

ISSUE

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Yearly

Newsletter

College of Education Northeastern State University Alumni Newsletter



this issue

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We are so pleased to share the second 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 upcoming 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:

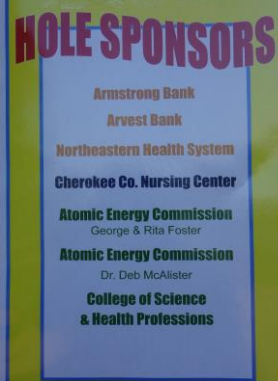
Greetings from the College of Education! As you read through this issue, you will see the range of services and activities we provide. One of our biggest accomplishments this year is that we received accreditation from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). We completed this multi-year process and intense review with no Areas for Improvement, which is quite an achievement. Following that, we received CAEP's Frank Murray Leadership Recognition, which honored thirteen universities across the nation for their leadership and continuous improvement. Our outstanding faculty and staff strive diligently to keep their finger on the pulse of our communities through partnerships and working together. Our undergraduate and graduate degrees evolve to meet the needs we determine through these mutually beneficial collaborative efforts. In addition, we offer a broad range of immersive learning and community service activities both in and out of the classroom. I hope that you enjoy reading this issue of our newsletter, and will reach out if you have comments or ideas that will help us more effectively serve you.



COE Hosts Annual SNAG Golf Fundraising Event



The NSU College of Education hosted the annual SNAG Golf Fundraising tournament on September 6, 2019 at the Burnt Cabin SNAG Golf Course. 100% percent of player and sponsorship funding will go to a scholarship account through the NSU Foundation. 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 Jenifer Cortes Gray

Therapist at Let's Talk, LLC and
Group Facilitator at Human Skills
& Resources

M.A. Clinical Mental Health, 2018



The College of Education is proud to feature an alum each newsletter who has positively impacted his/her community and field of study. In this issue, we are honored to introduce Jenifer Cortes Gray, therapist and group facilitator.

Jenifer is married to Brett Gray who teaches at Broken Arrow High school and also works as a commissioned sculptor. They have two beautiful children, Jensen (6) and Jett (4). With the support of family, she was able to complete the master's program while raising their two children. While in school, she also worked at a local inpatient hospital for the past 4 years. She was able to travel to the American Counseling Association National Conference and had the opportunity to meet counseling scholars and authors along with a renowned Counseling Theorist. While completing the master's program, Jenifer also had the privilege of traveling to Washington D.C. to engage with our nation's representatives and conduct Mental Health and Immigrant advocacy work. She continues to engage with senators and representatives when they host town hall meetings, because she believes this is the best way to serve the community by not only engaging locally but also nationally. Since graduating from NSU last fall, Jenifer has worked full time as a Mental Health Therapist at Let's Talk, LLC and has also facilitated inpatient groups. She will now also be facilitating a Spanish drug and alcohol group.

"I was thankful to have professors who were incredibly knowledgeable and prepared us for our professional careers. NSU is CACREP accredited. This national accreditation is renowned and accepted nationwide. I feel at ease knowing that I can move out of state and be able to have job security because of this rigorous accreditation that NSU offers."

Recently, Jenifer had the incredible honor of becoming a U.S. Citizen. She was thankful to celebrate with friends and family and honored to officially call Oklahoma home. She plans to travel with work to earn continuing education credits from the Oklahoma Counseling Association on a cruise to Mexico. This will be her first time vacationing in Mexico (her country of origin) since she was 4 years old. NSU's College of Education is proud of all the accomplishments achieved by Jenifer Cortes Gray.

Get Involved

- 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 here.](#)
- 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](#)
- We are in the process of seeking volunteers for our COE Alumni Ambassador Program. For more information and to volunteer, please visit the following form.
[COE Alumni Ambassador Program](#)



COE Department Updates

Curriculum and Instruction: C&I is now home to the Teacher Education Program. Several faculty have received promotions/tenure. Congratulations to Dr. Ingrid Massey (READ) and Dr. Sherry Been (ELED) on becoming associate professors, and congratulations to Dr. Anita Ede (ECED) on becoming a full professor. New faculty: Kimberly Church, Reading; Dr. Kathy Seibold, Teacher Ed.; and Dr. Jason Proctor, Teacher Ed. Our ECED master's program is now fully online. The Muskogee Campus will once again house a reading clinic. The clinic, operated by Dr. Tobi Thompson, will share space with the Speech-Language Pathology Department. SLP is also sharing space at the Wadley Center on the Tahlequah campus. A grand opening will be announced soon.

Educational Leadership: The Higher Education Leadership Program has changed to a Master of Science degree in Leadership with specific strands now covering higher education, but also tribal leadership among other things. The Library Media Program continues to grow due to now being offered online with candidates from around the state. The Instructional Leadership Program is working toward creating some certificates that will center on being a curriculum director in a district and being an instructional coach in a district. The School Administration Program is working to replace long-time faculty member Dr. Carl Farinelli who retired last year after 30 years of service with NSU. Faculty in all programs continue to work on creating their own scholarship by doing research and presenting at state and national conferences.

Health and Kinesiology: We offer the HHP degree on the Broken Arrow campus from Fall 2019. The HHP program in BA provides an affordable option for students in the metro area to earn a bachelor's degree while attending classes close to home. Former undergraduate student, Tyler Wilson, moved to Master of Occupational Therapy program at OU. Former undergraduate student, Casady Mills, moved to Doctorate of Physical Therapy at OU. Former undergraduate student, Caleb Nicholas, was hired for City of Tahlequah's Recreation Coordinator for Parks & Recreation. Former undergraduate student, Kennedy Garcia, moved to Master of Physical Assistant program at OU in OKC.

Psychology and Counseling: Dr. Elizabeth Melles received outstanding faculty member award at the annual meeting of the Oklahoma Psychological Society. Dr. Elizabeth Keller-Dupree was accepted into the Counselor Educator Academy, a fellowship program through the National Career Development Association. Dr. Paul Cooper continued as the Chief Psychologist for the Office of Juvenile Affairs and is on the Advisory Board for CREOKS Mental Health and provided training for over 100 mental health professionals. Dr. Kurt Choate published a book that was released internationally earlier this year through Routledge Publishing, *Transgender and Gender Diverse Persons: A Handbook for Service Providers, Educators, and Families*. He was also recognized at the state House and Senate as the Psychologist of the Day in May.

RiverHawks Scholar Program

NSU is the first university in the state of Oklahoma to offer a program for adults with intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities.

The [RiverHawks Scholar Program](#) is off to a great start. We have begun our 2nd year at NSU by welcoming our new freshman cohort onto campus. We are thrilled to have freshman & sophomores in our program. RSP students continue to live in campus housing, attend traditional social events on campus, attend classes with traditional college peers and work 10 hours per week at internships on campus. They are very busy and definitely loving college life and growing in their independence. For more information, contact Justin Chase at chase04@nsuok.edu.



STEAM Maker Lab Offers Innovative Benefits

The STEAM Maker Lab, now available on the Broken Arrow and Tahlequah campuses, is a studio dedicated to promoting and enhancing interest in science, technology, engineering, arts and math in education through the use of innovative, immersive and interactive exploration.

The STEAM Maker Lab serves pre-service teachers in the [NSU College of Education](#), community teachers and families.

This program includes benefits such as science and engineering kits with curriculum and resources available for checkout, professional development for teachers, resources for classroom activities, the latest emerging technologies for training and checkout and a classroom setting for students and teacher training.

Appointments to use the STEAM Maker Lab are only necessary if classes are being brought for tours. For more information, please contact hobsonjl@nsuok.edu or call 918-449-6583.





Dr. Meagan Moreland continues to share innovative, unique, and fun literacy strategies on the News on 6 each month. This fun session aired on September 19, 2019.



NSU Alumni Association presented a \$500 teacher appreciation gift card to COE alum Dee Shell and Principal Rachel Kaiser at Creekwood Elementary in June, 2019.



Dean Vanessa Anton and Associate Dean Lisa Bisogno, along with Stilwell HS Principal Matt Brunk, presented about creating teacher pipelines at the Northeastern Oklahoma Novice Teacher Development Conference on Feb. 27, 2019.



Dean Vanessa Anton and Dr. Cindi Fries accompanied Pre-2 interns as they taught at the Amadeus International School in Vienna, Austria in May, 2019.

NSU COE Events and Information

• NSU COE Alumni get-together

The NSU College of Education hosted its second NSU College of Education alumni event on September 28th with the annual Bagley Reunion. President Steve Turner, Provost Deborah Landry, Dean Vanessa Anton, and Vice President of University Relations Dan Mabery were in attendance and spoke to the group of alumni and guests. Additional faculty and staff also attended the event.

• The COE names three endowed chairs

We are pleased to announce three newly named endowed chairs in the COE. Dr. Tobi Thompson, Director of the Cappi Wadley Reading Center and C&I Department Chair, is the Brackett Endowed Chair of Reading. Dr. Kurt Choate, Psychology and Counseling Department Chair, is the Endowed Chair of Faculty Development and College Excellence. Dr. Kelli Carney, Library Media and Information Technology, is the Eddings Endowed Chair of Recruitment and Retention in Education. These positions will support various emphases within the college.

• 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 & Kinesiology, 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)



Celebration of Teaching 20th Annual Event March 14, 2019

Guest Speaker: Taylor Mali, a TED "Best of the Web" speaker, has done little more than write & perform poetry—and teach others to do the same—since 2000. His poems "are clear. They are almost always hysterically funny, often sentimental, appealing, accessible. And smart" (Bob Holman). He is a vocal advocate of teachers and the nobility of teaching, having taught in one capacity or another since 1990.