

Dineo Heilmann honored with state musician award

Dineo Heilmann, former Northern Oklahoma College Fine Arts Division Chair, was honored as the 2025 Oklahoma Musician of the Year at the Steinway Concert Grand Piano Re-dedication Sunday night at the Dineo Heilmann Auditorium inside the Kinzer Performing Arts Center.

The Ponca City Federated Music Club recently nominated Dineo Heilmann and the OFMC Executive Committee selected for the award.

Heilmann is well-respected as a performer with his talent as a clarinetist. His years at Northern Oklahoma College as Fine Arts Administrator and Director of the Roustabouts performing group influenced the lives of many students. With qualities too numerous to mention, this Oklahoman certainly exemplified through his love of music what it takes to receive this prestigious award.

Heilmann also received a Citation of Congratulations from Oklahoma State Senator Bill

Coleman and Representative Ken Luttrell as well as a Commendation from Oklahoma Governor J. Kevin Stitt who stated on the official document "You have made Oklahoma proud!"

Debra Rue, President of the Oklahoma Federated Music Clubs and the Ponca City Music Club, presented Heilmann the awards.

"Dineo comes from a musical family so his talent and lifelong love of music result in this prestigious award which is well deserved," Rue said.

The National Federation of Music Clubs is the largest non-profit organization in America promoting and supporting American music, performers and music education.

The Oklahoma Federation of Music Clubs and the Ponca City Federated Music Club operate under the umbrella of NFMC. Oklahoma is proud to support American music by performing the music of our country and identifying and promoting key individuals who exemplify the finest qualifications.



Debra Rue, President of the Oklahoma Federated Music Clubs and the Ponca City Music Club, and Dineo Heilmann, recipient of the 2025 Oklahoma Musician of the Year Award.

Piano Re-dedication photos...Pages 2-3



Cathy Venable and Jerry Steichen perform at the Steinway Piano Rededication Sunday night at NOC Tonkawa. (photo by Caroline Hillock/NOC)

Steichen, Venable wow audience at piano rededication Sunday night

Northern Oklahoma College hosted a Steinway Rededication Concert Sunday night at the Dineo Heilmann Auditorium inside the Kinzer Performing Arts Center.

The concert rededicated a Steinway Piano purchased in 1996 that was recently restored at the direction of Former NOC Fine Arts Division Chair Dineo Heilmann.

Tonkawa native Maestro Gerald Steichen and Tulsa musician Cathy Venable performed 11 musical piano selections during the 90-minute concert. They were assisted in one selection by NOC Fine Arts Faculty member Brandon Haynes.

NOC President Diana Morris thanked the audience for participating in the rededication of “this beautiful” instrument.

“How fortunate are we to have musicians of this caliber right here in this Dineo Heilmann Auditorium,” Morris said referring to Steichen and Venable.

In reference to Heilmann, Morris said, “Dineo, we are so grateful for your continued dedication to the Fine Arts Division at Northern Oklahoma College. We are thankful for your willingness to direct us through this process

(See **Concert** on Page 3)

BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION CONCERT

Presented by NOC Division of Fine Arts

MON | FEB 23, 2026 | 2:30 PM

Cultural Engagement Center (CEC)

inside the Vineyard Library

NOC Tonkawa

F R E E E V E N T



Jerry Steichen and Cathy Venable accompanied NOC Fine Arts Faculty member Brandon Haynes in a rendition of “All Good Gifts” from Godspell. (photo by Caroline Hillock/NOC).

Concert

of this restoration through your generous gift through the NOC Foundation that made this possible.”

Before the Steinway Rededication Concert, Heilmann gave a history of the Steinway explaining that the piano was purchased in 1996

for \$55,000. He explained the piano was compromised due to humid conditions inside the KPAC. The piano cost \$40,000 to repair and the process took four months.

He said a similar piano would cost \$250,000 today.

Enid Speaker Series set for Tuesday

Enid area attorney Ronald “Skip” Kelly will speak at the Northern Oklahoma College Enid Student Government Speaker Series Feb. 24.

Kelly will speak at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 24, in the Gantz Center’s Montgomery Hall.

His talk is titled, “There is unity without community.”

All NOC students, faculty, and staff are invited as well as the public.

The event is sponsored by the NOC Enid Student Government Association, Dr. Mary Ann McCoy, sponsor.



Ronald Kelly

**RONALD “SKIP”
KELLY**

ATTORNEY

**GUEST
SPEAKER**

**THERE IS NO
COMMUNITY
WITHOUT UNITY**

NOC Enid
Montgomery Hall

**FEB
24TH
11:30 AM**

All NOC students, faculty, and staff, as well as the general public are invited to attend.



Live streamed on the NOC website:

<https://www.noc.edu/athletics/streaming/noc-events-streaming/>

NOC SGA SPEAKER SERIES



The NOC Fine Arts Division will host a Black History Celebration Concert Monday in the Cultural Engagement Center at NOC Tonkawa. The photo is from the 2025 event.

Black History Concert Celebration Monday

The Northern Oklahoma College of Fine Arts is presenting a Black History Celebration Concert on Monday, Feb. 23

The recital will be held at the Vineyard Library/ Administration Building Cultural Engagement Center at 2:30 p.m.

The choir, vocal, instrumental soloists, and the jazz band will perform songs in African American traditions or by African American composers.

The event is free and open to the public.

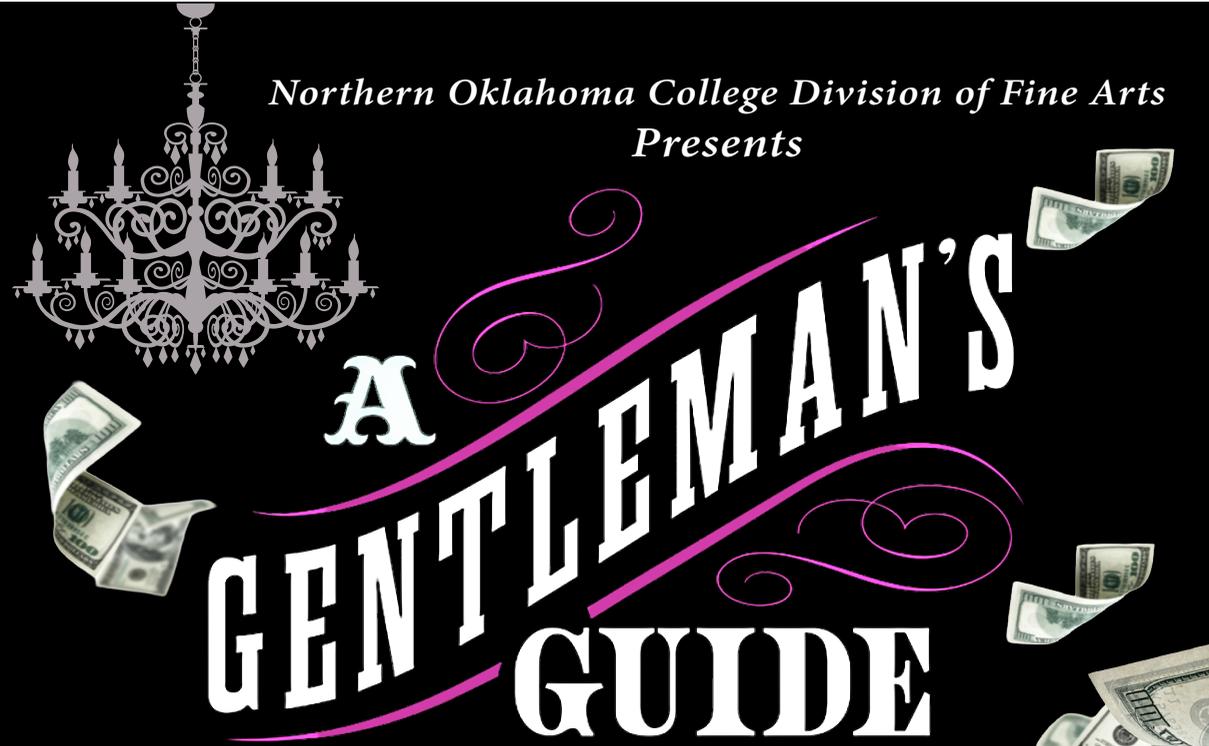
Students can now apply for graduation

Sophomores can now start the application process for graduation.

Students can apply by logging into their myNOC account and from the Student Tab, look to the left for a Graduation Tab.

From there, students can fill out their personal information and then begin the process of completing a degree audit with their advisor.

Northern Oklahoma College Division of Fine Arts
Presents



A GENTLEMAN'S GUIDE

TO LOVE & MURDER



Directed By
Chad Anderson

MARCH 5-8, 2026

Kinzer Performing Arts Center
Dineo Heilmann Auditorium, NOC Tonkawa



*A Bloody
Brilliant
Farcical
Musical*

Thursday-Saturday 7:30 pm
Sunday 2:00 pm

\$10 Adults | \$7 Students

*Free Admission for NOC Students
and Employees with I.D.*



*Children under age 12
must be accompanied by an adult.*

**Based on the Novel by
Roy Honiman**

**Music & Lyrics By
Steven Lutvak**



**Book & Lyrics By
Robert L. Freedman**

Presented through Special Arrangement with Music Theatre International



NOC Fine Arts presented their annual Roustabout Homcoming Show on Feb. 11. The Roustabouts will perform next at NOC for the Annual Roustabout Benefit Show on Saturday, April 11 at 7:30 p.m. (photos by Caroline Hillock/NOC).




STUDENT ACTIVITIES SPRING 2026



- ▶ February 9
Pizza, Pool and Air Hockey
Student Union | 7:30 pm
- ▶ February 17
Bingo for Food
Student Union | 7:30 pm
- ▶ February 19
Bedlam Basketball
Women | 5:30 pm, Men | 7:30 pm
- ▶ February 24
Homecoming Voting
Student Affairs Office | 9 am – 1 pm
- ▶ **Karaoke**
Walcher Conference Center | 7:30 pm
- ▶ February 25
Homecoming Voting
Student Affairs Office | 9 am – 1 pm
- ▶ March 2
Homecoming Basketball
Women | 5:30 pm, Men | 7:30 pm
[Coronation halftime of men's game]
Homecoming 5th Quarter
[Food, games, mechanical bull]
East Gym | Immediately Following Game
- ▶ March 3
Homecoming – That's No Bull Revue
Wilkin Auditorium | 8 pm
- ▶ March 9
Bingo for Food
Student Union | 7:30 pm

MARCH 16-20 | SPRING BREAK

- ▶ March 24
Dodgeball
Fieldhouse | 7:30 pm
- ▶ March 30
Magician Show
- ▶ April 6
Easter Egg Hunt
Meet at Gazebo | 7 pm
- ▶ April 13
Petting Zoo
Clock Tower Area | 10 am - Noon
- ▶ April 21
Spring Fling
Chick-fil-a Truck
Ice Cream Truck | 5:30 – 7:30 pm
Archery Tag | 5:30 – 7:30 pm
Fading Fast Concert | 8 pm
- ▶ April 28
Campus Wide Hide n Seek
Meet at Gazebo | 8 pm
- ▶ May 4
Food for Finals
Cafeteria | 10 pm – Midnight
- ▶ May 8
Dorms close at 10 am



Artists speak at reception for current exhibit at NOC Tonkawa



Romney Nesbitt (left) and Sharon Romney spoke at an artist reception for the Ancestors and Spirit Guides exhibit at the Eleanor Hays Art Gallery at the Kinzer Performing Arts Center in Tonkawa. Their exhibit will be on display through March 27 from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. weekdays and during performances. (photos by Caroline Hillock/NOC)

February Staculty Birthdays

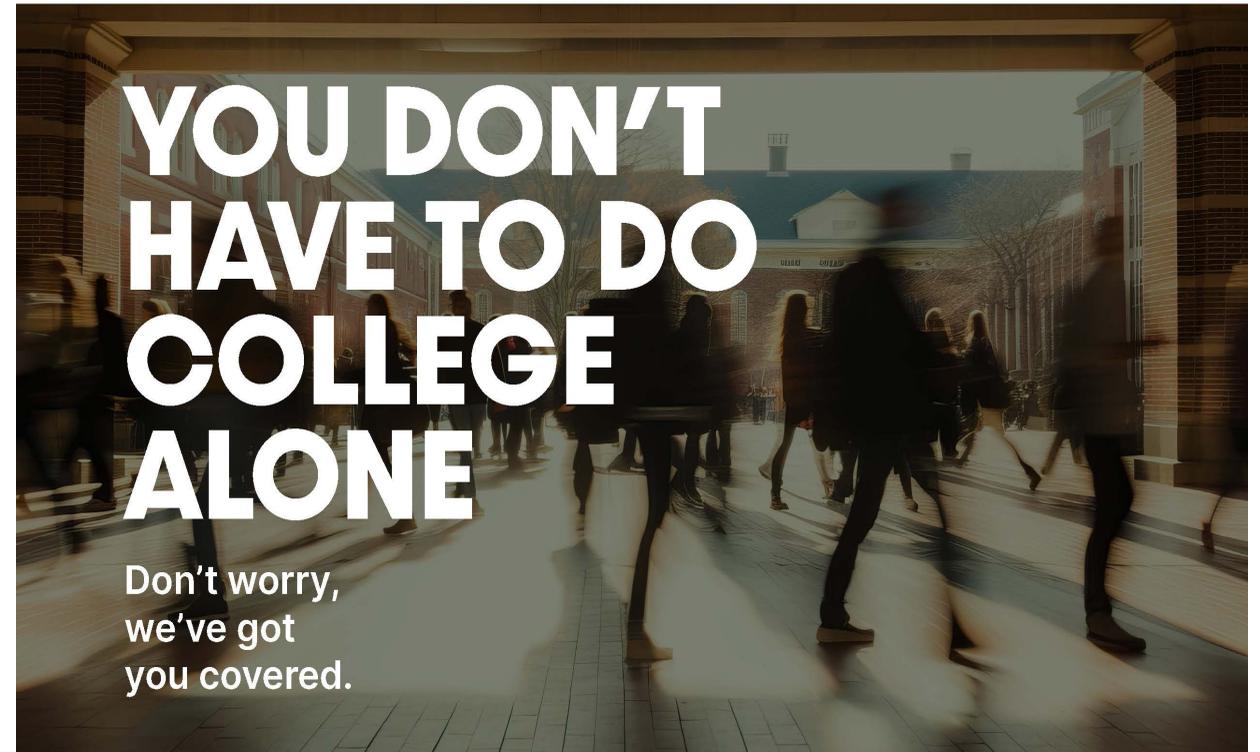
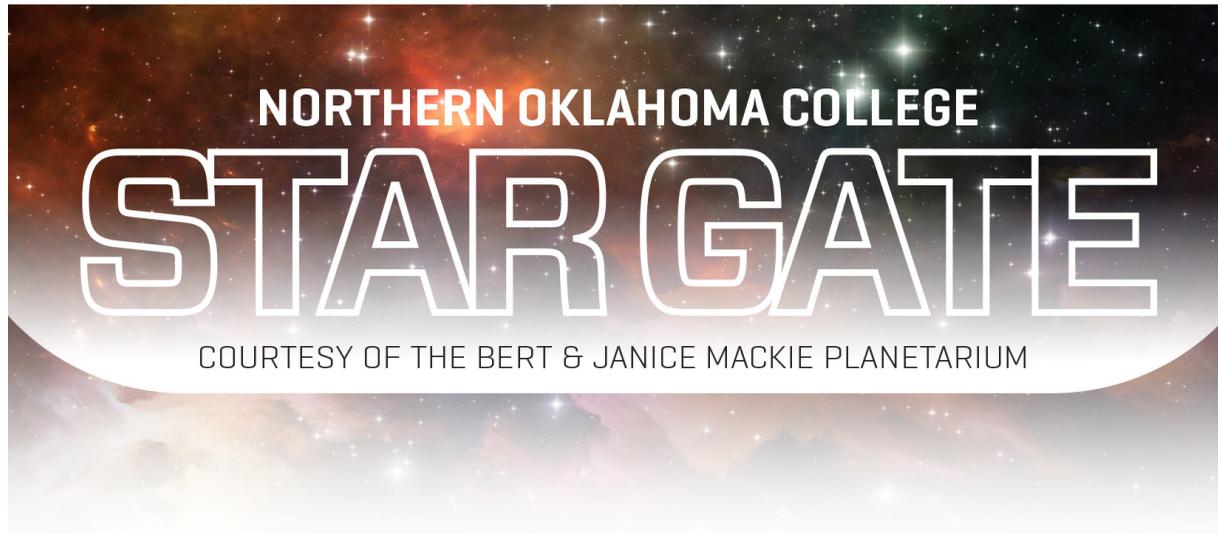


Bradley Klump	Feb. 20	Jeremy Hise	Feb. 24
Audra Biggs	Feb. 23	Tony Barnes	Feb. 25
Jimmy Dickinson	Feb. 24	Harley Morton	Feb. 28

NOC ENID SPRING 2026 STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Join Us!

January 21	KARAOKE NIGHT	Gantz Center, Montgomery Hall 7 pm
January 28	BINGO FOR FOOD	Gantz Center 7pm
February 2-6	HOMECOMING WEEK	Times Vary
February 11	CROCHET NIGHT	Gantz Center 7 pm [Making Woobles]
February 18	MOVIE NIGHT	Gantz Center, Montgomery 7 pm Students pick the movie
February 25	BOB ROSS PAINT NIGHT	Gantz Center, Montgomery Hall 7 pm
March 4	CUP PONG TOURNAMENT	Gantz Center, Montgomery Hall 7 pm
March 11	BINGO FOR FOOD	Gantz Center, Montgomery Hall 7 pm
March 25	TRIVIA NIGHT	Gantz Center, Montgomery Hall 7 pm
April 3	GOLF SIMULATOR	Mabee Center Racquetball Courts 7 pm
April 8	BOWLING NIGHT	Oakwood Bowl 7 pm
April 14	BOARD GAME NIGHT	Gantz Center, Montgomery Hall 7 pm
April 22	ARTS & CRAFTS NIGHT	Gantz Center, Montgomery Hall 7 pm
April 29	PING PONG TOURNAMENT	Jets Residence Hall Lobby 7 pm



Don't worry,
we've got
you covered.

A Weekly Portal to the North Oklahoma Sky
Brought to you by the Bert & Janice Mackie Planetarium at Northern Oklahoma College

This Week's Viewing Conditions:

The Moon: The New Moon is waxing, and will be at its first quarter on Feb. 24. As the Moon will not have reached its peak brightness, it should make for good viewing if the sky is clear.
Weather: Check the forecast! The next week is going to be fairly temperate making it easier to spend time outside. While there are some clouds predicted it should be relatively clear. A good week for viewing.



Highlights for the Week of Friday, Feb. 20 to Feb 27, 2026

This Week – The planets are still putting on a show in the evenings. The Moon will help you locate Saturn during the weekend, and Jupiter on the 26th.

You may be able to see Comet Wierzchos beginning February 23. IT will be extremely close to the southern horizon (unfortunately for us in the Northern Hemisphere, the Southern Hemisphere has had better viewing. The comet will pass close to the stars in the constellation of Sculptor. You can find the locator charts for this at <https://earthsky.org/tonight/best-comets-of-2026-wierzchos-panstarrs-tempel/>.

Astronomical Notes

Comet C/2024 E1 is known as Comet Wierzchos after its discoverer. This comet was discovered on March 3, 2024, by the Polish astronomer Kacper Wierzchos at the University of Arizona. It made its closest pass to Earth on February 17th at a distance of 94 million miles (151.5 million km). For reference, 1 astronomical unit (AU), which is the Earth-Sun distance and it is approximately 93 million miles (149.6 million km).

(See **Star** on Page 8)

Your college experience is your own — but that doesn't mean you have to go through it alone.

TimelyCare is here to support you: your health, your goals, and everything life throws your way. Whether you need to talk, ask a medical question, get sleep and nutrition tips, or just take a break, our care is built for you.

FEELING OFF?
Talk to a mental health professional 24/7. No waiting, no stress!

SPIRALING?
Same. Your classmates are, too. Jump into the community right from your phone.

SICK AT 2 A.M.?
Doctors are on call anytime. Even weekends!

TRYING TO GET IT TOGETHER?
Self-care journeys are always just a tap away.

Having a backup plan...
ALWAYS SMART.



100% FREE * NO INSURANCE NEEDED * 100% FREE **SIGN IN NOW**

Star

(Continued from Page 7)

Citizen Science Corner: The NOC Challenge

This Week's Mission: The Hand-Span Test

The "hand-span" test is a simple method to measure angular distances in the sky. Astronomers use degrees rather than miles or kilometers to locate objects in the sky as we view the sky as a sphere or a dome. By holding your hand at arm's length, your "pinky" fingers is approximately 1 degree in the sky, your 3 middle fingers are approximately 5 degrees, and your fist is approximately 10 degrees.

Pro Viewing Tip

Using the "hand-span" method you can determine how high or low a object is above the horizon. (It is also useful in telling time.) When a point is directly overhead it is at 90 degrees above the horizon, or we can think of "high noon" when using the sun as the object.

Photo Credit: Comet Wierzhos taken through the Slooh Telescope Chile Two, by Dr. Frankie Wood-Black on February 18, 2026.

NOC Calendar

Feb. 21

Away Jets Softball vs. McCook (NE)/Crowder (MO) at Branson (MO), 9 a.m./11 a.m.
 Away Mavs Softball vs. Carl Albert/Southwest Tennessee at Carl Albert, 10 a.m./noon
 Away Mavs Baseball vs. Dallas Eastfield (TX), 1 p.m./4 p.m.
 Away Jets Baseball vs. East Central (MO), 1 p.m./4 p.m.

Feb. 22

Home Jets Baseball vs. East Central (M), Noon, 3 p.m.
 BCM Open House, 8 p.m. – 10 p.m., Tonkawa

Feb. 23

Lit Club - Alice in Wonderland, 5:30 p.m., Tonkawa
 Black History Celebration Concert, CEC, 2:30 p.m., Tonkawa
 Away Lady Mavs/Mavs Basketball vs. Redlands, 5:30 p.m./7:30 p.m.
 Home Lady Jets/Jets Basketball vs. Seminole, 5:30 p.m./7:30 p.m.

Feb. 24

Free Lunch, BCM, 11:15 a.m. – 1 p.m., Tonka-

wa
 SGA Speaker Series, Gantz Center, 11:30 a.m., Enid
 Home Jets Softball vs. Kansas Wesleyan JV, 1 p.m./3 p.m.
 Karaoke, Student Union, 7:30 p.m., Tonkawa
 The Gathering, BCM, 8 p.m., Enid

Feb. 25

Free Lunch, Wesley House, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Tonkawa
 Free BCM Lunch, Gantz Center, 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m., Enid
 Bob Ross Paint Night, Gantz Center, 7 p.m., Enid

Feb. 26

Away Jets Baseball vs. Pratt (KS), 1 p.m./4 p.m.
 Home Lady Mavs/Mavs Basketball vs. Connors, 5:30 p.m./7:30 p.m.

Feb. 27

Away Mavs Softball vs. Lincoln Land (IL)/Rock Valley (IL) at Branson, 10 a.m./noon
 Away Jets Softball vs. Crowder (MO) at Shawnee, 11 a.m.



FREE TAX PREPARATION

FREE E-FILING for Students, NOC Employees, and the Public

FEATURING
 Certified tax preparers provided by
 Northern Oklahoma College Business Division
Income limit of \$75,000 or less

BY APPOINTMENT ONLY THURSDAYS:
 February 12th and 26th,
 March 12th and 26th,
 and April 9th

Call 580.628.6340
 or email carolyn.johnson@noc.edu
 to schedule an appointment.

Cultural Engagement Center
 Vineyard
 Library-Administration Building
 NOC Tonkawa



- PLEASE BRING**
- Photo ID for taxpayer and spouse
 - Social Security cards and birthdates for taxpayer, spouse and dependents
 - W-2 forms
 - 1099 forms
 - Receipts for childcare costs, education expenses and other deductions
 - Checking account and routing number for refund
 - 1095-A or healthcare coverage or exemption

