



**NORTHERN**  
Oklahoma College  
TOKAWA | ENID | STILLWATER

June 2024,  
Edition 10



## 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.



### In Your Corner

Get to know NOC Alumni Advisory Board Member, Jess Ritchie.

### New President

Meet the new President of NOC, Diana Watkins.

STORIES ON PAGES 2-3.



### Alumni Spotlight

Shields Family - Tyson Shields and Jenny Case Shields  
SEE PAGE 4.

### Scholarships

Inside look on the newest updates on Scholarships.  
SEE PAGES 5-6 & 16.



SEE STORY ON PAGE 14 & 15

## Alumni Events

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](http://www.noc.edu/alumni).



FOR EXTRAORDINARY NURSING FACULTY

HONORING NURSES INTERNATIONALLY  
IN MEMORY OF J. PATRICK BARNES

SEE STORY ON PAGES 18 AND 19



NOC Stillwater Celebrates 20 Years! See Story on Pages 8 & 9





**What makes NOC life-changing?**

*"I find NOC to be Life-changing because it grants opportunities to students who may not be able to pursue higher education elsewhere. That was true in my case. I was blessed to be a part of the PLC program on the Stillwater campus, without which I would not have been able to afford any kind of higher education. Also, I found so many of the faculty who genuinely cared about my life and my success. I built relationships with staff and professors that I have to this day, and I am incredibly grateful for the kind of care and intentionality that they had to see me through my time at NOC."*

**What advice would you give new alumni and/or students?**

*"I would encourage alumni and current students to never take NOC for granted. I'm sure most everyone who considers their time there will remember people and moments who truly made a difference in their lives. In my experience, NOC offered education and leadership opportunities that I never would have gotten anywhere else. I never really imagined myself wanting to pursue continued education, and it is because of NOC and the people involved with it that I gained a new love for learning and have gone on to find success at a four-year school. I cannot overstate the impact NOC has had on my life."*

**In a few short sentences tell us about yourself.**

*"I am currently a student at Oklahoma State, finishing a degree in strategic communications with hopes to graduate in December. I work at Chick-Fil-A in Stillwater as a shift leader and a marketing coordinator. I am a devoted follower of Jesus and a member at Sunnybrook Christian Church in Stillwater. In my free time I love to spend time with my friends, my family and my girlfriend. I am an avid traveler and love to spend time outdoors exploring the world!"*

# Meet the New NOC President, DIANA WATKINS

*In Your  
Corner*

## What makes NOC life-changing?

*The relationships formed here is the first thing that comes to mind. Our faculty and staff truly care about student success and want to provide transformational opportunities for our students.*

## What advice would you give new alumni and/or students?



**New alumni:** Get active in the NOC Alumni Association and be sure to renew your membership beyond the free year you are gifted upon graduation. Follow the Northern Oklahoma College Foundation and Alumni Association on Social Media so you'll be aware of upcoming events. These are fabulous networking opportunities for you and are also a ton of fun!

**New students:** Go to class. Go to class. Go to class. There is simply no substitute for being there, whether that means sitting down in a classroom or logging on to one of our O-Live courses. Take advantage of your instructors' office hours and tutoring opportunities, both in-person and through tutor.com. I survived my toughest courses as an undergraduate student by using the tutoring center. Get involved on campus. Simply making good grades often isn't enough to

impress future employers. Plus, research shows that students who are more involved tend to make better grades as well.

## Tell us about you.

First and foremost, I am the proud mom of Emma, an NOC Alumni who received a bachelor's degree from Mount Holyoke College just a little over a year ago. I'm also a proud aunt to a host of nieces and nephews, so when I'm not cheering for the Mavs, Jets or Pokes I can often be found at one of their events.

I am an extremely proud graduate of Perry High School, who went on to earn an Honors Program Bachelor's Degree in Secondary English Education at Oklahoma State University where I also earned my Master's Degree in Teaching, Learning and Leadership and am currently working to complete my doctorate in Higher Education and Student Affairs.

During college I worked at Exchange Bank & Trust Company and as a student assistant in the OSU Honors Program, and I was teaching at both NOC and OSU when I received my master's degree, so I definitely understand the challenges that can arise when working and going to school at the same time.

I started my career in education teaching high school English in Ardmore, Oklahoma. My move to working in higher education came when I took a job as an academic counselor (think advisor) in the Honors College at OSU. Shortly after my daughter was born, I made the move to "early childhood education," taking on the role of full-time mom until she began pre-K which is when I began adjuncting



at NOC in the Language Arts Division. I taught in the NOC/ OSU Gateway program for fourteen years before becoming the VP for NOC Stillwater. I moved to the Tonkawa campus in 2021 to take on the role of VP for Academic Affairs and then served as Interim President for several months, dropping the "interim" part of that role on June 1st. My father was a community-college graduate and I'm very proud to be working at this Life-Changing institution.

I have a rescue dog named Brewster and enjoy practicing yoga, running, reading, and attending concerts and theatre performances. One of my proudest accomplishments in the last few years was completing the Dopey run at Walt Disney World in January of 2022. It involves running a 5K on Thursday, a 10K on Friday, a half-marathon on Saturday, and a marathon on Sunday, so 48.6 miles over a 4 day period. I'm decidedly not in that kind of running shape

now, but still run some and hope to do that again at least one more time while my knees will still allow it. My great-grandmother, who lived to be 96, used to say the secret was "when your body is tired, exercise your mind, and when your mind is tired, exercise your body." I try to embrace that philosophy.





# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## THE SHIELDS FAMILY - TYSON AND JENNY



### *Tyson Shields*

2009 Alumnus - NOC Tonkawa  
Associate of Agriculture



#### **NOC Activities**

*NOC Aggies Club and Sheep Center...Life changing: Outstanding instructors and exceptional advisors. The campus is a tight knit community.*

#### **What advice would you give new alumni and/or students?**

*Be involved and don't be scared to step out of your comfort zone.*



#### **In a few short sentences tell us about yourself.**

*After NOC I went on to OSU and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Agriculture Leadership, returned home and now own/operate my farming and ranching operation alongside my wife, Jennifer. We run a cow/calf operation along with stockers while growing wheat, soybeans, grain, sorghum and corn.*



### *Jenny Case Shields*

2013 and 2015 Alumna - NOC Tonkawa  
Associate Science Pre-Baccalaureate Pre-Professional  
Associate in Applied Science Nursing: Registered Nurse



#### **What makes NOC life-changing?**

*Northern Oklahoma College sets you on the path to the beginning of the rest of your life. It helps you build a foundation for success.*

#### **What advice would you give new alumni and/or students?**

*Have fun! Do any and all campus activities you can. I regret not being more involved.*

#### **In a few short sentences tell us about yourself.**

*I am currently in my 10th year of marriage to the most amazing man I know. We met while I attended NOC. We have 3 beautiful children. I am a licensed registered nurse but am currently enjoying life as a stay-at-home mom!*





# Hullet Family Scholarship increases awards to NOC Tonkawa students



**The Hullet Family Scholarship, through the Northern Oklahoma College Foundation, is now awarding more scholarships to qualifying NOC Tonkawa scholarship applicants. Pictured (L-R): NOCF Executive Director Sheri Snyder, Pat Hullet, NOC President Diana Watkins. (photo by Shiloh Martin/Northern Oklahoma College)**

*The Hullet Family Scholarship Fund*, established through the generous support of Judy Hullet Wear, Connie Mack and Pat Hullet, through the Northern Oklahoma College Foundation in 2016, has recently been amended by the family to award more scholarships and scholarship dollars to qualifying NOC Tonkawa scholarship applicants.

This permanently restricted endowed scholarship fund provides students from Oklahoma an opportunity to pursue their educational goals at Northern Oklahoma College on the Tonkawa campus. Applicants must be a full or part-time non-traditional student (20 years of age or older) with at least 12 credit hours and maintain at least a 2.50 GPA. There will be no restrictions as to a major of study in determining eligibility for this scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded annually by the scholarship committee with input from the Hullet family.

NOCF Executive Director Sheri Snyder stated, "NOC is grateful and blessed to have alumni such as the Hullet family who are continuing on their tradition and commitment to higher education and to their alma maters by providing scholarships to benefit our students." Wear, Connie Mack and Pat Hullet attended Northern Oklahoma College after graduating from Tonkawa High School in the 1970's. Wear was active in Student Senate, Phi Theta Kappa and ran hurdles for the NOC Women's Track Team.

Connie Mack Hullet returned to NOC as a dorm parent in Markley Hall and served as Assistant Dean of Students as well as Student Senate advisor for 20 years. His wife, Pat Hullet taught in the Social Science Division for over 35 years, serving as faculty president and scholarship chairman. She was one of the first distance learning instructors and developed online courses for World

Geography.

Any person interested in funding a scholarship through the NOC Foundation can contact Candy Oller at 580.628.6789 or [candy.oller@noc.edu](mailto:candy.oller@noc.edu). Students interested in applying for an NOC scholarship may contact Scholarship Coordinator Kerri Gray at 580.628.6763, [kerri.gray@noc.edu](mailto:kerri.gray@noc.edu) or through our website at <https://www.noc.edu/students/future-students/scholarships/>.

The NOC Foundation serves as a private fundraising organization for NOC, as designated by the NOC Board of Regents. Its primary purpose is to enhance the educational opportunities and the overall environment of NOC through scholarship and program support.

Northern Oklahoma College, the state's first public two-year community college, is a multi-campus, land-grant institution that provides high quality, accessible, and affordable educational opportunities and services.

NOC serves nearly 4,000 students through the home campus in Tonkawa, branch in Enid, and NOC/OSU Gateway Program in Stillwater. Of these students about 75% receive financial aid and/or scholarships. 65% of NOC students complete their degree with zero debt.

The college is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and offers associate degrees in three general areas: Arts, Science and Applied Science; the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP); and the Accreditation Commission for Education and Nursing (ACEN).

For more information about giving to the Northern Oklahoma College Foundation, contact the Development Office at (580) 628.6214 or visit [www.noc.edu](http://www.noc.edu).



## NOC's, Sage Wilcox, named New Century Workforce Scholar



Sage Wilcox

Sage Wilcox, a student at Northern Oklahoma College, has been named a 2024 New Century Workforce Scholar and will receive a \$1,500 scholarship.

Wilcox is a sophomore from Crescent, Oklahoma, studying Digital Media Animation and Design at NOC Tonkawa.

This scholarship is the first of its kind to support students at associate degree-granting institutions on a national scale as they plan to enter the workforce upon completing a degree or certificate. The program is sponsored by The Coca-Cola Foundation and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

"I am so excited and honored to receive this award," Wilcox said. "I appreciate the sponsors of the scholarship and Northern Oklahoma College."

New Century Workforce Scholars are selected based on their academic accomplishments, leadership, activities, and how they extend their intellectual talents beyond the classroom. Over 2,200 students from more than 1,300 college campuses nationwide were nominated. Only one New Century Workforce Scholar was selected from each state.

"We congratulate Sage for receiving this prestigious scholarship, and we are honored to partner with The Coca-Cola Foundation to recognize these outstanding achievements," said Phi Theta Kappa's President and CEO, Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner. "Scholarship programs like this are integral for creating opportunities for students to succeed as they prepare to enter the workforce and for putting college completion within reach."

"Sage stands out as one of the most gifted students I've had the honor to teach," said NOC Digital Media Instructor Brad Matson. "Despite entering the DMI program with

existing knowledge, she humbly embraced new methods and technical teachings, seamlessly integrating them with her prior skillset. As a result, she now possesses the expertise and talent to excel in her future pursuits."

"We are extremely proud of Sage," said interim president Diana Watkins. "Those of us at Northern were already aware that her talents extend far beyond our Digital Media Program where she certainly excels. It is wonderful to see those talents recognized by others as she is the only student in Oklahoma to receive this esteemed award."

The New Century Workforce Scholars will be recognized in the fall.

### About The Coca-Cola Foundation

The Coca-Cola Foundation is the global philanthropic arm of The Coca-Cola Company. Since its inception in 1984, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1 billion in grants to support sustainable community initiatives around the world.

For more information about The Coca-Cola Foundation, please visit [coca-colagivingback.com](http://coca-colagivingback.com).

### About Phi Theta Kappa

Phi Theta Kappa is the premier honor society recognizing the academic achievement of students at associate degree-granting colleges and helping them to grow as scholars and leaders. The Society is made up of more than 3.8 million members and nearly 1,300 chapters in 11 countries, with approximately 240,000 active members in the nation's colleges. Learn more at [ptk.org](http://ptk.org).



For a Complete List of NOC Institutional  
Scholarships, Visit  
[www.noc.edu/students/current-students/scholarships/](http://www.noc.edu/students/current-students/scholarships/)



# Ari Fleischer Lectureship



**Ari Fleischer spoke to a full house at the Renfro Center in Tonkawa at the Renfro Endowed Lectureship.  
(photo by Shiloh Martin, Northern Oklahoma College Photographer/Videographer)**

Former White House Press Secretary, President of Ari Fleischer Communications, and FOX News Contributor, Ari Fleischer spoke at Northern Oklahoma College about the state of politics in America and the upcoming 2024 presidential election.

His speech, entitled “The Daily Briefing: Fleischer’s take on Current Events”, was provided by the Renfro Endowed Lectureship Program. Approximately 375 guests attended this event.

In his political career, Fleischer said the most meaningful part was his time as President Bush’s press secretary. “It was an amazing time for me personally,” he said “I would drive to work, park my car, enter the West Wing and go to my office. My office was 30 feet from the Oval Office and 30 feet from the podium of the Briefing Room. I loved every day I worked for President Bush because I believed in him and what he stood for and I hope that was expressed when I did my job every day.”

Fleischer said the press room at the White House is unlike any other. “There are 48 seats in the press room and they are filled with all antagonists,” he joked. “They were all taking the other side than President Bush and it was up to me to deliver the president’s message and I loved every minute of it.”

He spoke fondly of traveling the world and seeing great places filled with amazing people.

“Being in Normandy (World War II Memorial) was definitely something I won’t forget,” he said. “The press secretary is afforded a lot of great opportunities and I am so thankful.”

In regards to politics, Fleischer commented that the democratic and republican parties have changed over the years.

“People who used to be democrats (lower income, less educated) have now become republicans and those of higher incomes and better educated have become

democrats. It’s fascinating what has happened in today’s politics,” he said.

“That is something we need to be aware heading to the 2024 election,” he said.

Fleischer then spoke of the 2024 election which he sees will be very close.

“The election boils down to seven (swing) states,” he said. “It’s going to be a close race that can go either way.” In foreign policy, Fleischer said the Middle East is the most important crisis for the United States going forward.

“We need to support Israel any way we can to defeat Hamas in Gaza,” he said.

Interestingly enough, Fleischer was raised a liberal democrat in New York state.

“I walked into Middlebury College a liberal democrat and left as a conservative. I became a conservative the first time I paid taxes,” Fleischer joked.

As a former White House Press Secretary, Ari Fleischer was the primary spokesperson for President George W. Bush and delivered the daily White House briefings from 2001 to 2003. He served as spokesman during the historic presidential recount, September 11th, two wars and the anthrax attack.

His best-selling book, *Taking Heat*, details his years in the White House and reached #7 on *The New York Times* best-seller list. His most recent book; *Suppression, Deception, Snobbery, and Bias: Why the Press Gets So Much Wrong – And Just Doesn’t Care*; was released in July 2022.

Since leaving the White House, he manages Ari Fleischer Communications, a company that helps corporations and sports organizations with their communication and media needs.

He has worked for a variety of major companies and leading sports leagues, teams, schools, and individual athletes as well. He graduated from Middlebury College.

# NOC, OSU Celebrate Gateway Program's 20th Anniversary



Northern Oklahoma College and Oklahoma State University celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the NOC/OSU Gateway Program at NOC Stillwater on Thursday, April 18.

The come-and-go reception was held on the 2nd Floor commons area with special guest speaker, Maritza Cartagena. Cartagena is a 2017 NOC Stillwater Alumna. She states, “I started my higher education journey at Northern Oklahoma College. Since my first day at NOC, the faculty and staff helped me obtain the necessary tools to persevere through the challenges that come from obtaining a higher education degree. I proudly avow that NOC provided me with a high-quality education, life- changing opportunities, stellar advising, and lifetime relationships. Even today, as I complete my PhD, the NOC faculty and staff support and cheer me on. The NOC community always make you feel at home. I am and will always be proud to be a Northern Oklahoma College Alumna.”

The event had building tours, a reception, and a brief program set at 3:30 p.m. Twenty new “Faces of the Gateway” framed photos with testimonials were also celebrated and displayed at the event.

The NOC Stillwater Academic Awards Banquet was held directly after the Anniversary Celebration.

## Guest Speaker



Maritza Jireh Leon Cartagena  
NOC 2015-2017



To view all Faces of Gateway,  
scan the QR Code or go to:  
[www.noc.edu/about-noc/socialmedia/faces-of-gateway/](http://www.noc.edu/about-noc/socialmedia/faces-of-gateway/)



# Faces of Gateway

*"I originally started at NOC in 2012, but in all honesty, I was not mature enough to be successful. I started again in 2019 after finding out that my wife and I were having a son. I wanted to be a role model for him and show that even if it's hard, you can achieve your goals. Reflecting on my academic journey at Northern Oklahoma College, where I pursued an Associate of Science in Business Administration, I recognize it as a foundational pillar for my professional growth. The comprehensive curriculum, combined with the practical insights provided by experienced faculty, not only enriched my understanding of business principles, but also honed my analytical and decision-making skills. These competencies have been instrumental in my career progression to the role of Vice President - Commercial Loan Officer. At NOC, the emphasis on real-world applications and the encouragement to engage in collaborative projects furthered a deep appreciation for the complexities of the commercial lending landscape. This educational experience laid the groundwork for my ability to navigate the challenges and opportunities within the financial sector with confidence and strategic acumen, enabling me to contribute significantly to my organization's objectives and to the success of our clients' businesses."*

— Alex Penny  
NOC 2019 – 2022

Life changing.



# Faces of Gateway

*"My time at NOC was pivotal in shaping my college experience and subsequent career trajectory. It provided a seamless transition between high school and university, offering a smaller, more supportive environment within the larger OSU campus. This personalized attention facilitated my academic growth and ultimately led to receiving an academic scholarship to OSU. The professors and curriculum at NOC instilled in me the confidence to tackle university-level classes, emphasizing the importance of building connections and attention to detail. Moreover, my experiences traveling abroad with NOC broadened my horizons and taught me valuable collaboration skills. Without NOC, I may not have had the courage to pursue my entrepreneurial endeavors, which have since led to the ownership of two successful companies and a fulfilling career that allows for global travel. I am grateful to NOC for inspiring me to dream big and empowering me to turn those dreams into reality."*

— Lauren Johnson  
NOC 2008-2010

Life changing.





# The Northern Oklahoma College Foundation Donor Recognition Dinner was held on Thursday, March 14 at the Renfro Center, NOC Tonkawa

Northern Oklahoma College donors and scholarship recipients were honored at the 2024 NOC Foundation Donor Recognition Dinner with over 130 guests in attendance.

Vice President for Development and Community Relations Sheri Snyder, who also serves as Executive Director of the Foundation, recognized the donors for their charitable efforts to Northern Oklahoma College. "We are so grateful to you, our donors, who provide gifts through the Foundation for the benefit of the College, its students and programs. I always say how truly blessed we are – so many friends of Northern Oklahoma College believing in our purpose and mission to provide life-changing opportunities," Snyder commented. "Thank you for all that you have given and continue to give to help us achieve our goal and prepare for the future generation of students in Northern Oklahoma."

During dinner, guests watched a slideshow highlighting the 2024 Donor Honor Roll, scholarships, along with activities and events from this past year. Snyder also shared a scholarship recipient thank you video created by Shiloh Martin with students attending the Thank-a-thons held at the Tonkawa and Enid Campuses. This was the second year to hold this annual event and we had a record total of 95 students attend – they took pictures, gave video testimonies, called our donors, and wrote personalized thank you cards which we will mail to our donors. The video entitled "Because of You" can be found on the NOC YouTube page at <https://youtu.be/ZTIdYGgVF14>.

Donors also heard remarks from scholarship recipients Laney Reynolds, Megan Mallory, Ryck Quillen, and Ashley Pesicka. The student speakers were introduced by Candy Oller, NOC Director of Development and Donor Relations. Oller also recognized the student scholarship recipients in attendance at the dinner.

NOC President Diana Watkins closed the program saying, "Thank you for spending your evening with us celebrating these wonderful students and recognizing the incredible generosity of our donors."

"Philanthropy is all about making a positive difference in the world by devoting our time, talents, and resources to causes we believe in," she said. "When we fundraise, we are proclaiming that we believe in the vision and mission of Northern Oklahoma College and are inviting you to join us in executing that vision and mission through the investment of your resources. I hope that you have witnessed tonight that your time and money invested in the NOC Foundation have definitely made a difference to the future success of our students and programs and for that, I express my sincere gratitude."

"Your generous gifts have supported the mission of our institution and we are proud that Northern Oklahoma College continues to offer an affordable, quality education," she added. "NOC Alumni become leaders, learners, and earners, prepared to transfer and pursue additional degrees or enter the workforce. Generous supporters of our Foundation make much of what we accomplish at Northern possible."

"Our students, faculty, and staff give our three locations distinct character and they are making a difference to the thousands of individuals



who achieve their goals at Northern – As you have heard this evening, because of you NOC is able to create life-changing higher education experiences for students."

NOC Fine Arts students Abby Davis, Gracie Fiscus, Tim Muniz, and Kira Pendleton provided entertainment at the banquet along with Fine Arts Division Chair Dr. Edward Dixon and accompanists Suzanne Sumpter and Connie Van Ausdall.

For more information about Northern Oklahoma College or giving to the NOC Foundation, please contact the development office at 580.628.6214 or visit the NOC website at [www.noc.edu/development/foundation/](http://www.noc.edu/development/foundation/).



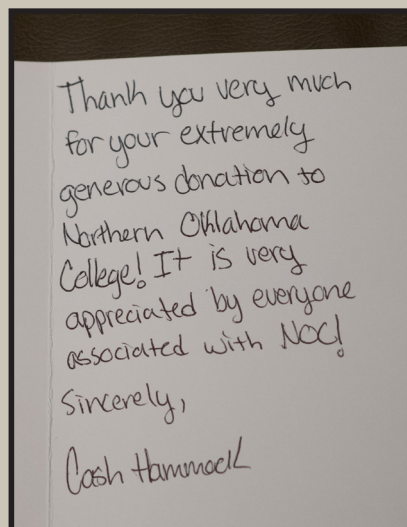
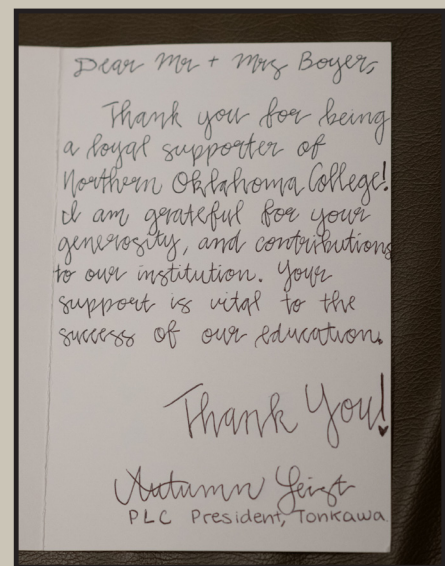
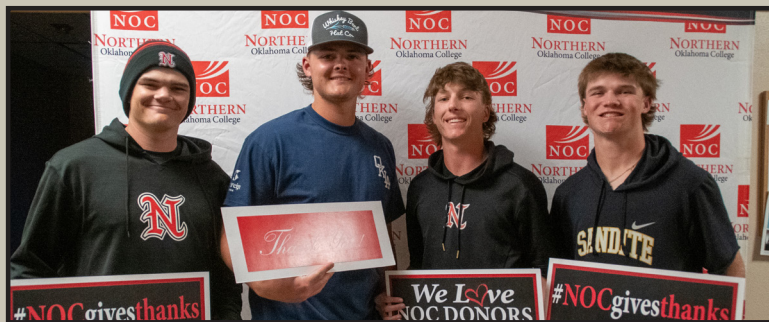


# Thank - A - Thon

In March, the Foundation hosted a Thank-A-Thon in Enid and Tonkawa. Students were truly excited to write letters, take photos, call donors and record video messages. Each and every student at NOC is touched by the Foundation and our generous donors, whether it be through a private scholarship, an enhancement in the classroom, or a professional development that improves a faculty member's specialty.

## Thank you

for everything you do for our students!  
Our students are better because of YOU!



Please click on link to watch video of thanks:  
<https://fb.watch/hmZ5D-h2eo/?mibextid=cr9u03>

# NOC Alumni and Friends Reunion and Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony



**Northern Oklahoma College 2024 Distinguished Alumni, Dr. Michelle Jeffries Keylon and Mr. Scott Morris**  
(photo by Shiloh Martin, NOC Photographer/Videographer)

The 2024 Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Alumni & Friends Reunion was held on Saturday, April 6. An Alumni & Friends mixer was held at the AD Buck Museum & NOC Welcome Center prior to the reunion. Attendees engaged in fellowship while taking in the rich history of Northern Oklahoma College.

The reunion included remarks from Dr. Nikole Hicks, Nursing Division Chair, as she highlighted the Nursing Program and Dr. Rick Edgington and Jackie Conrady,

NOC Roustabouts Alumni, as they highlighted the 60th Anniversary of the Roustabouts Program.

The evening concluded with the induction of Dr. Michelle Jeffries Keylon '92 and Mr. Scott Morris '91 into the NOC Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. To view more photos of the event, click on the following link:  
<https://www.noc.edu/development/alumni/photo-gallery/>



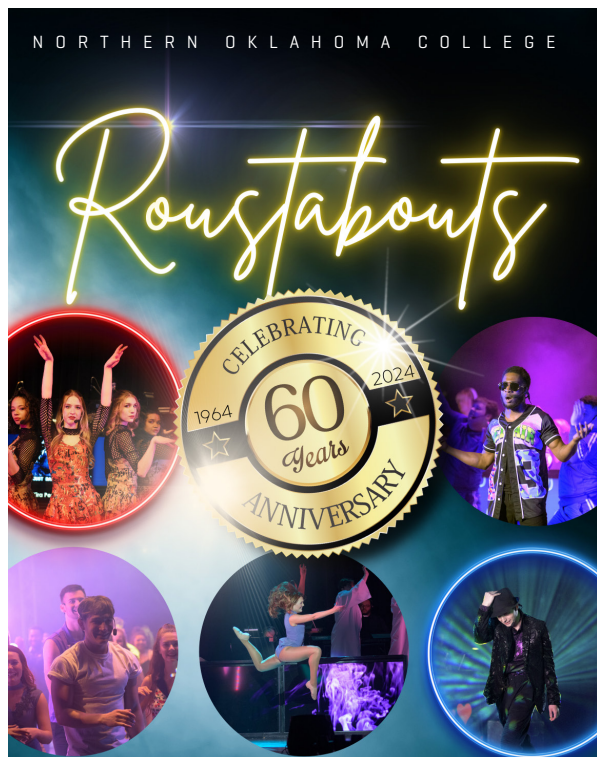
**Pictured (L-R) Dr. Edward Dixon, NOC Fine Arts Division Chair; NOC Foundation Trustee and Former NOC Roustabout; Dineo Hielmann, Former NOC Fine Art Division Chair and Former NOC Roustabout; Dr. Rick Edgington, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Registrar and former NOC Roustabout.**



**Dr. Nikole Hicks, NOC Nursing Division Chair**



# Recognition of the 60th Anniversary of the Roustabouts



## NOC Roustabouts Benefit Show

April 6,  
2024



## All About Roustabouts



### How it Began

The Roustabouts were organized on the Tonkawa campus of Northern Oklahoma College in 1964 by Bill "Old Man" Heilmann, NOC Fine Arts Division Chair. The original group consisted of 15 singers primarily from Kay County, but also included students from all around Oklahoma. In 1967, the roster grew and Mr. Heilmann started to institute a standard of consistency and dress for the members. The Roustabouts recorded their first album at Sound Studios in Oklahoma City in 1971, and a second album at Mercury Studios in Nashville in 1972. The trip to Nashville also saw the Roustabouts perform for a joint session of the Tennessee legislature. The Roustabouts called Wilkin Hall home throughout the 1960's, 70's and 80's. The success of the group and the buzz it created over the years led to the construction of the Kinzer Performing Arts Center in the mid-1990's. The state-of-the-art facility was designed to house musical theatre, classical performances, recitals and, of course, The Roustabouts.

### Through the Years

The Roustabouts continued to build on the legacy set forth by Mr. Heilmann, including expanding the backing ensemble from a piano, bass and drums to include a horn section in the 1970's. Bill Heilmann was succeeded by his son, Dineo Heilmann who was also a Roustabout and NOC alum. Dineo led the group through the 90's and 00's until his retirement in 2014. He was originally supposed to lead the group for a year, but one year turned into 29 years. Upon his retirement, Dineo was succeeded by Edward Dixon, who led the band under the direction of Dineo since 2007. Since its beginning the Roustabouts have only had three directors. However, dozens of NOC Performing Arts faculty and instructors have shaped the group into what it is today. Pianists (Pam McNeal, Wilma Harmon and Linda Fiscus), choreographers (Mariann Cook, Mary Schmitz, Cara Kem and others), vocal directors (Donna Fath, Rick Edgington and Brandon Haynes), band leaders (Mike Moore, Paul Montomurro and Gray Smith) and technical director, John Michael Warburton, all spent years with the group under the direction of Bill "Old Man" Heilmann and Dineo Heilmann.

### The World Traveling Roustabouts

The nickname "*The World-Traveling Roustabouts*" came about when the Roustabouts performed in Bucharest, Romania in 1974 and again in 1979. The Roustabouts spent three weeks in Romania and Soviet Union in 1982. The 33 member group performed in Moscow, Riga, Leningrad, and Bucharest. The 1990's saw the Roustabouts perform in the United Kingdom. In the 2000's, the Roustabouts performed multiple times aboard the Royal Caribbean and Carnival Cruise lines as they traveled throughout the Caribbean to Mexico, Grand Cayman, Jamaica and other ports.





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.

# NOC Alumni Legacy Campaign

Help support the next generation  
of the #Northernfamily and give  
to the 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. By participating in the NOC Alumni Legacy Campaign, you can be part of an effort that will provide scholarships for future alumni.

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, Director of Alumni and Community Relations



Continuing  
a Legacy!



Take A Moment to Give. *All donations are tax deductible.*

I would like to give to the NOC Alumni Legacy Campaign. My gift amount is \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For credit card donations please visit: <https://www.noc.edu/development/foundation/donation-form/>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ NOC Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ NOC Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Northern Oklahoma College Foundation  
Mail to: Northern Oklahoma College Alumni, PO Box 310, Tonkawa, OK 74653  
For more information: 580.628.6473 or [kayla.wooderson@noc.edu](mailto:kayla.wooderson@noc.edu)



**SUPPORT THE NEXT GENERATION  
OF THE #NORTHERN FAMILY  
AND GIVE TO THE ALUMNI LEGACY CAMPAIGN!**

**“NOC was *“Life Changing”*  
to me because:**

*Northern changed my life by giving me the best friends I'll ever find. It pushed me into the right direction academically. The softball program helped me grow as a person.”*

*Mackinzie Simmons, 2020 Alumna*

**NOC was *“Life Changing”*  
to me because:**

*Northern was a great experience for me. I came to Northern to get a smaller university experience before continuing my education at Northwestern. Northern has wonderfully helpful faculty and staff and a friendly student body.*

*Shelby Smith, 2021 Alumna*

**NOC was *“Life Changing”*  
to me because:**

*I enjoyed the small school experience. I felt like I mattered and I felt like the staff cared about my future. I came for that experience and I expect NOC Enid to give my daughter the same!”*

*David Cronister, 2011 Alumnus*

**NOC was *“Life Changing”*  
to me because:**

*NOC was the bridge from small schools, Grainola Grade School and Shilder High (36 in my graduating class) and OSU. Living in Bush Duvall Hall was the best time of my life. So many life-long friends were made there and I met my wife of 51 years at NOC.”*

*Neal McConeghy, 1970 Alumnus*

Donations can be made on our website at  
[www.noc.edu/development/foundation/give-online/](http://www.noc.edu/development/foundation/give-online/)  
Click on the Alumni Legacy Scholarship under  
“I want to support” tab.



**Life changing.**

## *Amy Cronister, NOC Legacy Scholarship Recipient*



Pictured Amy Cronister with parents, Angela and David Cronister.

The NOC Legacy Scholarship was given to Amy Cronister at the Alumni & Friends Reunion and Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Ceremony on April 6, 2024. Amy is an incoming Freshman on the NOC Enid campus. Her ultimate goal is to pursue a career as an Orthodontist Assistant. She is the daughter of David and Angela Cronister. David is a 2011 non-traditional graduate of NOC Enid earning an Arts and Science associate degree.





## Legacy Birth Announcements

If you are an NOC Alum and would like to share the news of your new bundle of joy, simply send the birth announcement form, located on the NOC Alumni website, and all photos to Kayla Wooderson, Director of Alumni and Community Relations. Once the form is complete and submitted, an NOC Alumni Legacy onesie will be sent to your address. Please take a picture of your precious bundle of joy in the onesie to include in the announcement.

Email: [alumni@noc.edu](mailto:alumni@noc.edu)

### Welcome, Christopher

Christopher  
Jacob Anderson

Born April 2, 2024  
Stillwater, OK

Sibling: Hunter Fredrick Anderson (2 years)

Parents:  
Will & Tessa Anderson

Tessa (Thompson) Anderson, Alumna 2016

"NOC was such a great experience. I will forever be grateful for the time I spent there and the friends I made." - Tessa



9 lbs, 5 oz  
21 5/8" Long

### Welcome, Allison

Allison Sofia  
Alvarado

Born August 22, 2023

Stillwater, OK

Sibling: Xander

Parents: Karen Hernandez (mom)  
Ivan Alvarado (dad)

Karen Hernandez, 2018 Alumna



"My favorite memory from NOC was being in the athletic training program and having such an awesome staff and teachers that helped me get through my first two years of college." - Karen

6 lbs, 0.2 oz  
20" Long

### Welcome, Corey

Corey Derek  
Mann

Born December 21, 2023

Claremore, OK

Parents:  
Christopher and Sara Mann

Sara (Wilson) is a 2009 Alumna



"My favorite memory is cheerleading for Enid and the rivalry basketball games with Tonkawa. Go Jets!!!" - Sara

6 lbs,  
19 1/4" Long

### Welcome, Kenver

Kenver  
James Starr

Born February 28, 2024

Stillwater, OK

Parents: Keifer Starr (dad)  
Logan Burgess (mom)

Keifer 2015 Alumnus / Logan 2016 Alumna  
Tonkawa Enid



"My favorite memory at NOC was playing basketball for the Lady Jets and making it to the national tournament!" - Logan

8 lbs, 3 oz  
21" Long



**FOR EXTRAORDINARY NURSING FACULTY**

**HONORING NURSES INTERNATIONALLY  
IN MEMORY OF J. PATRICK BARNES**

## **Dr. Marie Head earns NOC Nursing DAISY Award®**

### **Marie Head**

Northern Oklahoma College nursing faculty member Dr. Marie Head was honored with The DAISY Award® for Extraordinary Nursing Faculty at the NOC 2024 Nurses' Pinning Ceremony Friday, May 3 at NOC Tonkawa.

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.

Head completed her initial nursing degree at NOC in 2007 and continued her education earning a BSN at Kaplan University in 2014, an MSN at Purdue University in 2017 and a DNP at Oklahoma City University in 2020.

She joined the nursing faculty in 2016 and teaches primarily in the skills and simulation practice lab settings. She has been married for 19 years and has four children and nine grandchildren, seven of whom are boys and two are girls all ranging in age from 1-22 years old.

NOC Nursing Division Chair Dr. Nikole Hicks said, "Dr. Head strives for excellence in herself and in those around her. According to her nomination story, she builds impactful relationships and helps to instill confidence, compassion, and determination in her students by demonstrating these qualities herself. Dr. Head is a testament to the life-changing opportunities at NOC and, as an alumnus, is now giving back to the profession and College she loves so much."



### **NOC Nursing Daisy Award Finalists**

Northern Oklahoma College Nursing faculty members will be honored with The DAISY Award® for Extraordinary Nursing Faculty at the NOC 2024 Nurses' Pinning Ceremony Friday, May 3 at the Kinzer Performing Arts Center in NOC Tonkawa at 7 p.m.

The four finalists are Elaine Briggs, Marie Head, Kathy Phillips, and Dr. Yuracy Salazar-Lee.

### **Elaine Briggs**

After graduating high school in 1979, Briggs attended Central Vo-Tech in Sapulpa in a medical assistant program where she decided she wanted to be a nurse. She completed Oklahoma Baptist University's nursing program and started her nursing career at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa where she worked in orthopedics and cardiac care. She then worked in Home Health Care before moving to Oklahoma City where she worked at University Hospital in newborn and special care nursery.

Briggs then moved to Blackwell where her husband started a medical practice. She took time off from nursing to raise her children and then started at NOC as an adjunct instructor, joining NOC as a full-time faculty member in January 2016.



### **Kathy Phillips**

Phillips graduated from Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor of Science, University of Central Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and then the University of Oklahoma with a Masters in Nursing Education.

"I worked in the legal field until I decided to make a





change into nursing,” Phillips said. “I started my nursing career at Stillwater Medical Center on the medical-surgical unit as staff RN and eventually transferred to ICU as staff RN. I accepted the position of critical care educator and decided to obtain a Master’s Degree. Once I obtained a graduate degree, I accepted position to teach at NOC to educate the next generation of nurses.”

#### **Dr. Yuracy Salazar-Lee**

Dr. Salazar-Lee has been a nurse for over 10 years. She earned her Associates of Arts from Southwest Texas Junior College in 2009, a Bachelor of Arts in Biology with Minors in Chemistry and Spanish from Texas A&M-Kingsville in 2011, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in 2013 (Cum Laude), a Master of Science in Nursing in 2018 from Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi where she graduated with a 3.9 GPA, and a Doctor of Nursing Practice in 2023 from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, where she graduated with a 4.0 GPA.

Dr. Salazar-Lee joined NOC in August of 2023 and is

the Enid Lab Coordinator. Prior to joining our team, Dr. Salazar-Lee was a Nursing Education Specialist at Mayo Clinic Florida. Dr. Salazar-Lee’s nursing experiences include pediatric/adult ER/Trauma, endoscopy, academia in nursing/nursing education, and pediatric neurology.



More information  
on the DAISY Award is available at:  
[DAISYfoundation.org](https://DAISYfoundation.org)

## **Nurses Pinning**



### **Class of Spring 2024**

(Faculty Back Row, Staff Assistant Second Row Right)

# NOC ALUMNI AND FRIENDS BALLPARK SOCIAL

An Alumni & Friends Ballpark Social was held at O'Brate Stadium in Stillwater on Tuesday, April 16. Over 30 attendees enjoyed the evening at the Corral 6 with food, fun and drinks.



To view more photos from this event and all our events, click on the following link:  
<https://www.noc.edu/development/alumni/photo-gallery/>



# THE GATHERING



The Gathering was held Friday, May 3, at the Osage Casino and Hotel in Ponca City. This event, in its second year, brings together alumni and friends of the NOC Agriculture Programs for an evening to reconnect with friends and to celebrate the successes of the Division of Agriculture that have taken place over the year. This year's event was highlighted with remarks from Oklahoma Secretary of Agriculture, Blayne Arthur, entertainment by Livestock Judging Team Member, Elizabeth Chambers of Pawnee, OK, and updates on the NOC Sheep Center by Sheep Herdsman, Bart Cardwell, and updates on the NOC Livestock Judging Team by NOC Livestock Judging Coach, Jennifer Bedwell. In addition, a golf scramble was added this year, the morning of the event, that had great participation.

Additionally, both a live and silent auction was held in an effort to raise money for support of the agriculture programs. Auctioneer Calvin Crumrine of Tonkawa, OK, sold off 11 lots in the live auction, while the silent auction, hosted by SC Online Sales, sold multiple lots that raised a combined total of just under \$50,000 for the programs. These funds will be used for scholarships, travel and personnel expenses, and general support of the agriculture programs at NOC.

Tricia Moore, Chair of the Division of Agriculture and Biological Sciences, commented, "We could not be more pleased with the support we have had for this event. What started as a vision several years ago, has become a reality and will continue to be one of the premier events hosted by NOC each year". She added that "we had a tremendous increase in attendance in this second year and look forward to having even more attend next year. We are truly thankful for all the donors and supporters of our programs here at NOC and are excited to continue this rich tradition of success."



The date for the 3rd annual Gathering has been set for Friday, May 2, 2025, at Osage Casino and Hotel in Ponca City.





## NOC Alumni Association

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

- \$25 Individual
- \$35 Joint

### LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

- \$200 Individual
- \$300 Joint

By joining the NOC Alumni Association as a Lifetime Member, you will receive an NOC Customized Swag Box.

A portion of your dues will go to an Alumni Legacy Scholarship which will be available to those children and grandchildren of NOC graduates who are current members of the Association. The other portion of the money will go to fund our alumni events.



For more information on Membership Benefits or Online Payment  
click on the following link:

<https://www.noc.edu/development/alumni/noc-alumni-and-friends-membership/>



# Upcoming Events

## Mark Your Calendar

### JULY

- 4 Independence Day  
Offices Closed/No Classes
- 17 Native American Youth  
Leadership Day.  
NOC Tonkawa

### AUGUST

- 15 Mavericks/Jets Move In Days
- 16 Maverick Madness Day, Tonkawa  
Ready, Jet, Go!, Enid  
Get Going with Gateway, Stillwater
- 18 Full Moon Concert  
with Roustabout Alumni  
Centennial Park, Tonkawa
- 19 Fall Semester Begins  
DAISY Award Nomination Open
- 21 Lights on Stillwater
- 25 Scholarship Priority Deadline

### SEPTEMBER

- 5 Planetarium Show  
Enid 7 pm
- 14 Charlie Adams Day  
Newkirk, OK
- 14 Cherokee Strip Parade  
Perry, OK 10 am  
Enid, OK 10:30 am
- 10-15 Kay County Fair  
Blackwell, OK
- 26 Hispanic Heritage Program
- 27-28 Standing Bear PowWow  
Ponca, OK

### OCTOBER

- 2 NOC College Wide Fair  
1 - 2:30 pm
- 3 Planetarium Show  
Enid 7 pm
- 14 Native & Indigenous People Day
- 15 Nursing White Coat Ceremony  
Honor Society Induction  
Enid, Montgomery Hall, 4 pm
- 30-31 Trick or Treat Fair & Halloween  
Spooktacular, NOC Tonkawa

### NOVEMBER

- 1 Alumni Hall of Fame  
Nomination Deadline
- 2 Veterans' Day Parade  
Ponca City, OK
- 7 Planetarium Show  
Enid 7 pm
- 11 Veteran's Day Program
- 19 Miss NOC

### DECEMBER

- 3 Giving Tuesday
- 5 Planetarium Show  
Enid 7 pm
- 5 Tonkawa Christmas  
Parade
- 6 Nurses Pinning  
Stillwater, NOC Atrium 7 pm
- 8 Band, Choir, Madrigals  
Concert KPAC  
NOC Tonkawa, 2 pm



## How to get involved

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. 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 check out our website at <http://www.noc.edu/foundation> to view the donor wish list. Development staff are available to assist you with information.

We look forward to another exciting year of being part of Northern's family as well as working together with you to promote NOC, its programs and students. We encourage you to get involved!

To Give: Go To [www.noc.edu/development/foundation/give-online/](http://www.noc.edu/development/foundation/give-online/)

## Subscribe Now

To Unsubscribe: Email [alumni@noc.edu](mailto:alumni@noc.edu)

