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May, Edition 2

NORTHERN
Oklahoma College

EST. 1901

Alumni Spotlight

Meet the two newest inductees into the NOC Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame.

FINISH READING ON
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WELCOME

The NOC Alumni and Foundation department want to welcome you to our newsletter. We will share new information quarterly.

The goal of this newsletter is to nurture relationships with alumni, donors, and friends. We will keep you updated on exciting things happening within the Northern family.

Alumni
Legacy
Campaign

Dear Alumni,

As an alumni and friend of Northern Oklahoma College, you know the value of a college degree and the importance of financial assistance in today's economy. NOC strives to continue its tradition of excellence by not only providing a quality education to our students but also financial support. By participating in the **Giving Back to NOC Alumni Legacy Campaign**, you could be part of an effort that will provide scholarships for future alumni.

The Northern Oklahoma College Alumni and Friends Association and the NOC Foundation established the NOC Legacy Scholarship to provide financial assistance to children and grandchildren of NOC alumni who wish to continue the tradition started by their loved ones.

All donations are tax deductible. I hope you will take this opportunity to give back to your alma mater and assist in the education of future Northern alumni.

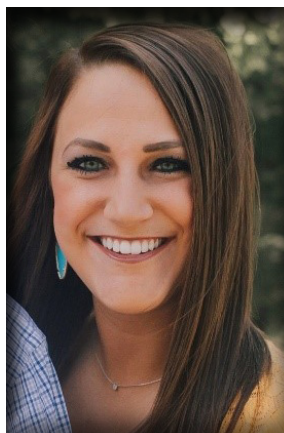
Kayla Wooderson

Kayla Wooderson, Alumni Relations Director
To Give Email: alumni@noc.edu

In Your Corner

Get to know members of our Alumni Advisory and Foundation Boards. Members are dedicated in the efforts to promote friend-raising and fund-raising at NOC.

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Alumni Initiatives

Catch up on events and new things happening at Northern as well as what to expect in the upcoming months. Go to www.noc.edu/alumni.





2022 NOC Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees



Tara Vaughn

Joe R. Kreger, class of 1959, and Dr. Tara Tucker Vaughn, class of 1989, were inducted into the NOC Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Saturday, March 26 at the Renfro Center, NOC Tonkawa.



Joe Kreger

"I so appreciate this honor, it makes me realize that I could never have done this alone. The support NOC have given me in those days are invaluable. I learned how to study, I learned how to be better organized and so many other things. NOC has been my foundation."

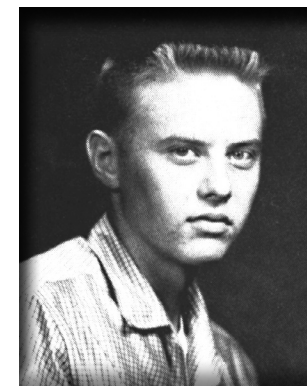
- Tara Vaughn -

"I am so honored to be included in the Alumni Hall of Fame. When I got the call, I was surprised. It was unexpected for sure, but definitely appreciated. NOC has played such a role in my entire family all the way back to the days when NOC was known as the UPS (University Preparatory School), As great as NOC has always been, it will continue to prosper in the future."

- Joe Kreger -

Meet the Honorees

JOE KREGER



Joe R. Kreger, a native of Tonkawa, received his Associate of Science degree from NOC Tonkawa in 1959 and his Bachelor of Science degree from Oklahoma State University in 1961.

From 1965 to 1968, Kreger taught Agriculture courses at NOC and served as the department chair. During this time, he pursued graduate work at OSU in Agricultural Education.

He worked for Continental Oil and Kreger Equipment before devoting his efforts to cattle ranching.

At age 56, he began writing poetry born of life experiences. Often referred to as "Cowboy Poetry," his works were distributed across the area.

In 1988, Joe was appointed "Poet Laureate of Oklahoma" by Governor Frank Keating. Then, in 2021, Governor Kevin Stitt appointed Joe to the Laureate position once more, making him the first poet to have received this appointment twice.

Kreger has had two poetry books published along with three audio CD albums.

TARA VAUGHN

A graduate of Tonkawa High School, Tara earned her Associate Degree in Business Administration from Northern Oklahoma College in 1989.

She earned her Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing at the University of Central Oklahoma and earned a Master of Public Health at The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

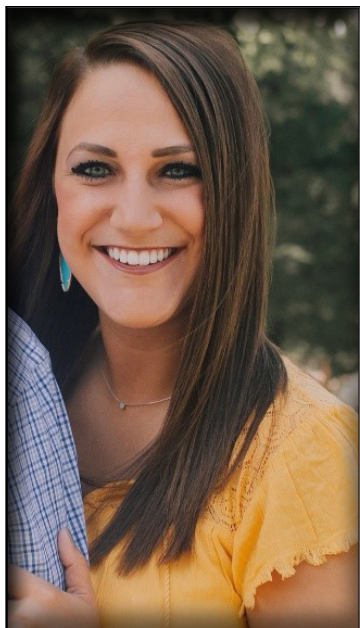


Dr. Vaughn has practiced as a registered nurse for over 20 years and has served in the U.S. Army Reserve for over 28 years. Shortly after joining the Army Reserve in 1993, she attended nursing school, eventually earning her PhD in Nursing from the University of Texas at Tyler in 2019.

Dr. Vaughn currently serves as a registered nurse at the Veterans Affairs Eastern Colorado Health Care System working in the area of Community Care. She is also a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve where she currently serves as a Public Health Nurse with the 350th Civil Affairs Command. She is board certified in Advanced Public Health Nursing.

Her passion lies in the care of Veterans in the area of community-based nursing as well as in teaching nursing students working towards a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) in the areas of research, ethics and population-focused nursing care.

IN YOUR CORNER



Brittany Zerr Seabridge
2013 Alumna
NOC Alumni Board Member

degree in Agricultural Communications. Brittany currently works for the OSU Foundation as a Scholarship Associate. She has been married to her husband, Scott, for almost four years. Scott is a Construction Project Manager for OSU. They live in Perry and have two dogs named Buster and Blaise. They enjoy spending time with

Brittany Zerr Seabridge has served on the Alumni Advisory Board for the past two years. She attended school on the Tonkawa campus receiving her degree in Agriculture. Brittany was involved in the NOC Aggie Club and the NOC Cheer squad when she was not in class.

After graduating from NOC in 2013, she went on to attend Oklahoma State University. She graduated from OSU in 2015 with a bachelor's



Get to know NOC's Alumni & Foundation Members

family, attending concerts and OSU sporting events, and hanging out at the lake in the summer.

Brittany says, "NOC truly feels like one big family. I can honestly say that I felt as though every person wanted me to succeed and was willing to do whatever it took to help me achieve my goals. I believe the education I received at NOC set me up for success to attend Oklahoma State University. The memories and friendships I created during my time are those that I will cherish for the rest of my life."

The best advice Brittany would give to new alumni would be to not be afraid to step out of their comfort zone and try new things. Also, to get involved and attend activities. She says, "Some of my fondest memories stem from conversations and relationships that were built when I stepped outside my comfort zone. Enjoy every moment! My two years went by entirely way too fast."



Misty Diemer Thurman
1992 Alumna
NOC Foundation Trustee

"I have so many amazing memories of my time at NOC and the lasting friendships I built while there. Rick Edgington and Susan Vineyard were two of the instructors that made an impact during my time there."

A former Miss NOC, Misty graduated in 1992 and went on to earn her Bachelor's in Journalism, with an emphasis in Advertising, from the University of Oklahoma in 1995.

"NOC gave me a strong foundation that prepared me to complete my education," she said. "My parents always encouraged us to pursue our dreams and part of that was a clear indication that education, curiosity and a love for learning were key to continued personal and professional growth."

Misty grew up on her family's farm south of Tonkawa. "Growing up, my parents were highly active in the community and were always volunteering their time to make things better for all the residents of Tonkawa. My mom was particularly interested in giving back through education. She served on the NOC Foundation prior to her death, and my sister also completed a term, and now I too am honored to follow in mom's footsteps by serving."

To honor her mother, Misty's family established a scholarship in her name – the Carol Diemer Memorial Scholarship Fund – to help young women pursue a

Misty's NOC journey originated at the age of 13 when she began taking voice lessons from Margaret Montemurro, Fine Arts faculty. When Margaret moved a few years later, Dr. Rick Edgington took over Misty's vocal training and mentored her to join the Roustabouts, an activity her sister, Kristi, had loved during her time at NOC.

business degree. "Mom took many classes at NOC, but never finished her degree. Instead, she used her influence and good fortune to help others pursue education. Continuing her legacy on the NOC Foundation and through her memorial scholarship are important for our family."

Today, Misty is a Senior Marketing and Business Development Strategist for Elevate Marketing Advisors, a marketing and business development strategy firm. At Elevate, Misty specializes in brand and reputation management as well as business development and client engagement strategy. Misty serves her industry through a variety of current and former professional and volunteer roles. She has served in many positions with the Society for Marketing Professional Services (SMPS), both locally and nationally. She earned her Certified Professional Services Marketer certification in 2005 and was named a Fellow of the Society in 2019. She also has served on the Union Public Schools Education Foundation as a Trustee since 2016 and was a member of Leadership Tulsa (Class '37). Misty is a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.

"I'm honored to serve as a Trustee for the NOC Foundation and find it easy to be an ambassador given my long history with the college and the community. I appreciate all the community has done for me over the years and am thrilled to be able to return the support."

Misty has sung at fairs, festivals, and Opry's in towns all over Oklahoma as well as Gilley's in Nashville. In the summer of 1992, Misty was selected to represent the United States as a Country Music Ambassador at the World's Fair in Seville, Spain. She has also performed as the opening act for country music legends Neal McCoy and T.G. Shepherd. Misty participated in pageants since the age of 15. She was crowned Miss Kaw Lake in 1988, Miss Tonkawa in 1989, Miss Tonkawa – Arkalalah in 1990 and Miss Northern Oklahoma College in 1992, representing the school in the Miss Oklahoma pageant.

The Legacy Continues

The NOC Legacy Scholarship was presented to Jordan Nelson at the Alumni & Friends Reunion/ Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Ceremony held Saturday, March 26. Jordan is an incoming Freshman on the Tonkawa campus. Her ultimate goal is to pursue a career in physical therapy. She is the granddaughter of Lee Tayrien, a 1976 graduate of Northern earning an associate degree in Applied Science.

The Northern Oklahoma College Alumni and Friends Association and the NOC Foundation established the NOC Legacy

Scholarship to provide financial assistance to children and grandchildren of NOC alumni who wish to continue the tradition started by their loved ones.

The Alumni Legacy Campaign was established to support the continuation of this scholarship for decades to come. Please consider assisting future NOC students by participating in the Legacy Campaign.


Contributions to the NOC Alumni Association are tax deductible.

Assist now by clicking this link: [Donation Form | Northern Oklahoma College \(noc.edu\)](#)

Please specify Legacy Scholarship in the box titled “Other (Please Specify).”



Pictured (from left) Daisy Spicer, Jordan Nelson, Lee Tayrien '76 and Jill Green







The DAISY Award®

FOR EXTRAORDINARY NURSING FACULTY

HONORING NURSES INTERNATIONALLY
IN MEMORY OF J. PATRICK BARNES

DAISY Award Consideration Criteria

-  Committed to student learning and success
-  Utilizes personal interaction, rigorous instruction, and innovative technologies
-  Strives to provide high quality, accessible nursing education
-  Models the values of excellence, integrity, resourcefulness, impactful relationships, and compassionate service

Kim Brewer, a member of the Northern Oklahoma College Nursing faculty was honored with The DAISY Award® for Extraordinary Nursing Faculty at the NOC 2022 Nurses' Pinning Ceremony Saturday, April 30, at Briggs Auditorium at NOC Enid.

The award is part of The DAISY Foundation's mission to express gratitude to nurses with programs that recognize them for the extraordinary, compassionate and skillful care they provide patients and families.

DAISY Award recognitions honor the super-human work nurses do for patients and families every day wherever they practice, in whatever role they serve, and throughout their careers – from Nursing Student through Lifetime Achievement in Nursing.

The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nursing Faculty was established by The DAISY Foundation in memory of J. Patrick Barnes who died at age 33 from Immune thrombocytopenia (ITP), an auto-immune disease. The Barnes Family was awestruck by the clinical skills, caring and compassion of the nurses who cared for Patrick. They created this international award to demonstrate appreciation to faculty for their commitment and inspirational influence on their nursing students and to say thank you to nursing faculty everywhere.

NOC Nursing Division Chair Dr. Nikole Hicks said, “NOC's nursing faculty work tirelessly to ensure future nurses have a strong foundation to provide nursing care for our communities. It is an honor to partner with the DAISY Foundation to recognize our exceptional nursing faculty – past, present, and future.”

Kim Brewer, 2022 DAISY Award recipient, earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Northwestern Oklahoma State University in 1996 and a Master of Science in Nursing Education from the University of Oklahoma in 2019. She graduated summa cum laude from both programs and, while at OU, received the Dean's Award for Academic Excellence from the Fran & Earl Ziegler College of Nursing. Mrs. Brewer has been a faculty member in the Nursing Division at NOC for four years, but her love of teaching began more than a decade ago in the Science department at NOC in 2007. Teaching at NOC gives Kim the opportunity to combine her love of teaching with her love of nursing.

Along with Kim Brewer, the three other Finalists for the award included Robin Baird, Dr. Marie Head, and Tricia Michaelis.

Blind nominations for the award were submitted with a designated committee reviewing and ranking the nominees based on their commitment to student learning and success, utilizing personal interaction, providing rigorous instruction and innovative technologies, striving to provide high quality, accessible nursing education, and modeling the values of excellence, integrity, resourcefulness, impactful relationships, and compassionate service.

The DAISY Foundation expanded its flagship brand The DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses to Academic Institutions in order to recognize the faculty who inspire compassionate care in their students and the students who demonstrate it during their education.



Sheri Snyder with Kim Brewer

Kim Brewer, recipient of the 2022 DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nursing Faculty

More information
on the DAISY Award is available at:
DAISYfoundation.org



Kim Brewer

NOC Distinguished Alumni Phelps, Loftis and Steichen Give Back to Help Students

Phelps, 1958 NOC Alums, Help Po-Hi Graduates



**William W. (Bill) Phelps
and Dorotha L. (Susie) Bristow**

Ten \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded this fall to Po-Hi deserving graduates.

Ponca City High School (Po-Hi) graduates and Northern Oklahoma College (NOC) alumni William W. (Bill) Phelps and Dorotha L. (Susie) Bristow are amending their endowment to the NOC Foundation (NOCF) to begin offering scholarships to qualified Po-Hi graduates attending NOC Tonkawa this fall semester. Even though they now reside 300 miles south in the Dallas area they decided to give back to the community where they grew up.

The William W. and Dorotha L. Phelps Educational Loan and Scholarship fund, originally established in 2011 and amended in 2014 and again this summer, will now provide 10 (ten) \$1,000 scholarships to deserving students majoring in engineering or business. Recipients must be a graduate of Ponca City High School and enrolled full-time at NOC Tonkawa.

“We strongly believe in the mission of the two-year college and are excited to help those individuals who have the ability to be successful in the chosen fields of engineering and business,” the couple said. “We are excited to provide Po-Hi graduates the same educational opportunities we had.”

Bill and Susie met in the first grade and are 1956 graduates of Po-Hi and 1958 NOC graduates where they both received associate degrees, Bill in engineering and Susie in business administration. They continued their education at Oklahoma State University where both earned bachelor’s degrees, Bill in mechanical engineering and Susie in business administration. Bill later received his master’s degree in petroleum engineering from The University of Oklahoma. In 2017, Bill Phelps was inducted into the Northern Oklahoma College Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame.

During a recent visit in Dallas, the Phelps announced their plans with NOC President Clark Harris and Vice President for Development and Community Relations Sheri Snyder. Snyder also serves as the executive director to the NOCF.

“We are so excited when our NOC graduates choose to give back to their local communities and to NOC,” said NOC President Dr. Clark Harris. “NOC appreciates the Phelps’ generosity and their willingness to pay it forward.”

“We are proud to announce this expanded scholarship opportunity,” said NOCF Executive Director Sheri Snyder. “NOC is grateful and blessed to have alumni such as Bill and Susie Phelps who are continuing on their tradition and commitment to higher education in Oklahoma and to their alma maters by establishing a scholarship to benefit students of academic merit in engineering and business.” Interested students should apply by completing the online scholarship application through the NOC scholarship office at www.noc.edu/scholarships. Scholarship deadline for fall semester awards is August 25, 2022.

Loftis Access to Success Scholarship for Blackwell High School Concurrent Students



Mike and Kim Loftis

Some of you may not be aware, but Juniors and Seniors that meet certain academic standards can take college coursework while still in high school. Those college credits count as both high school and college credit. Currently, the state of Oklahoma provides funding for 100% of the tuition for concurrently enrolled Seniors. Even with that assistance, Seniors and their families still have to cover the cost of fees and Juniors receive no tuition waivers at this time. So, Mike and Kim Loftis came to the Foundation with a remedy to ease the financial burden for Blackwell

High School students. They established this scholarship program to cover any tuition and fees not covered by the state for both Juniors and Seniors enrolled concurrently through NOC. Dr. Jill Green, Director of Development and Donor Relations, says “I would like to say a special thank you to Mike and Kim for their generosity and forward thinking in establishing this scholarship. We plan to use this as a model in other communities to assist high school students to have access to concurrent coursework without the worry of a financial burden on the student or their families.”

Mike Loftis is a 1974 graduate of NOC where he was a Roustabout. He is a longtime supporter and trustee of the NOC Foundation. He has served as chair of the Foundation board twice, in 2014-2015 and 2020-2021. As a result of his business success and community service, Loftis was inducted into the Northern Oklahoma College Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame in 2017.

Steichen Children Add to NOC Steichen Family Music Scholarship

The children of Bob and Margaret Steichen honor their parent's memory with a significant endowed donation to the Steichen Family Music Scholarship at Northern Oklahoma College.

The scholarship was established by Bob and the Steichen children after the passing of Margaret in 2019. The permanently restricted endowment assists Fine Arts students participating in vocal, music theatre, or instrumental music at Northern Oklahoma College Tonkawa location.



Bob and Margaret Steichen

"We are truly grateful for this memorial scholarship endowment," said Sheri Snyder, Vice President for Development and Community Relations, "The Steichen family legacy will continue through this lasting gift and will continue to help many music students attending NOC Tonkawa for years to come."

Margaret was first in her family to graduate from college, and Bob taught at Northern Oklahoma College for over twenty years. Through their 66 years of marriage they instilled the importance of education and giving back to each of their six children, who are all graduates of Northern. Bob and Margaret were always avid supporters of NOC and especially the Fine Arts Program. They always made time to enjoy the students' performances and they were instrumental in assisting with the Gala during its 24 years on campus.

The impact of this donation will honor the memory of Bob and Margaret and will leave a lasting legacy that will support Northern students for generations to come.

How to Give



There are a wide range of gift opportunities at Northern. Wherever your interests lie, there is a place for you to contribute and make a difference. We encourage you to view our website at <http://www.noc.edu/foundation> to see the donor wish list. Development staff are available to assist you with any information.

The Northern Oklahoma College Foundation is a non-profit corporation organized under IRS 501(c) (3), and receives and manages private gifts on behalf of the College.

The NOC Foundation Mom and Pops Allen Scholarship Fund

Established by Dirk Allen and Sheri Whitehead
in memory of their parents Earl and Roberta Allen.



Pictured (L-R) Front Row: Shari Whitehead, Dirk Allen.
Back Row: Sheri Snyder, Vice President for Community Relations & Development; Dr. Clark Harris, NOC President and Jill Green, Director of Development and Donor Relations. (photo provided)

The Northern Oklahoma College Foundation, Inc. acknowledges the establishment of the Mom and Pops Allen Scholarship Fund.

Earl and Roberta Allen served as Directors of Boehme Residence Hall at NOC Tonkawa from 1989-1996. They were affectionately known as Mom and Pops to hundreds of NOC students. Mom and Pops loved each student as their own and thought of all who were associated with NOC as family.

Through the generous support of their children Dirk Allen and Sherri Whitehead, as well as other family and friends, the scholarship will assist students from the Deer Creek-Lamont school district or mothers pursuing their education.

"Mom and Pops Allen impacted so many students' lives while serving as dorm parents in Boehme Hall," said Sheri Snyder, Vice President for Development and Community Relations. "We are appreciative of the family for creating this endowed scholarship in their memory for a Deer Creek-Lamont student. With this scholarship, Mom and Pops Allen continue to assist NOC Tonkawa students pursuing their dreams."

Earl was a graduate of Deer Creek High School and Roberta was a graduate of Lamont High School. After retirement, they made their home in Lamont where they were able to enjoy their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The memory of Roberta, who passed in 2016, and Earl, who passed in 2021, will continue to touch the lives of NOC students, just as they did when they lived on campus.

Mavericks Alumni Softball Reunion

The Northern Oklahoma College Mavericks Softball Team hosted an alumni reunion Friday, April 22. Maverick softball alums were recognized between games of the Maverick doubleheader against Connors. The doubleheader started at 3 p.m. The cookout began shortly after the second game against Connors for the softball alums. A video was made that highlighted past Maverick players. To see the video, click on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/OD1Aej82j4s>

NOC Softball started in 1995 when the program began under the tutelage of Annette Kennedy. The following is a list of softball coaches and the years they were at NOC: Annette Kennedy (1995-1998), Jo Stanhope (1999-2001), Karie Linsenmeyer (2002-2014), Kadie Berlin-George (2015-19), Tori Green (2020-Current).

Jets Alumni Baseball Reunion



NOC Enid Jets Baseball hosted a reunion Saturday, April 8, 2022 at David Allen Memorial Ballpark.

The 2002 team was recognized for reaching the NJCAA Division 2 World Series. The Jets finished 43-23 in 2022 and were third in the World Series.

All NOC Enid baseball alumni were invited to the event.

The Jets hosted NOC Tonkawa in a doubleheader that started at 1 p.m. The recognition was between games of the twin bill.

Raydon Leaton was the head coach for the Jets who reached the World Series in the program's second year.

Subscribe Now

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Northern Oklahoma College, the state's first public community college, is a multi-campus, land-grant institution that provides high quality, accessible, and affordable educational opportunities and services which create life-changing experiences and develop students as effective learners and leaders within their communities in a connected, ever changing world.

NOC, a public two year community college, serves over 4,200 students on the home campus in Tonkawa, branch in Enid, NOC/OSU Gateway Program in Stillwater, online, and University Center at Ponca City.

NOC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and offers associate degrees in three general areas: Arts, Science and Applied Science. The associate degree fulfills lower-division course work which is applicable towards a bachelor's degree. For more information about Northern Oklahoma College or giving to the NOC Foundation, please contact the development office at 580.628.6208 or visit the NOC website at www.noc.edu.

Life changing.