge and skills post bachelor's degree with a graduate degree or certificate, we want to help you reach your goals.

Have a glorious holiday season and please stay in touch!



COE Hosts Annual SNAG Golf Fundraising Event



Vanessa Anton, Dean of the College of Education (far right), presented a commemorative plaque to BancFirst (Mindy Baker and Josh Stafford)

The NSU College of Education hosted the annual SNAG Golf Fundraising tournament on September 10, 2021 at the Burnt Cabin SNAG Golf Course. BancFirst and Armstrong Bank tied for first place this year. All proceeds from the event go directly to an endowment for student scholarships. Participants from the College of Education, university, and community volunteers enjoyed playing golf, eating, and spending time with colleagues, friends, and family. This event is played every Fall, and alumni are welcome to participate. For more information, contact Dr. Vanessa Anton.



NSU COE Alumni Spotlight

Shannon Altom

Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Finalist;
Bixby High School (Teacher & Coach)
M.S. Higher Education Leadership,

2014



The College of Education is proud to feature alumni in each newsletter who have positively impacted his/her community and field of study.

In this issue, we are honored to introduce Shannon Altom, AP English/ Language Arts Teacher and High School Girls Track Coach at Bixby High School. She was named the Bixby Public Schools District Educator of the Year and has been named one of the twelve finalists for the 2022 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year. Shannon is also an Adjunct Professor at TCC and a part time Academic Coach for the National Math Science Initiative (NMSI), a national company out of Dallas that supports AP students & AP teachers nationwide.

When speaking about her life and career accomplishments, Shannon discusses her family and the importance of raising her two sons. She said *“nothing is harder or more rewarding, and I am proud of what wonderful young men they are.”* It isn’t easy being a teacher’s child, for *“children whose parent is a teacher make sacrifices by sharing their parent with numerous other kids and responsibilities to those students.”*

Shannon has many career accomplishments. These are a few that she mentioned:

- *Committing to teaching full time while being a graduate student with children; sticking with it and earning my Master's Degree;*
- *Being nominated and chosen as Bixby PS District Teacher of the year in 2021 and making this year's final twelve State Teacher of the Year. There are so many amazing, compassionate, and deserving teachers in our state that it is a huge and humbling honor!*
- *Finally, when students come to believe in their own potential and experience success, I am happy to be in a profession whose mission is to push for those outcomes!*

Shannon is very appreciative of the education she received at NSU. *“Without my education and studies at NSU, I wouldn't be who and where I am. I always felt supported and encouraged as a student at NSU, especially on my return as an adult student earning my Master's. I am especially indebted to Dr. Susan Frusher at NSU for all of her support, instruction, and advisement. She was an inspiration to me and helped me believe I can do more than I thought possible!”*

She plans to return to NSU this spring to finish her School Administration Certification.

Are you interested in obtaining your Master's Degree? NSU College of Education offers the following master's programs. Click on the links for further information:

[Counseling, M.S.](#)

[Early Childhood Education, M.Ed.](#)
(available online)

[Health and Sport Science, M.S.](#)

[Leadership, M.S.](#)
(available online)

[Instructional Leadership, M.Ed.](#)
(available online)

[Library Media and Information Technology, M.S.](#)
(available online)

[Reading, M.Ed.](#)
(available online)

[School Administration, M.Ed.](#)
(available online)

[Special Education - Autism Spectrum Disorders \(ASD\), M.Ed.](#)
(available online)

Dr. Lisa Bisogno, COE Associate Dean, Named Barry University Distinguished Alumni



Dr. Lisa Bisogno, College of Education Associate Dean, was one of five recipients of the 2021 Barry University Distinguished Alumni Award for her collaborative service.

Since 2007, Barry University has paid tribute to outstanding graduates via the Distinguished Alumni Awards, the highest and most prestigious honor that Barry bestows upon its graduates.

The awards are presented to select Barry graduates who have made significant contributions to their professions and/or community, and who consistently demonstrate Barry's Core Commitments of Knowledge and Truth; Inclusive Community, Social Justice, and Collaborative Service through their daily lives.

She was honored at Barry University, in Miami Shores, FL, on November 12, 2021.

Dr. Sally Armstrong Named NSU Centurion



Dr. Sally Armstrong, Professor of Curriculum & Instruction, was named among the 2021 NSU Centurions.

The Centurion honor is awarded annually to 10 members of the Northeastern State University family alumni, faculty, staff, and students who impacted the life of the nominator, the Northeastern community, or the public at large. This award is for individuals whose leadership and commitment, in the course of helping others, has allowed them to make a significant impact in the past 100 years of NSU's history.

COE Department Updates



Curriculum and Instruction: Dr. Renee Cowan is a new Assistant Professor for the Reading Program. Dr. Kevin Jones is a new Assistant Professor for the Special Education Program. Congratulations to Dr. Jericho Hobson and Dr. Samantha Benn-Duke for receiving tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. Congratulations to Dr. Tobi Thompson on her promotion from Associate Professor to Full Professor. The READ Graduate Program passed CAEP Accreditation visit., and some members of the Reading Program sat on the CEOE Reading Certification Advisory Committee.

Educational Leadership: Instructional Leadership passed the five-year review process this fall. Instructional Leadership will be implementing a new certificate in the Fall 2022 semester for Curriculum Director. Instructional Leadership faculty hired two new positions that began this fall. Dr. Kari Henry-Hulett and Dr. Sophia Sweeney both joined the department and will be working in the Instructional Leadership Program. Two faculty retired and collectively they served the university for more than 50 years: Dr. Susan Frusher, Professor of Leadership, and Dr. Judy Moody, Professor of Instructional Leadership.

Health and Kinesiology: Ms. Margaret Dobbs retired in May, 2021. Congratulations to Dr. MooSong Kim for receiving tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. Congratulations to Ms. Shelia Fritts and Ms. Kimberly Seibold for promotion to Assistant Professor. The Health and Human Performance program completed the five-year review process this fall 2021. In addition, the Health and Physical Education received the Oklahoma Teacher Connection Collegiate Grant entitled "Athletes to Educators: A Logical Path to Victory" from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

Psychology and Counseling: The Department of Psychology and Counseling want to welcome Drs Michael Paz and T.J. Schoonover. They have both hit the ground running. Drs Paz and Schoonover are on a committee looking at expanding the TPS-NSU Scholarship for bridging TPS teachers into School Counseling positions to other Public School systems. Research is ramping back up. Dr J. M. Kirk has 2 Honors researchers and 3 UG and Graduate researchers who will present at regional conferences in 2022.. Additionally Dr Beth Bowin is examining how hormone levels are mediated by animals when subjects are exposed to stressors. The online option for the BS in Psychology will begin accepting students in Fall 2022. The department has many initiatives planned and commencing. Work is ongoing to partner with the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma to provide training for mental health and child clinicians. Drs Alex Meyer-Elliott and TJ Schoonover have submitted a proposal for Child Therapy labs on the TQ and BA campuses. These labs will provide demonstrations and experiential opportunities to Psychology, Counseling and education students.

Additional updates: The COE partnered with the American Indian Resource Center, Inc. (AIRC), who received a U.S. Department of Education grant that will provide tuition, fees, books and other resources to help Native American students who want to be a school administrator (IDEAL--graduate level) or a teacher (AIPEC--bachelor's level). Through AIRC, the two projects will provide approximately \$2.8 million over the next five years to accomplish the grant goals. The COE received a subaward of this grant from AIRC to also provide recipients with professional development, immersive learning experiences, and mentoring after graduation. For application questions regarding these grants, contact Krista Boston (AIRC) (Phone 918-456-5581 or kboston@aircinc.org).

Grow Your Own Teachers Program Expands to Tech Center

High School students interested in education take EDUC 3001 as a concurrent course and learn about teaching and participate in an internship. Current partnerships expanded to Northeast Tech Center which represented 11 high schools. For more information, contact Dr. Lisa Bisogno, Associate Dean.

Get Involved Alumni Spotlight

Would you or someone you know like to be recognized in the spotlight section of our newsletter? If so, please complete the following form. *Please note: Not all entries will appear in the spotlight section.

[Nominate yourself or someone else.](#)

Alumni Stories

Would you like to share your NSU story with us? We are seeking alumni quotes and stories to help tell about your experiences at NSU. If you are interested, please visit the following form. [COE Alumni Stories](#)

M.S. Counseling Fall 21



CONGRATULATIONS to these Masters of Counseling graduates, soon to be alumni!

Left to right: Skylar Fielder, Sarah Morris, Lauryn Hyles, Erica Coward, Ashley Steele, Gussy Elvik, Bailey Rush, Rhonda Pleasant, and Ariel Cardenas.

Riverhawk Scholars

Applications for the RiverHawks Scholar Program 2022-2023 school year are open!! Anyone interested in joining, visit the site below to learn more! Forms are due February 1st.

<https://academics.nsuok.edu/.../RiverHawksSc.../default.aspx>



RiverHawk Scholar Lainy Lambert was interviewed by Channel 6 Oct. 18th for receiving the Down Syndrome Association of Tulsa scholarship.

Local Educator is Named One of the 12 Finalists for Oklahoma Teacher of the Year



Emily Friese, NSU Alum 2003, 2005 in Speech Language Pathology, is making a difference in many lives as she serves as the Speech Language Pathologist at Greenwood Elementary in Tahlequah. She has received various awards and was most recently voted Greenwood and Tahlequah Public Schools District Teacher of the Year in 2021 and was named a finalist for the 2022 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year. Emily indicates that her most meaningful life and career accomplishments fall into three categories: her three children, helping students build life-long communication skills and training future educators.

“My three children continually teach me new life lessons and challenge me to live outside of myself. My students are another source of accomplishment for me. It is a blessing to work with students in elementary and help them to build effective communication skills that will last them the rest of their lives. Building relationships with those students and watching them graduate and become contributing members of our community is an immense accomplishment to me because I know their learned communication skills helped them to get there. Communication skills are all about helping students to better connect to their world.”

“NSU laid a solid foundation for me to be where I am today.”

Mentoring graduate interns and new professionals in the field is another career accomplishment of Friese. She has supervised over 25 interns, mostly from NSU, throughout the last 15 years as well as providing Clinical Fellowship supervision for four speech language pathologists in pursuit of national certification. *“I feel accomplished when one of my interns becomes a competent peer and colleague.”*

NSU prepared her to become nationally certified in the field .

“My time at NSU also taught me the value of giving back to the community. Through the Baptist Collegiate Ministry and the Special Services Department, I was provided with opportunities to serve the community, mentor undergraduates and provide speech services to clients at little to no cost to them.”