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Members from an NSU team of two doctors and nine optometry students were able to help about 460 people during a four-day mission trip to Honduras.

Third World Whirlwind: NSU Optometric Team Gives Back with Mission Trip

Honduras might seem a world away for some, but for Dr. Alissa Proctor, Northeastern State University associate professor in the College of Optometry, the third world country is just a summer memory away.

This summer, Proctor and optometry colleague Dr. Ashley Brooks, and a several students from the NSU College of Optometry participated in a mission trip to provide vision care to the residents of Roatan, Honduras. The team of two doctors and nine optometry students was able to help about 460 people during the four-day trip.

Students who participated with the mission trip included Candace Acord, Lori Barton, Jamie Dunn, Ryan Emrick, Sarah Gallagher, Phillip Tabor, Summer Hilton, Lindsey Chomiuk, and Preston Smith.

"The leading cause of preventable blindness in third world countries is lack of glasses," said Proctor. "Our trip was especially important during this time in history for Honduras. With the political coup, tourism is down and much foreign aid has been limited. The island is so beautiful, yet the people have such need."

The team got on a bus each day at 8:00 a.m. and drove a windy, hilly road to get to the vision clinic, which was set up in an Outreach Ministries church. Proctor said that at least 50 people would already be waiting when the team arrived each day.

The patients were sent through different stations at the clinic, including ocular and health history, visual acuities and retinoscopy, which is a time-saving method of determining an estimated prescription for a patient by using a machine. Overall, 2,000 pairs of glasses were distributed and some pairs will be mailed back. Thirty-three patients were found to have cataracts and referred for surgery.

Proctor considers the trip a success and a great learning experience for the students.

"Our students worked really well as a team," she said. "It was a great experience for them and I'm glad I could take part. I enjoyed watching them step out of their comfort zone and shine during this life-changing experience."

Proctor hopes they can do another mission trip in the future. She wants to hold fundraisers and set some foundation for an effort called Students Volunteering Optometric Services to Humankind.

"Our team was excited to partner with the optometry school and NSU to go out into the world and bring vision care to those who had none," Proctor said. "We can't do this without the support of the optometry school and NSU. We are very grateful for everyone who helped."

Education Building Renovation, New Name

Northeastern's Education Building isn't showing its age after an overdue restoration delivered a new roof, windows, paint, carpeting, sealed brick, an elevator, an upgraded air conditioning system and restrooms compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act. It even got its third floor back. And, on Oct. 10, it also received a new name.

"We're rededicating the building to honor the students and faculty who were here when the building functioned as a school," said Anita Thompson, development and grants officer for the College of Education.

Completed in 1928, the building was "Bagley Hall" once before when it was dedicated in May 6, 1929. It housed Bagley Training School where Northeastern's student teachers taught pupils of the Tahlequah Public Schools system.

The practice of assigning student teachers to public school classrooms led to the elimination of laboratory schools. Northeastern ceded all primary education duties in Tahlequah to TPS, which permitted Bagley Hall's use as a junior high school in 1952 and elementary school classes were included later.

Increasing enrollment led Northeastern to insist that TPS return use of the building fully to the university, which was concluded in 1964, allowing the College of Education to move in. The name Bagley Hall was subsequently dropped in favor of the Education Building.



Former College of Education deans Dr. Tom Newton (left) and Dr. Lloyd Coppedge join current dean Dr. Kay Grant, and NSU President Don Betz, for the rededication of the Education Building as Bagley Hall. A reunion of former students was held in conjunction with the event.



Mustaculous

Dr. John Yeutter, Northeastern associate professor of accounting, poses with a customized topiary auctioned off during NSU's Come Home to the Dome event held during last month's Homecoming events. Yeutter, his 'stache, and his good works at the University, recently garnered national attention from the American Mustache Institute. Yeutter finished second behind Arizona Diamondbacks pitcher Clay Zavada for the Robert Goulet Mustached American of the Year award. The pair joined 18 total finalists which included U.S. Attorney Eric Holder, Obama advisor David Axelrod, University of Oklahoma quarterback Landry Jones, and U.S. Airways pilot Chelsey "Sully" Sullenberger III, who landed his flight safely in the Hudson in January. For more information, vist www.americanmustacheinstitute.org.



Ascending

A new mural now adorns the west exterior of the NSU Playhouse. "Ascending" was painted by associate art professor Lance Hunter with the assistance of artist Sylvia Nitti. Students Matt Capps, Leah Dotson, Danielle Ford, Peter Hay, Tonya Murphy, Sonya Norman, Avrahm Thorne and Amber Watson also assisted. The formal dedication of the mural was Oct. 22 in the NSU Playhouse parking lot.

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Jenlink Named Interim NSU-BA Dean



Dr. Christee Jenlink, assistant dean of the College of Education, has been named interim dean of Northeastern's Broken Arrow campus, effective January 4, 2010. She will serve in the role of chief operating officer until the search for a permanent appointment is completed.

She assumes the top campus leadership role at Broken Arrow that has been held by Dr.

Ed Huckeby since 1999. Huckeby was named president of Southwestern Christian University last month, and will take the helm there in January.

"Christee Jenlink comes to this very critical position with a strong background in leadership and education, and a deep commitment to fulfilling our mission to helping students become socially responsible global citizens," said Dr. Don Betz, NSU president. "She has experience in the Broken Arrow and Tulsa communities, and is widely regarded as a responsible leader in the field of higher education. I am very pleased that she is ready to step in to a key leadership role at our Broken Arrow campus."

Jenlink's connection to NSU began in spring semester of 2000 as an adjunct instructor in the Department of Teacher Education, when classes at the newly created branch campus were still meeting at South Intermediate High School in Broken Arrow. She joined the faculty in the fall as assistant professor of Education.

A native of Carmen, Okla., she began her career as a public school administrator at Skelly Elementary School where she was named assistant principal in 1996. A year later, she was appointed principal of Cherokee Elementary School in Tulsa and served there four years.

She is a graduate of Northwestern Oklahoma State University, where she earned a bachelor of arts in Music Education and a master of education in Music. She holds a doctor of education in Educational Administration from Oklahoma State University.

At Northeastern State, she now serves as associate professor of Education, in addition to her duties as assistant dean of the college, and teaches graduate level courses in school administration.

Chief among Jenklink's leadership roles at NSU is her service on the University Planning Group, which is currently reviewing the institution's strategic plan. Earlier this year, she chaired the committee that revised the university's mission, vision, and core values statements. She also serves on the Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Steering Committee, a group convened by Betz to prepare for NSU's re-accreditation site visit in 2011.

In addition to her teaching, administrative and research activities at NSU, Jenlink serves on the board of directors for the Happy Hands Learning School for Hearing Impaired and Communicative Disorders in Tulsa and on the Tulsa Metro Chamber of Commerce Workforce Readiness Task Force.



NSU mass communications professor Dana Eversole and NSU Foundation Director John Gyllin, present Eric Covey (center) with a scholarship check from the Tulsa Press Club.

NSU Senior Receives Tulsa Press Club Scholarship

Eric Covey, a senior at Northeastern State University, was recently announced as the recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship from the Tulsa Press Club to continue his mass communications studies.

"In October, students are thinking of many things – upcoming festivals, mid-terms, homecoming, and the impending pressure to successfully turn in financial aid and scholarship applications," Covey said. "I am glad I was diligent in turning in my homework and applications on time, and I am deeply grateful and sincerely thankful for the generous scholarship the Tulsa Press Club has given me."

The scholarship for students majoring in mass communications was a one-time scholarship that Eric will use for the Fall semester.

Covey, a senior at the Tahlequah campus, graduates after the Spring 2010 term. He is a weekly featured writer for *The Northeastern* campus newspaper and commutes from Bixby three times a week to attend classes.

He said the trip every week is worth it.

"As I am approaching the end of the road here at NSU, it is amazing to see the doors that are beginning to open for me," Covey said.

NSUanswers.com Tuition Waivers Awarded

Incoming freshman, Ashley Gilliam, returning student, Danica Lee and transfer student Megan Slayton all received \$2500 tuition waivers this fall as part of the NSUanswers.com campaign. The recruitment effort offered answers to any college question—campus life, university procedures, scholarship application, aptitude testing, etc.—through NSUanswers.com. T-shirts and iPods were also awarded. Winners were randomly selected from current NSU students and incoming students who submitted a question to the website.

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Homecoming **Honorees Recognized**

One is a nurseryman, another is a former teacher. The youngest became a high school principal at age 33, and the fourth is the former Executive Director of the Oklahoma Arts Council.

The NSU Alumni Association 2009 honorees were recognized as part of NSU's Homecoming celebration, "Growing Into Our Second Century," during halftime of the Oct. 24 football game with Southeastern Oklahoma State.

This year's award winners are Bob Berry ('61) of Tahlequah and Ron Evans ('60, '64) of Collinsville, Distinguished Alumni; Dr. Jenyfer Glisson ('91, '93) of Sapulpa, Distinguished Young Alumnus; and Betty Price ('53) of Oklahoma City, President's Award for Community Service.



Bob Berry

Berry and his family own Tri-B Nursery in Hulbert, along with Park Hill and Sanders nurseries. The nursery operation is now nationwide, employing approximately 3,500 people. Berry's lifelong interest in politics led him to work in the Senate campaigns of Henry Bellmon and Dewey Bartlett. He was appointed to chair the Oklahoma Highway Commission during Bellmon's second administration. He is

a graduate of Harvard Business School's Small Company Management Program (now Owner President Management).



Ron Evans

Evans is a former president of the NSU Alumni Association and remains active in the association. He is also a co-founder of NSU's Nifty Fifties alumni group, which has assisted the organizing of numerous reunions for alumni who graduated in the 1950s and early '60s. He also co-founded and chairs Collinsville High School's Nifty Fifties and maintains Web sites for both organizations. He is

a former teacher and coach and retired in 1999. He also serves as vicepresident of the Collinsville Education Foundation. At Northeastern he was a member of Phi Sigma Epsilon fraternity, editor of *Tsa-La-Gi*, named Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities and a twoyear letterman for the basketball team.



Glisson is principal at Sapulpa High School. She was named the 2009 Oklahoma High School Principal of the Year and the 2008 District 10 Administrator of the Year by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. She was appointed SHS principal in 2004, making her the youngest person and first woman named to the post. She is a former sergeant-at-arms with the Sapulpa Rotary

Club and coordinates the club's Student of the Month presentations. She was invited to Washington, D.C. as one of Oklahoma's representatives at the NASSP conference. She is a former English teacher and track and cheerleading coach for the Union Public School system.



NSU's outstanding alumni for 2009 were introduced at halftime of Saturday's Homecoming football game. Shown left to right are: Director of Alumni Services Daniel Johnson, NSU President Don Betz, Distinguished Alumnus Bob Berry, President's Award for Community Service recipient Betty Price, Outstanding Young Alumnus Jenyfer Glisson, Distinguished Alumnus Ron Evans and Alumni Board President Dr. Justin Lindsey.



Betty Price

Price served as executive director for the Oklahoma Arts Council-a statewide agency for the arts—for 24 years before retiring in 2007. The NSU Alumni Association named her a Distinguished Alumnus in 2001. She is perhaps most renowned for her work with non-profit arts organizations across the state. At the Oklahoma Capitol she directed the commissioning of murals, paintings and sculptures in and around the building. The

Betty Price Gallery in the state capitol was named for her by the state legislature, in recognition of her successfully spearheading passage of the Art in Public Places Act in 2004. She has belonged to the Oklahoma Centennial Commission and the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum and is in the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame. Price initiated the Governor's Arts Awards and worked with the State Capitol Preservation Commission.

These outstanding alumni will be formally honored during the 12th annual Emerald Ball on Dec. 12. Tickets for the event are available through the NSU Foundation at (918) 458-4200.



Author Chris Crutcher signs a book for Tahlequah High School students Ruby Hansaker and Ben Grant during The Big Read held Oct. 6 on the Tahlequah campus.



Redmen Heritage Wall

Honoring the students who created a legacy of athletic and academic excellence as the Redmen, Northeastern State is currently raising funds to create the Redmen Heritage Wall.

"The wall in so many ways reminds us of the history of this university in all of its forms and the great history of this institution as the home of the Redmen," said NSU President Don Betz.

The monument, which will be placed around the rock wall that served as bleachers on the site of the old football field between the John Vaughan Library parking lot and Haskell Hall Annex, will highlight the unique athletic heritage of Northeastern State University and celebrate the institution's 83-year history as the Redmen. Constructed during the Great Depression, the wall is one of the oldest remaining structures on campus that dates back to the time that Northeastern adopted the name Redmen.

Plans for the monument include plaques and memorabilia that reflect the Redmen spirit and legacy at Northeastern. The wall will honor all Redmen who attended classes at NSU from 1924 to 2007, with an emphasis on athletics, but also recognizing the contributions of the band and other student organizations.

The Redmen mascot was officially adopted in October 1924, chosen by a vote of the faculty to replace the name "Warriors." The university officially adopted the RiverHawks mascot in fall 2007.

For more information, or to purchase a brick, paver or bleacher section, contact the NSU Foundation at (918) 444-2143, or visit www.nsualumni.com.

Alumnus named Early Childhood Educator of Year

Jill Davis, early childhood teacher at Tulsa's Kendall-Whittier Elementary School and alumnus of Northeastern State University, is Oklahoma's Early Childhood Educator of the Year for 2009-10.

The award is given by the Early Childhood Association of Oklahoma and Smart Start Oklahoma. It is accorded to an outstanding professional teacher of programs for infants or toddlers, preschool or public school through the third grade. Davis was named the recipient at the ECAO conference Sept. 24-26 in Oklahoma City.

Davis is National Board Certified as an Early Childhood Generalist. This year she won the Early Childhood Graduate Academic Achievement Award and earned her master's degree from NSU with honors and a 4.0 grade-point average in Early Childhood Education.

In 2007, she was Kendall-Whittier's Teacher of the Year and among five finalists for Teacher of the Year in Tulsa Public Schools. She won the Early Childhood Undergraduate Achievement Award in 1999, and received her Bachelor's degree from NSU.

Davis maintains www.kinderfriends.com, a Web site offering resources and teaching ideas for early childhood instructors and families with young children. She also offers seminars on early childhood education with titles like "E-I-E-I-O to the Farm We Go," "Puppet Pizzaz" and "Run Run Run With the Gingerbread Man." She has made presentations at more than 75 conferences and workshops since 2004.

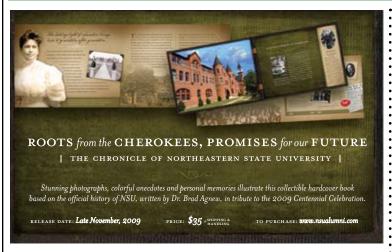
Centennial Lectures Continue

Centennial lectures continue through November at the NSU-BA campus. 2010 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Brian Grimm kicked off the series on Oct. 19, followed by NSU alumni, Kristen Tanner and Kent Jones, on Oct. 21.

On Nov. 9, Vietnam War veteran Bill McCloud will speak about his efforts to educate students about the Vietnam War. McCloud is former social studies teacher at Pryor Junior High and received a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in Social Studies Education from Northeastern State. He has published two books, made television appearances and is the recipient of numerous awards and honors.

A lecture by another Vietnam Veteran, Joe Todd, follows on Nov. 11. Todd is the author of a book about the USS Oklahoma and has interviewed several crew members from the USS Oklahoma and the USS Maryland.

All Centennial Lectures on will be held on the NSU-BA campus in Building A, Visitor's Gallery, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Centennial History Book to be Released in November

Advance sales continue for the hardcover commemorative history book that tells the story of Northeastern State University.

Scheduled for release in late November, "Roots from the Cherokees, Promises for Our Future: The Chronicle of Northeastern State University" covers 180 years of history, from the institution's 19th century origins through the 2009 Centennial Celebration.

Filled with photographs, iconic images and personal memories, the book illustrates a timeline dating back more than a century, and is based on the official history of the institution written by Dr. Brad Agnew, NSU professor of History, in tribute to the 2009 Centennial Celebration.

The book's text is an adaptation of the institution's full historical narrative, which is available online at http://library.nsuok.edu/digital/nsucentennialhistory/.

Photographs and memorabilia were provided by NSU Archives, under the direction of University Archivist Victoria Sheffler, as well as the Oklahoma Historical Society and personal collections. The book is dedicated to "those who laid the foundation and maintained the educational tradition pioneered by the Cherokees," and begins with an introduction written by Dr. Don Betz, NSU President.

"These pages are intended to be more than a record of the passage of time and events," Betz said. "Through stunning photography, noteworthy historical events and colorful anecdotes, we have strived to capture the hearts, dedication and spirit of Northeastern State University and the wonderful people who have inspired our living legacy of learning."

Cost for the hardcover edition is \$35 each, plus shipping and handling. Copies can be purchased in advance during Homecoming or reserved online at www.nsualumni.com, and will be available at the RiverHawk Shoppe and the NSUBA Bookstore following publication. For more information, contact the Office of Communications and Marketing at (918) 444-2880.

NSU Hosts its First Fulbright Scholar

Northeastern is hosting its first Fulbright Scholar through the Fulbright Visiting Specialists Program "Direct Access to the Muslim World."

With the help of in-kind partners and associates the Confucius Institute at the University of Oklahoma-Tulsa, the Islamic Society of Tulsa, Connors State College, Tulsa Community College and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Tahlequah, NSU was awarded the program last July.

The Fulbright Program, under the Council of International Exchange of Scholars (CIES), lauded NSU's application for its "enthusiasm" and wrote"[T]he review committee was very interested in the proposal and... its thoroughness, schedule, and...appropriateness of the host."

The Visiting Specialist, Dr. Muhammed Syamsuddin, is housed on the NSU campus and will visit, lecture and participate in public forums around northeastern Oklahoma now through Nov. 23. Syamsuddin is teaching a Monday-Wednesday-Friday class on Muslim cultures, 2-4:15 p.m., that includes visits to Tulsa mosques on Friday prayer days. These visits count for general education credit.

He is also participating in public lectures and talks with faculty and community leaders regarding comparative religions and Interfaith Dialogue, women in Islam, Violence in Religion, Neo-Confucianism, and Liberation Theology in Asia.

Syamsuddin received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees at Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, Java, Indonesia, where he teaches Philosophy and Philosophy of Religion. He received his Ph.D. at Hanuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, South Korea, in 2006 with his dissertation on "Merleau-Ponty's Solution to the Mind-Body Problem and Its Philosophical Implications for Understanding Korean New-Confucianism's concept of Self-Cultivation."

Dr. Syamsuddin's home country, Indonesia, is the world's largest archipelago, located in Southeast Asia off the coast of Malaysia. It is the world's most populous Muslim country.

For more information regarding Dr. Syamsuddin's appearance on campus, contact Dr. Andrew Vassar at (918) 444-2728.



NSU President Don Betz speaks to prospective students at Jack Dobbins Field House during RiverHawk Rally on Oct. 10. The event allows registrants and their families to visit the campus and meet faculty, staff and NSU students.

Centennial Construction at NSU Nears Completion



Alumni returning to Northeastern are sure to note that the view south of Seminary Hall has changed.

Late in 2008, NSU embarked on a three-phase construction project to celebrate the university's Centennial. Included are a Centennial Plaza, a formalized parking area and entrance sign. Two phases are finished and plans for the final phase should be completed in January 2010.

"The whole idea is to create a focal point of activity and gathering on the campus for people to come and be reminded of the significant history of the university," said NSU President Don Betz. "Everyone associated with this has done a phenomenal job. From our buildings and grounds crews and our Physical Plant people, to those who worked to make this happen like Tim Foutch and Kim Cherry—it's been a whole phalanx of people and it's all been very positive."

The Centennial Plaza is a 2,300-square-foot exterior structure designed and built to commemorate NSU's 100th anniversary as an Oklahoma institution of higher learning. It features an open-frame structure of seven columns topped with curved steel beams. In the plaza's center is a bronze sculpture of Sequoyah. The seven Cherokee tribes are represented by images atop each of the columns and the steel beams display the Cherokee alphabet.

The second phase created new sidewalks and a renovated formal parking area south of the plaza. The parking area connects Centennial Plaza to Muskogee Avenue—the "gateway" to the campus.

The final phase calls for a campus entry sign complete with water feature standing at the south end of the parking lot.

"As you come north on Muskogee Avenue over Town Branch Creek, you will see a brick-and stone sign," Betz said. "It will bear the name of the university in English and repeat it in Cherokee. On each side will be medallions displaying the seal of the university. There will also be a small waterfall that will pour into a pool around each side of the sign. It will not block the view of Seminary Hall."

Betz, whose residence is within sight of Centennial Plaza, has seen the foot traffic it attracts.

"Since we opened the plaza on March 6, people bring their children and families there," he said. "Often in the evenings or on the weekends they will walk on to campus.

"I'm pleased that it seems to be pleasing the people of the campus and the community. It's going to become one of the identifying symbols of the university for many years."



Regional Economic Summit

Keynote speaker Bill Millett, Founder and President of Scope View Strategic Advantage, speaks during "Giving Voice to our Region: Leaders Crossing Borders to Build the Economy and our Communities" summit held Nov. 3-4 on Northeastern's Tahlequah campus. More than 200 community and business leaders from northeastern Oklahoma and the surrounding region attended the event, which was co-sponsored by NSU, the Cherokee Nation and the Four-County Economic Development Cooperative (SACC-EZ).



Oklahoma State University basketball coach Eddie Sutton was the featured guest for the NSU Celebrity Dinner & Silent Auction.

Athletic Auction Recap

Northeastern State's first benefit auction for the Athletic Department on Oct. 6 was a big hit for the more than 200 in attendance, and a grand slam for the RiverHawks' Athletic Department.

The event, held in the Rozell Ballroom at the University Center, began with a silent auction which included 45 packages followed by a live auction of 14 packages. Both events raised over \$35,000 for the department.

Items in the packages were donated by staff members, the local community, companies and Northeastern State alumni.

The donated items and packages and proceeds will help fund facility upgrades, operations and scholarships, according to Athletic Director Jeff Konya.

Konya said he was pleased that the department has received "positive feedback" about the auction.

"People are now circling the date for next year's event. We have already heard from individuals who want to purchase tables for next year's event, sight unseen, in terms of auction items available and who the dinner speaker would be."

The keynote speaker for the inaugural event was former Oklahoma State University basketball coach Eddie Sutton, who spoke about his coaching days at OSU and his relationship with former OSU's legendary coach Mr. Henry Iba.

Ross Hall Wins Makeover

Northeastern will unveil its latest makeover during the Extreme Housing Makeover reveal Jan. 20, 2010.

Residents from Ross Hall won the EHM competition and will soon enjoy a newly expanded lounge, replete with movie-theater thematic, new furniture, flooring and lighting, as well as teaching and learning technology which will enable professors to teach students in a smaller, more informal environment.

To date, more than 120 faculty and staff members from outside the housing department have participated in some aspect of EHM, said Willis.

"This is really what Extreme Housing Makeover is about," said Tammie Willis, assistant director of Residence Life. "Creating programs that enhance our students' learning and living as well as building a strong sense of community within the halls and on campus. EHM definitely promoted that this year and I am quite proud of all the students and staff."

EHM sponsors include Shaw Contract Group, KI, Copy Zone, The Image Group, Sodexho, Nabholz Construction and Spaces Design and Architecture of Muskogee.

Miss NSU Pageant is Nov. 5

Northeastern State University presents its Miss NSU Pageant Nov. 5 at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center at Tahlequah High School.

The Miss Northeastern State University pageant is a preliminary under the Miss America system. The competition focuses on four areas: interview, physical fitness in swimsuit, talent and evening wear. The winner of Miss Northeastern will compete for the title of Miss Oklahoma in June.

The contestants for the 2009 pageant are Megan Gaddis, Perry sophomore; Megan Calahan, Newkirk junior; Kaylyn Handshy, Stilwell junior; Holly Rongey, Jenks senior; Haley Stocks, Tahlequah sophomore; Randee Howard, Chandler sophomore and Layna Austin, Checotah junior.

Tickets for reserved seating are \$15, general admission is \$10, NSU students, faculty and staff are admitted for \$5. To reserve tickets to the pageant contact the NSU Business Office at (918) 444-2160. Tickets may also be purchased at the door.

For more information about the Miss NSU pageant, contact Laura Boren at (918) 444-2120 or Kristopher Copeland at (918) 444-2896.



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