



**NORTHERN**  
Oklahoma College  
TONKAWA | ENID | STILLWATER

**March 2026**  
Edition 16



**1901**

**NORTHERN**  
Oklahoma College

**2026**



## Alumni Spotlight

Get to know NOC Alumna,  
Hannah Lux.

STORY ON PAGE 2.

## Business of the Year

NOC was Named "Business of the  
Year" at the Tonkawa Chamber of  
Commerce Banquet

STORY ON PAGE 3.




## 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.



## Statue

NOC unveils Ben Johnson  
statue at Pickens Learning  
Commons

SEE PAGES 7-8.

## NOC 1980 Reunion

SEE PAGE 9



## 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).



## A Walk Down Memory Lane

READ MORE ON PAGES 18-27



## **The Faces of NOC Alumni Spotlight**

### **HANNAH LUX**

NOC Tonkawa 2025 Alumna  
Child Development

Profession: Home care nurse assistant

#### **In what ways did NOC offer you a life-changing experience?**

My passion for sports and staying active found a perfect outlet in cheerleading, which was defiantly one of my life-changing experiences I had at college. Continuing cheerleading kept me active, allowing me to maintain my involvement in sports, which I love. Also building bonds leaves lifelong friendships and countless memories with the cheer team. There was something about Mav spirit that was exciting getting up and cheering on the mavericks. Feeling the energy of the crowd and being part of the team spirit was a great experience that I will never forget. Also, the Baptist collegiate ministry (BCM) was also one of my highlights in college being surrounded by other Christian student help me navigate the challenges of college life also help me strengthen my faith. We became a family at BCM.



#### **How did NOC help guide your career path?**

Noc was essential in making my goal achievable by offering flexible, online classes. As a new mother and balancing other responsibilities, this offered so much support in succeeding in my child's development degree to become a child's life specialist.

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

Don't only spend your time going from the dorms or home to your classes. Go join a group! Finding a community is the fastest way to make the NOC feel at home.

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

I recently married my husband, Dawson Lux, this year, and we are proud parents of our baby boy, Leo. Growing up in a family with eleven brothers and sisters, I was shaped by a large, close-knit environment, along with the extensive travel we did due to my dad being in the military. My favorite place that I traveled to was Hawaii. I was in a few sports in high school like track, cross-country and cheerleading, which all these experiences have made me the person I am today.

# NOC recognized by Tonkawa Chamber of Commerce at banquet



NOC was named the Tonkawa Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Thursday night at the Renfro Center. Pictured (L-R): Anita Simpson, Audrey Schmitz, Renna Bowers, Sandy Mulligan, Brad Purdy, President Diana Morris, Sheri Snyder, Cany Oller, Ciera Kirby, Dr. Shelly Mencacci, Kyle Smith, Jalana Cloud, Scott Cloud, Mark Tarrant, Dr. Rick Edgington.



NAPA's Jeremy Owen presented NOC with the Tonkawa Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Thursday night at the 2026 Tonkawa Chamber of Commerce Banquet. Pictured (L-R): Sandy Mulligan, Audrey Schmitz, Mark Tarrant, NAPA's Jeremy Owen, Sheri Snyder, Scott Cloud, President Diana Morris, Renna Bowers, Anita Simpson, Candy Oller, Ciera Kirby, Dr. Rick Edgington, Stacy Burns.

Northern Oklahoma College was named Tonkawa Chamber of Commerce “Business of the Year” at the chamber banquet at the Renfro Center Thursday night.

President Diana Morris said, “It was incredibly gratifying to see the outstanding work the NOC team does each and every day (and night!) recognized by the Tonkawa Chamber of Commerce. I try to tell our Stacutly often how amazing I think they are, but it’s nice for them to receive the external validation as well. The award coming as NOC celebrates 125 years of providing higher education in the Tonkawa community was icing on the cake!”

The following is the narrative read by NAPA’s Jeremy Owen, the 2024 Business of the Year Award Winner recognizing NOC as the Business of the Year.

“Northern Oklahoma College, the State of Oklahoma’s first public community college, has been a pillar of access, opportunity, and service since its founding in 1901. As a multi-campus, land-grant institution, NOC remains dedicated to providing high-quality, accessible, and affordable educational opportunities that create life-changing experiences and prepare students to be effective learners and leaders in their communities within an ever-changing, connected world.

Today, Northern Oklahoma College serves nearly 3,100 students through its campuses in Tonkawa and Enid, the NOC/OSU Gateway Program in Stillwater, and the University Center in Ponca City. NOC’s commitment to affordability and student success is evident: approximately 80 percent of its students receive financial aid and/or scholarships, and an impressive 75 percent complete their degrees with zero student debt. These outcomes reflect the college’s long-standing focus on removing barriers and expanding opportunity for students from all backgrounds.

Northern Oklahoma College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and offers associate degrees in the areas of Arts, Science, and Applied Science. Its academic excellence is further demonstrated through specialized accreditations, including the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs and the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing. These recognitions underscore NOC’s commitment to quality instruction, accountability, and workforce relevance.

As NOC approaches a historic milestone— celebrating its 125th anniversary in 2026—the college remains firmly grounded in the mission that has guided it for more than a century. That mission continues to shape not only the institution’s future, but the future of the communities it serves.

Northern Oklahoma College deeply values its relationship with the City of Tonkawa and the Tonkawa area community. That partnership has been vital to NOC’s success and growth, and the college remains committed to strengthening and investing in the community it proudly calls home.

NOC’s impact has also been recognized nationally through a transformational \$17 million unrestricted gift from philanthropist Mackenzie Scott. This investment affirms confidence in NOC’s mission and will help ensure continued strength and opportunity for both the college and the Tonkawa community.

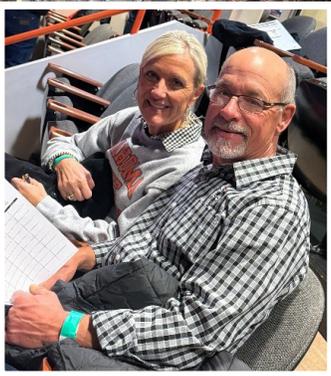
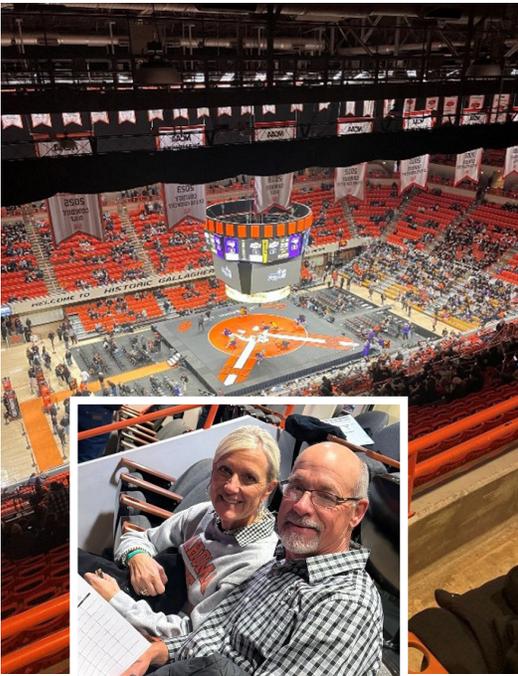
Simply stated, a strong Northern Oklahoma College means a strong Tonkawa—and a stronger future for generations to come.”

# OSU Wrestling Social

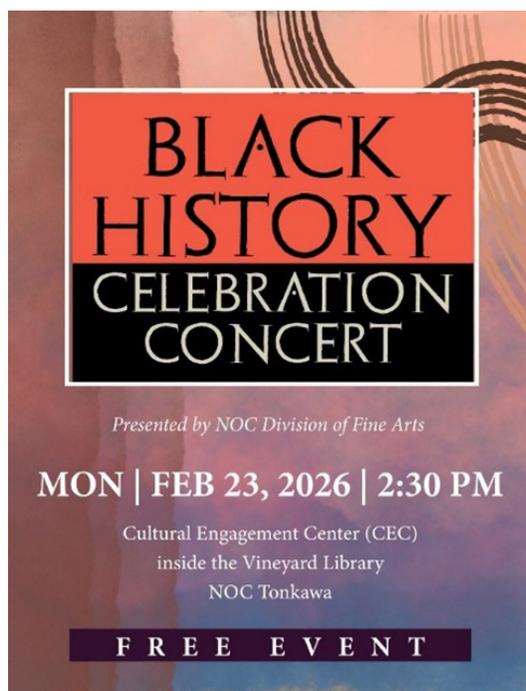
We had an absolute blast at our NOC Alumni & Friends Wrestling Social during the OSU vs UNI dual on Friday night. Our alumni crew covered the full spectrum. We had everything from a roustabout to a cheerleader/track runner to, of course, wrestlers!

A highlight of the evening was a visit from OSU Athletic Director and NOC Distinguished Alum, Chad Weiberg, who even snapped a picture with NOC wrestling coaches Bryan Kenney and Jayden Miller. Moments like that make these gatherings special and remind us how strong and connected the NOC family really is.

Already looking forward to the next one!



## NOC Black History Month Celebration Concert Feb. 23



The Northern Oklahoma College Fine Arts Division presented a Black History Month Celebration Concert on Monday, February 23. The recital featured the choir, vocal, instrumental soloists, and the jazz band performing songs in African American traditions or by African American composers.



## Steichen, Venable wow audience at piano rededication Sunday night



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).

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 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.



# 2026 Foundation Strategic Planning Retreat

Members of the NOC Foundation Board of Trustees, NOC Board of Regents and NOC Executive Council Team participated in a day-long NOCF Strategic Planning Retreat on January 28, 2026 led by facilitator Lisa White, Autry Technology Center Workforce and Economic Development Specialist. Special notes of appreciation to Jason Grace and Lee Evans/Evans and Associates for hosting us at their scenic Big Fork Ranch Retreat Center and to Brad Purdy/First National Bank for providing the continental breakfast catered by The Baker's Table and lunch catered by Stagecoach Catering & BBQ.



## RETREAT OBJECTIVES

- To develop a strategic plan for the Northern Oklahoma College Foundation, Inc. with key goals and priorities to align with the College's Strategic Plan 2025-2030 which has four distinct strategic goals:
  - Student Engagement and Satisfaction
  - Staculty (Staff and Faculty) Engagement and Satisfaction
  - Maximize External Partnerships
  - Maintain and Improve Facilities
- To begin developing a strategic plan for the \$17 million unrestricted, transformative MacKenzie Scott gift with purpose-driven steps balancing between an investment plan and spend down plan, with key goals and priorities to align with the College's Strategic Plan 2025-2030, the Foundation's Strategic Plan 2025-2030 and the State Regents Blueprint 2030 Strategic Plan.

## NEXT STEPS

As a result of the retreat, cross-group common priorities emerged in the following key strategic areas:

- Culture, People & Organizational Health
- Facilities, Technology & Infrastructure
- Partnership & Community Engagement
- Student Success & Access
- Workforce & Economic Development

In the coming months, the Foundation will build a Strategic Plan, which will be taken to future board meeting(s) for the College and Foundation.

# NOC unveils Ben Johnson statue at Pickens Learning Commons

*Ben Johnson Statue*

Hugh and Dr. S.J. Pickens Museum Presents  
the Art of  
John Dale Free Sr.  
~ Sculptor ~  
and  
Yatika Starr Fields  
~ Painter ~

Artists' Reception ~ Come and Go  
Wednesday, February 18 ~ 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.  
Open to the Public  
Brief Remarks at 1:00 p.m.

Pickens Learning Commons  
Vineyard Library-Administration Building  
1220 E. Grand Avenue, NOC Tonkawa

Scan Code to Livestream the Event

Livestream at <https://www.noc.edu/athletics-2/streaming/noc-events-streaming/>



Pictured with the newly unveiled Ben Johnson statue at Northern Oklahoma College's Pickens Learning Commons are (from left) NOC President Diana Morris, Hugh Pickens, artist Yatika Starr Fields and Sheri Snyder, NOC vice president for development and community relations. (photo by Caroline Hillock/NOC)

Northern Oklahoma College dedicated a new art piece at the Pickens Learning Commons last week with the unveiling of a 1½ life-size statue of famed actor and rodeo cowboy Ben Johnson.

The statue was created by sculptor John Free and painted by artist Yatika Starr Fields. The work was commissioned by Hugh Pickens and is on loan to NOC as part of the Pickens Museum collection. There are 79 pieces currently displayed in the Pickens Learning Commons.

"This is one of the most significant art collections on display in northern Oklahoma," said Sheri Snyder, NOC vice president for development and community relations. Pickens, an art collector and executive director of the Pickens Museum, said he has long admired art despite not being an artist himself.

"I am not an artist myself, but I've loved art since I was in high school," Pickens said. "I always thought art was in museums, but I learned that individuals could own art. I love to encourage artists, and I purchase their paintings and in some cases commission pieces of art. That's what I am doing here."

Pickens said Free originally created the plaster statue in pieces. After seeing the fragmented work, Pickens purchased the pieces and commissioned Free to assemble the statue at NOC. The components were transported separately before being reconstructed on site. Pickens then commissioned Fields to complete the painted finish.

"I love to combine works of art," Pickens said.

Fields expressed appreciation for the opportunity to contribute to the space.

"It's good to be back in Tonkawa," Fields said. "I appreciate what Hugh has done in this space and in the Cultural Engagement Center here at NOC. Artists need spaces like this to explore and create important conversations."

Fields said the arts play a fundamental role in enhancing understanding and offering new perspectives.

"The arts are a fundamental way to enhance students and human understanding of beautiful things and another way of thinking," he said. "It's great that we can have these conversations in Tonkawa."

NOC President Diana Morris closed the ceremony by thanking Pickens and the artists.

"How fortunate are we in Tonkawa, Oklahoma, to have this museum," Morris said. "Thank you, Hugh, for the work you started long before I came here and that we have been able to continue."

Pickens serves as executive director of the Pickens Museum, a fine arts museum with exhibition spaces at three locations in north-central Oklahoma: the Pickens Learning Commons at NOC, the Pickens Museum at City Central in Ponca City and the Pickens Art Gallery at Woolaroc Museum in the Osage Hills between Barnsdall and Bartlesville.



John Dale Free Sr., born in Pawhuska in 1929, grew up on his grandfather’s ranch near McAlester and developed a lifelong admiration for cowboys and ranching. By 1971, he held his first one-man show at the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City and became widely recognized for his Western-themed sculptures. Many of his works depict American Indian subjects, reflecting his Osage and Cherokee heritage. In 1981, Free founded the Bronze Horse Foundry, which continues to operate as a family business.

Fields, a painter and muralist originally from Oklahoma, studied at the Art Institute of Boston from 2000 to 2004. Influenced by graffiti aesthetics and landscape painting, he is known for large-scale works featuring vibrant colors and

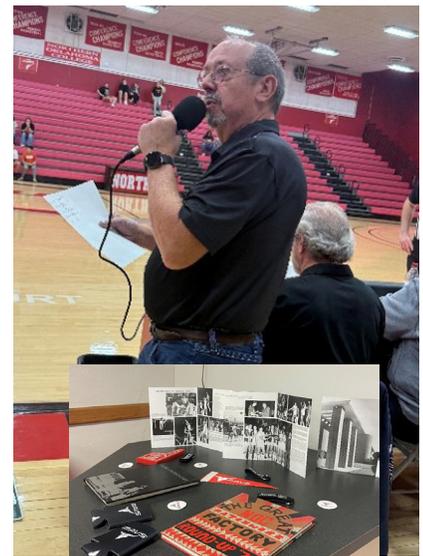
dynamic movement. Fields currently lives and works in Tulsa through the Tulsa Artist Fellowship.

Johnson, a native of Foraker, was an American film and television actor, stuntman and world champion rodeo cowboy. Known for his authenticity and horsemanship, he transitioned from stunt work into acting with the help of director John Ford. In addition to his film career, Johnson operated a horse-breeding ranch and became a successful real estate investor.



**MAVERICKS**  
**Class of 1980**  
**REUNION**

The class of 1980 Reunion Highlighting the 1980 Men's Basketball Team was a GREAT success. Thank you to everyone who joined us - your memories, laughter, and stories made the evening truly special.



# Courtlyn Traxler named Leo Canaday Memorial Scholarship winner



Courtlyn Traxler, a freshman Biological Science/Pre-Med major from Tuttle, was awarded the Leo Canaday Memorial Scholarship for the 2026–27 academic year at Northern Oklahoma College Tonkawa. The scholarship honors the legacy of longtime NOC coach and administrator Leo Canaday. (photo by Caroline Hillock/NOC)

The Leo Canaday Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Maverick Women's Basketball Player Courtlyn Traxler as the recipient for the 2026-27 academic year.

Traxler is a freshman Biological Science/Pre-med major from Tuttle, Oklahoma.

Leo Canaday attended Northern Oklahoma Junior College in 1954 and was a member of the Maverick Football team. Leo returned to NOJC in 1963 where he served as Athletic Director and Physical Education Department Chairman for 30 years, retiring in 1993. While at Northern he coached football, men's and women's basketball, track, tennis and golf. His women's basketball teams won seven conference championships, one regional championship, a 3rd place finish at the 1975 National Tournament and were National Champions in 1979. He was named conference Coach of the Year seven times, and was named Regional and National Coach of the Year in 1979. In 2004 he was honored with the Northern Oklahoma College Distinguished Alumni Award.

Following his death in 2004, the Leo Canaday Memorial Scholarship was established by Leo's wife Pat. Through the generous support of

family and friends, this scholarship provides students an opportunity to pursue their educational goals at Northern Oklahoma College in Tonkawa.

Representing the Canaday family for the presentation were Leo's daughter, Vicki Canaday Hardesty and husband Allen, and their grandson Leo Hardesty.

Assisting the Canaday family in the scholarship certificate presentation were NOC President Diana Morris, Vice President for Development and Community Relations and Foundation Executive Director Sheri Snyder, NOC Athletic Director Alan Foster and Lady Maverick's Head Coach Greg Krause.

Traxler was joined on the court by her parents, Jennifer and Billy Traxler; Grandparents Mark and Tonna Shoffit, and Jack and Barbara Traxler, Sister-in-law and nephew Nicole Traxler and Wyatt Traxler, and her Aunt Rhonda Walker.

"Courtney exemplifies a true student-athlete along with the character traits that Coach Canaday respected," said coach Greg Krause.

# Jaxton Bobik Receives Jared Weiberg Memorial Scholarship



Northern Oklahoma College Men's Basketball player Jaxton Bobik Northern Oklahoma College men's basketball player Jaxton Bobik was awarded the Jared Weiberg Endowed Memorial Scholarship Monday night prior to the Mavericks' game against Murray State. Bobik, a sophomore from Edmond, received the \$1,000 scholarship honoring the legacy of former NOC Maverick Jared Weiberg. (photo by Caroline Hillock/NOC)

was awarded the Jared Weiberg Endowed Memorial Scholarship Monday night before the NOC men faced Murray State.

The Jared Weiberg Endowed scholarship is presented to a walk-on player or student assistant manager of the Maverick Men's Basketball

team, or a team member whose qualities include a strong work ethic, loyalty, unselfishness, and a passion for basketball. Bobik is a Sophomore Arts and Sciences Major from Edmond who plays forward for the Maverick basketball team. He will receive a \$1,000 scholarship award.

Presenting the scholarship award certificate were Mick and Vina Weiberg, parents of Jared Weiberg. Mick was the NOC Maverick Men's Basketball Coach from 1987 until he retired from coaching the Mavs in 2006. Assisting with the presentation were NOC President, Diana Morris, Maverick Men's Head Coach Brandon Gossett, Vice President for Development and Community Relations, Sheri Snyder, Director of Development and Planned Giving, Candy Oller, NOC Athletic Director, Alan Foster and Dean of Students, Ryan Paul.

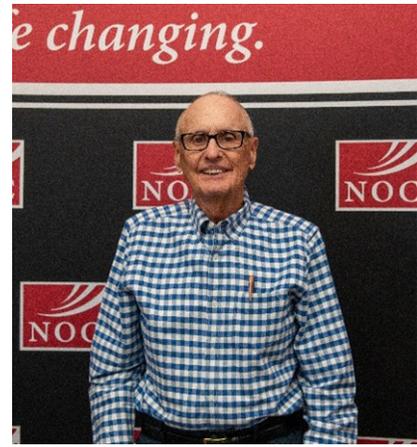
Bobik's name will be inscribed on the Jared Weiberg Memorial Plaque which is on display in the Vineyard Library/Administration Building.

"Jaxton was the recipient of the Weiberg scholarship as he has upheld what it means to be a Maverick basketball player on and off the floor," said coach Brandon Gossett. "He is a great asset to the program and is a hard worker."



*Donor Recognition Dinner*

The 2026 Donor Recognition Dinner took place on Monday, March 9, in the Renfro Center.



# Heath Howell earns Nevona Kegans Athletic Training Scholarship



NOC Athletic Training student Heath Howell received the Nevona Kegans Athletic Training Scholarship on Feb. 26. Pictured (L-R): Kayla Wooderson, Director of Development and Annual Giving; Candy Oller, Director of Development and Planned Giving; NOC Athletic Trainer Summer McClure, Valerie Howell, Heath Howell, Nevona Kegans Bossert, and NOC Athletic Director Alan Foster. (photo by Caroline Hillock/NOC)

Northern Oklahoma College Athletic Training student Heath Howell received the Nevona Kegans scholarship for athletic training Thursday night at NOC.

Kegans, a 1961 alumna of Northern Oklahoma Junior College; was a member of the Mavettes, the Women's Basketball Team and served as dorm proctor in Easterling Hall.

She returned to her alma mater in 1963 where she served in many capacities within the athletic and student affairs department.

She was instrumental in establishing the athletic training program at Northern and retired as Dean of Women and HPE&R division chair after serving the institution for 40 years.

Kegans' commitment to Northern and continued support will provide students a chance to pursue their higher educational goals at Northern Oklahoma College.

Howell is an HPE&R Athletic Training major from Perry, Oklahoma. Howell is the 9th recipient of this award and is receiving a \$500.00 scholarship. Joining Howell on the court was his mother, Valerie Howell.

Presenting the scholarship certificate to Heath were Nevona Kegans Bossert and NOC Athletic Trainer, Summer McClure. Assisting with the presentation were Candy Oller, Director of Development and Planned Giving, Kayla Wooderson, Director of Development and Annual Giving and Athletic Director, Alan Foster.

# Boxy Wallace named Donald Hays Scholarship winner



Northern Oklahoma College sophomore Boxy Wallace (center) received the Donald R. Hays Scholarship for the 2025-26 academic year last Thursday night. Joining him on the court are (L-R): Kayla Wooderson, Director of Development and Annual Giving; Candy Oller, Director of Development and Planned Giving; Larissa Hays Hautekeete, granddaughter of Eleanor and Donald R. Hays; Kay Abrahamsen; Boxy Wallace; Hans Abrahamsen; Brandon Gossett; and Alan Foster. (photo by Caroline Hillock/NOC)

Northern Oklahoma College sophomore basketball player Boxy Wallace received the Donald R. Hays last Thursday night.

The scholarship is for the 2025-26 academic year.

The late Ms. Eleanor Hays established this scholarship in 1991 in memory of her husband, Mr. Donald R. Hays, who was a former basketball player at Northern (at the time it was called the University Preparatory School) and the University of Oklahoma. This scholarship has been awarded for over 30 years beginning

in 1995.

Wallace received a \$1,000 scholarship award for being the basketball player who attained the highest-grade point average as a freshman. Wallace is an Arts and Science major from Moore, Oklahoma, and plays guard for the Mavericks. Wallace was joined on the court by his parents Hans Abrahamsen and Kay Abrahamsen.

Presenting the scholarship certificate was Larissa Hays Hautekeete, granddaughter of Eleanor and Donald R. Hays.

"Boxy is an excellent choice to be the recipient of this scholarship," said Mavs head coach Brandon Gossett. "Boxy works hard in the classroom and deserves to be rewarded. His commitment to academics while juggling athletics reflects the type of worker and person he is."

Also assisting with the presentation are, Maverick Head Coach Brandon Gossett, Director of Development and Planned Giving Candy Oller, Director of Development and Annual Giving Kayla Wooderson, and Athletic Director Alan Foster.

# Skip Kelly speaks to NOC Enid regarding community



NOC Enid Student Government Association students hosted Skip Kelly for the NOC Speaker Series in February. Front Row (L-R): McCalah Burkhart, Alyssa Harvey, Noah Morriss, Degean Jones, Kelten Payne, Speaker Skip Kelly, Gavin Barnard, Oryne Stewart. Not Pictured: Grant Barnard. (photo by Caroline Hillock/NOC).

The Northern Oklahoma College Student Government Association hosted Oklahoma City attorney and Enid native Skip Kelly at NOC Enid on Tuesday as part of the Enid SGA Speaker Series.

Kelly's talk was titled, "There is no Community without Unity." Kelly spoke to NOC students and Enid community members about ways to build a good community.

"Utilize all your talents," Kelly said. "Whether it be your time, money, labor, or talent. Everyone has something to offer wherever you live. Many of you students may not live in Enid when you leave NOC but be a part of the community wherever you live."

Kelly gave an example of the strong Enid community when he told the story of an Enid elementary teacher that he remembered from his school days. After Kelly left for college in Texas and

returned to Enid after two months, she saw him and asked him why he wasn't in college.

"She told me that I would be in college the next semester," Kelly joked. "And I was. You see, that's what a strong community does. People look after each other, they hold each other accountable, they give their time, they show they care. That's what builds a strong community and I challenge the students here to build a strong community in their future."

Vice President for NOC Enid Jeremy Hise closed the program reiterating Kelly's message to students and community members.

"Unity requires effort and communication," Hise said. "Try to give back what you can and be part of the community you live." Enid SGA members MaCalah Burkhart, Noah Morris, and Alyssa Harvey participated in the program.

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 Presented

### "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder"

The Northern Oklahoma Division of Fine Arts presented "A Gentleman's Guide" March 5-8 in the Dineo Heilmann Auditorium at the Kinzer Performing Arts Center in Tonkawa.

The musical is noted as "A Bloody Brilliant Musical."

Admission was free for NOC students, faculty, and staff with ID.

It was directed by NOC Fine Arts Faculty member Chad Anderson.

The production is based on the book by Roy Honiman, music and lyrics by Steven Lutvak. The production is based on the book and lyrics by Robert L. Freedman.

Please join us on Thursday, March 26 for the NOC Alumni & Friends Reunion and the 2026 Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. The deadline to RSVP is Friday, March 13.



*Please Join Us*

Thursday, March 26, 2026

Registration Deadline: March 13th



Register Online

*Alumni and Friends  
Reunion Event*

Induction of 2026 Distinguished Alumni  
Presentation of Alumni Legacy Scholarship  
Recognition of the Class of 1976

*Tentative Agenda*

1:00 pm / 3:00 pm NOC Softball vs Connors Games (Optional)  
at NOC Tonkawa Softball Fields

5:30 - 6:00 p.m. Registration, Renfro Center Lobby

6:00 - 6:45 p.m. Dinner, Renfro Center

6:45 - 8:00 p.m. Alumni Program, Renfro Center



**Northern Oklahoma College Distinguished Alumni  
2026 Hall of Fame Inductees**



Wilma Harman  
Class of 1973



Adam Leaming  
Class of 2001



Rick Scott  
Class of 1983



RSVP TO:

Ciera Kirby, Director of Alumni and Community Relations

Ciera.Kirby@noc.edu or call 580.628.6685.

Or Scan QR Code above to Register Online.

Tickets are \$25 and Nonrefundable.

# Livestock Judging Team



## NATIONAL WESTERN

- Third High Team Overall
- High Team Overall Swine
- Fourth High Team Beef
- Second High Team Cattle Reasons
- High Team Feedlot Cattle
- Third High Team Oral Reasons

## CATTLEMEN'S CONGRESS

- Third High Team Overall
- High High Team Overall Swine
- Second High Team Overall Sheep and Goats
- Fourth High Team Overall Beef
- Fourth High Team Overall Reasons

**NOC**  
www.noc.edu

**APPLY TODAY!**

**TONKAWA | ENID | STILLWATER | ONLINE**

# Nurses Day at the Capitol



The #N\_O\_C Maternal Child and Adult II Nursing Students attended the 2026 Oklahoma Nurses Associate “Nurses Day at the Capitol” on March 3rd. The event was held at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

# Sports

## BASEBALL MAVS AND JETS



## SOFTBALL MAVS AND JETS



## BASKETBALL MAVS AND JETS MEN AND WOMEN



# WRESTLING



Jordan Williams and KyLee Smith EARNED All-American Honors at the NJCAA Invitational at Council Bluffs, Iowa. Smith finished 6th and Williams finished 8th in the country.



Northern Oklahoma College Wrestling sent 19 wrestlers to the NJCAA National Wrestling Championships in Council Bluffs, Iowa.



## MAVS HOMECOMING

Jose Sosa and Kailey Rich were elected NOC Tonkawa Homecoming king, queen for 2025-26. Pictured are the king, queen, and court.

Front Row (L-R): Jadison Ackerman, Queen Kailey Rich, Kennedy Zook, Kaidince Calvert. Back Row (L-R): Trystyn Estes, King Jose Sosa, Sam Nam, Waleed Khairi. (photo by Caroline Hillock/NOC).

## JETS HOMECOMING

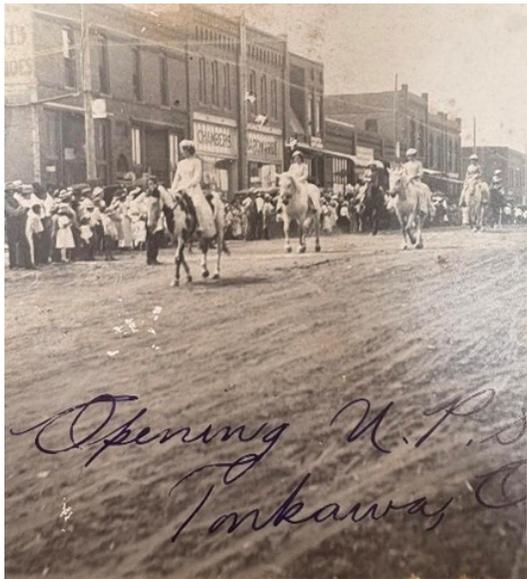
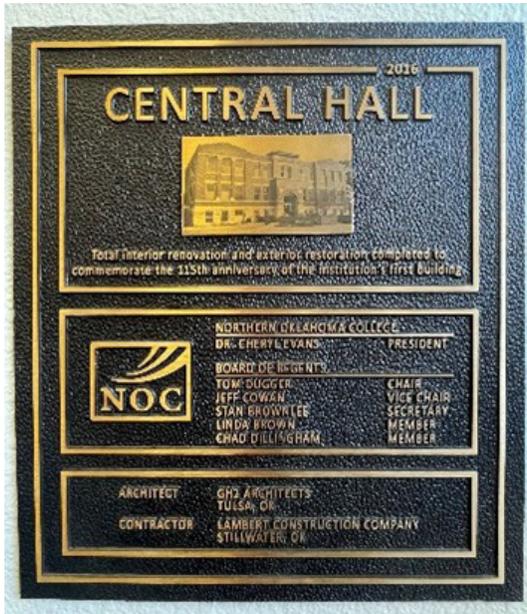
NOC Enid Homecoming King Blaine Davis and Queen Gloria Baker



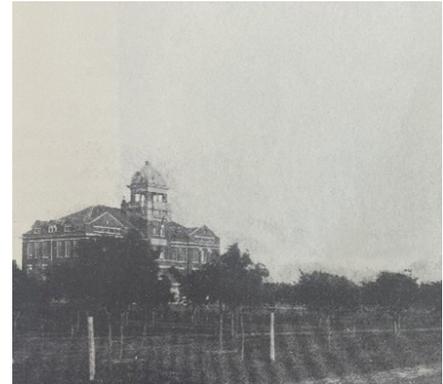
# A Walk Down Memory Lane

As we prepare to celebrate 125 years of life changing experiences in 2026, we're pausing to look back at the moments, people, and stories that built the NOC we know today. Our history is rich, our traditions run deep, and every decade has shaped who we've become.

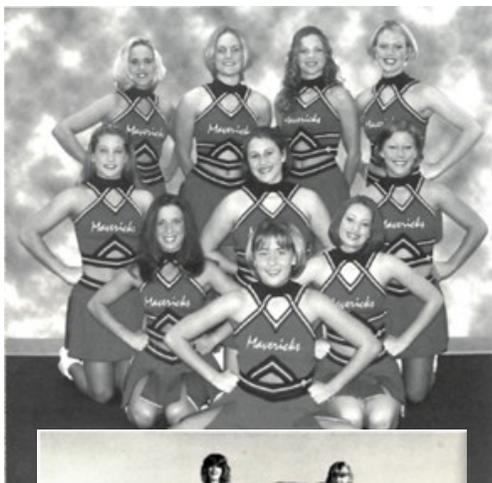
Here's some pieces of NOC history to reminisce on as we begin this milestone celebration.



In 1901, Central Hall was the first building to be constructed at Northern Oklahoma College (University Preparatory School, U.P.S., back then). The tower was removed in 1948 and in 2016 the interior was renovated and the exterior restored to commemorate the 115th anniversary of the institutions very first building.



To celebrate the return of competitive cheer at Northern Oklahoma College in the 2026-2027 academic year, let's take a look back at NOC cheerleading through some of the decades! Featured here are cheer squads from Tonkawa campus in 1966, 1971, 1982, and 1998. Since the Enid campus was established in 1999, the photos from 2002 showcase cheerleaders from both Tonkawa and Enid campuses!



## NOC to reinstate competitive cheer at Tonkawa, Enid

December 18, 2025

In the final Northern Oklahoma College Board of Regents meeting of 2025, regents approved the reinstatement of competitive cheer at the Tonkawa and Enid campuses as an NJCAA intercollegiate sport beginning in the 2026-27 academic year.

President Diana Morris said the cheer squads will support athletic events, assist with campus and recruiting activities in the community, and have the opportunity to compete at the NJCAA level.

The regents also approved changes to six academic service fees for the 2026-27 academic year. Programs affected include nursing, fine arts and visual arts.

The financial report, presented by Vice President for Financial Affairs Anita Simpson, was approved. Simpson reported that NOC received \$2.2 million from the Oklahoma State Legislature for deferred maintenance projects.

The board also approved two expenditures exceeding \$25,000, including internet fiber and conduit installation to the Process Technology facility and the purchase of band risers and an acoustic shell for fine arts. The fiber installation will be funded through NASNTI funds, while the fine arts purchases will be funded through capital funds.

Regents approved the declaration of surplus property, including two tractors, a car, a golf cart and a mini-truck. The items will be sold through an online auction in January.

In administrator updates, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Shelly Mencacci reported that 18 students graduated from the nursing program at the fall pinning ceremony and that NOC Enid will host a planetarium show Dec. 18. She also noted that NOC is undergoing an academic program review to enhance the quality of academic offerings.

Vice President for Development and Community Relations Sheri Snyder reported that the NOC Foundation received a \$30,000 gift to fund scholarships in Pre - Medicine, Nursing, Education, and Engineering, which will be available to students this spring.

Vice President for Enid Jeremy Hise shared photos from the Enid Day of Kindness, during which more than 150 NOC Enid student-athletes assisted with community projects. He also reported that demolition work at Failing Field is ongoing, with additional work expected to begin in January. Hise said he is hopeful that Jets softball will not be interrupted this spring, though contingency plans are in place if construction falls behind schedule.

Dr. Rick Edgington, Vice President for Enrollment Management, reported that Fall 2025 enrollment ended with a 1 percent increase in headcount compared to Fall 2024, while credit hour production remained the same. He said Spring 2026 enrollment is currently 8 percent higher in headcount and 6 percent higher in credit hour production compared to the same time last year.

Vice President for Stillwater Dr. Marsh Howard reported that NOC did not receive funding for a recently submitted TSET grant application but plans to resubmit the application in 2026.

Vice President for Student Affairs Jason Johnson addressed NOC's concussion protocols for student-athletes Johnson said baseline concussion testing is conducted each August, with results stored in a database accessible to athletic trainers and coaches throughout the season.

"Our athletic department takes this very seriously," Johnson said. "We have had a system in place to monitor our student-athletes for a number of years, and I feel good about where we are."

President Morris provided updates on the NOC 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, highlighting ongoing work by campus committees, including installation of new washers and dryers in residence halls on both campuses, continued conversations with area feeder schools to increase scholarship opportunities for concurrent students, and NOC's participation in the Oklahoma State Department of Education and OSRHE's Joint Graduation Pathway Pilot Program.

# Library 1935 VS 2026



The college library in 1935; Lulu S. Doenges, librarian—North Hall.



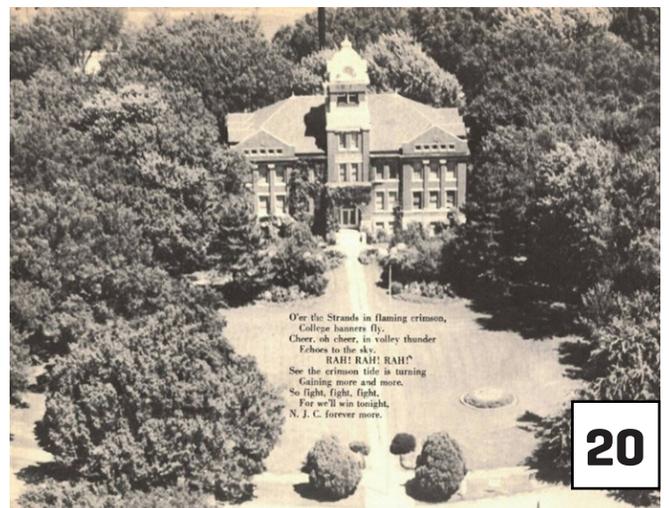
This is a fun one! Here is a picture of the 1910 Tonkawa (U.P.S.) Women's Basketball team. The following two are the 2025 Enid and Tonkawa Women's teams. Quite the difference!



Coach A. W. Briggs and the 1910 girls' basketball team.

Take a step back into the year 1950 as we share a few glimpses of campus life, including some sports, fine arts and student organizations that helped define the era.

If you look closely, you will notice that Harold Piper -one of the namesakes of Foster-Piper Fieldhouse- served as head coach of both football and basketball, all while being Dean of Men and Chairman of the Department of Health and Physical Education.

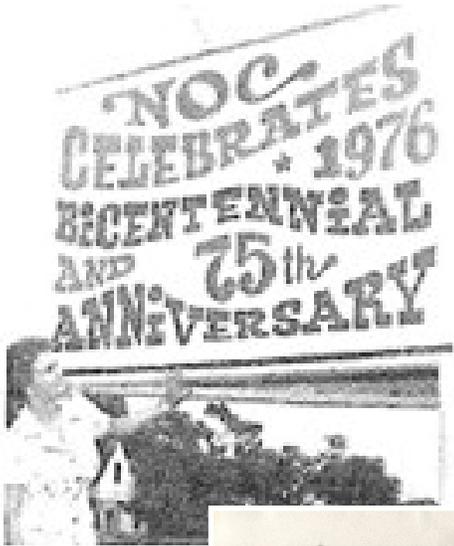


Over the Strands in flaming crimson,  
College banners fly,  
Cheer, oh cheer, in valley thunder  
Echoes to the sky,  
RAH! RAH! RAH!  
See the crimson tide is turning  
Gaining more and more,  
So fight, fight, fight,  
For we'll win tonight,  
N. J. C. forever more.

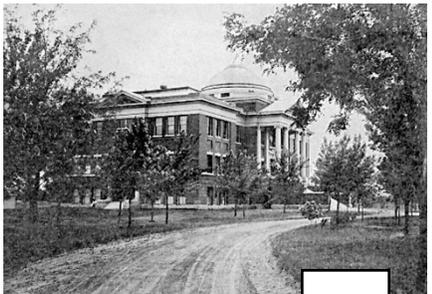
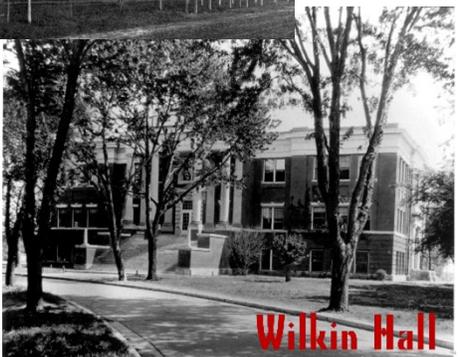
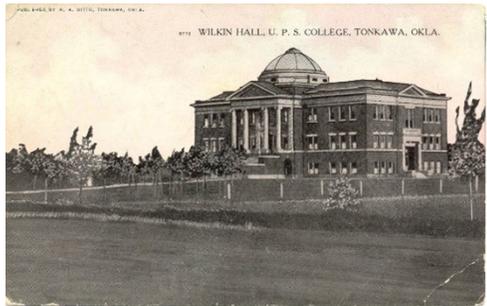
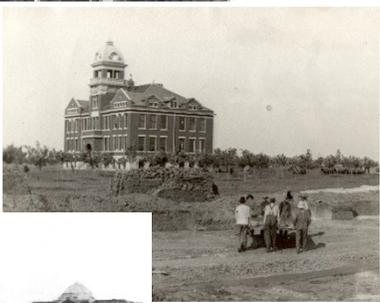




Way back in 1976, Gene Dougherty and a group of NOC art students created the Official Bicentennial Mural that was proudly displayed in the Administrative Building. Remarkably, it still hangs there today in 2026, honoring their work and the moment in history that it represents. 1976 marked a double celebration - the nation's Bicentennial and NOC's own 75th anniversary.



Wilkin Hall, the second building on campus, was built in 1905. It cost \$60,000 and was originally domed! On April 7, 1914 Wilkin burned at 3am in the morning. Horse-drawn fire wagons arrived in time, but because they were lacking the right tool needed, they were not able to put the fire out and Wilkin Hall was a total loss. It was then rebuilt in 1921, but without a dome.



Did you know that the A.D. Buck Museum of Science and History is one of the oldest college - connected museums in the state? It was founded in 1913 by biology instructor C.E. Johnson and many of the early specimens came from Johnson's taxidermy class! The museum was originally housed in Wilkin Hall. When Wilkin burnt down in 1914 it was moved to North Hall (Harold Hall) and remained there until 1968 when it was then given its own building, where it stands today. The museum was originally called the Yellow Bull Museum after a Nez Perce Chief. In 1966 it was renamed to honor its long-time director A.D. Buck.



Did you know that after World War 2, the POW Camp northwest of Tonkawa was converted into housing for married students? The fall of 1945 was the first time since 1941 that the college had a peacetime campus. The G.I. Bill of Rights gave servicemen who had served at least 90 days a year of schooling, along with 2 semesters for every year served. By the spring, there were 107 veterans enrolled. With the growth in enrollment, temporary housing was requested and approved for 7 buildings of 21 units. The cost was one-fifth of the veteran's income, \$18 to \$22.50 a month.



*The Prisoner of War Camp, northwest of Tonkawa—once imprisoned German soldiers; later converted into the first married students' housing.*

We're heading all the way back to the 40s, 50s, 70s, and 90s.

Take a look at this incredible progression of aerial photos showing the NOC Tonkawa campus through the decades.



Did you know that in the mid 1980s, Dr. Vineyard commissioned two talented artist brothers, Farshad and Farnoosh Lanjani, to create the four statues that now stand as landmarks around the #N\_O\_C Tonkawa campus? They sculpted the “Graduate” that stands outside of Central Hall, “The Scholar” in front of the administration building, “The Muse” right next to Wilkin, and the “Athlete” right outside of the fieldhouse. All were crafted in clay and cast in cement. They’ve become a meaningful part of our campus history.

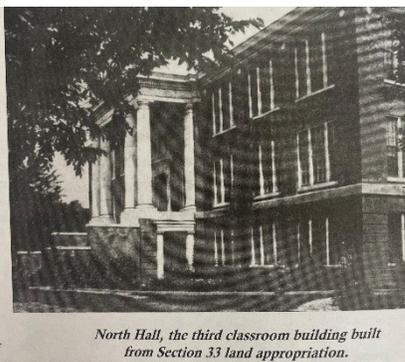
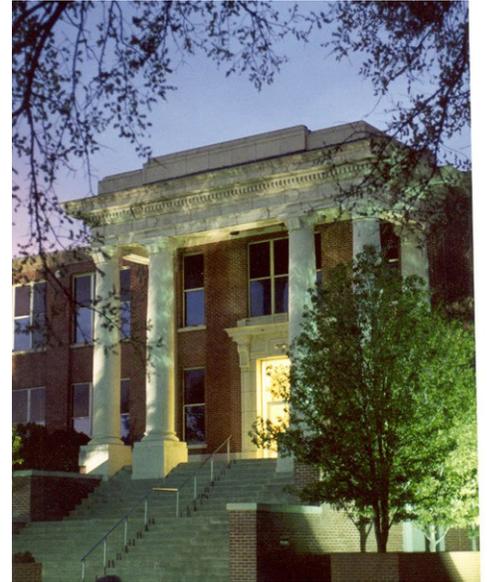


# We're heading all the way back to 1911, when NOC's third classroom building

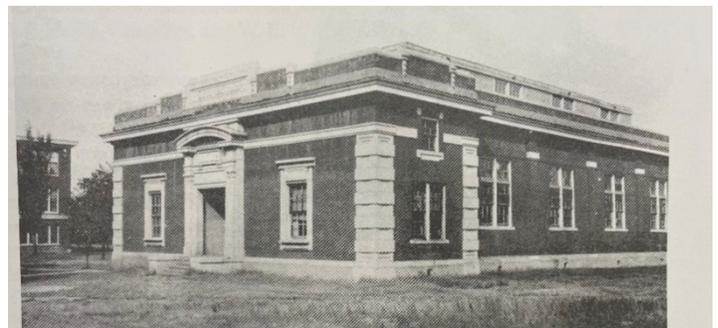
—North Hall (known today as Harold Hall)—first rose on campus. According to an article in the *Crimson Rambler*, the students at the time had strong opinions: they weren't thrilled with the new building because it didn't include a dome, and they believed that every proper educational building needed a dome. However, the student that wrote the article did admit that the interior was "very finely finished".

That same year, the gymnasium was finished and received nothing but praise as it came complete with an indoor swimming pool and elevated track. At this time, the only other indoor pool in the entire state was at OU.

Fast forward to 1956, when North Hall was officially renamed Harold Hall in honor of Howard R. Harold, a longtime faculty member, dean, and acting president whose leadership left a lasting mark on campus.



*North Hall, the third classroom building built from Section 33 land appropriation.*



*The original gymnasium built from land sale proceeds in 1909.*

## Throwback to “the case of the two lost cannons”

In 1908, UPS received two old style muzzle loading cannons from 1st Lt. Clyde B. Crusan who came to U.P.S as a commandant of the cadet corps. The cannons had been taken by the U.S. Army from the fort at Manila Bay during the Philippine War of 1898.

Because the school didn't have the funds to properly mount them, the cannons were stored in the power plant. But only a few days later... they vanished. Police and sheriff's deputies were called in, and a \$200 reward was offered for any information.

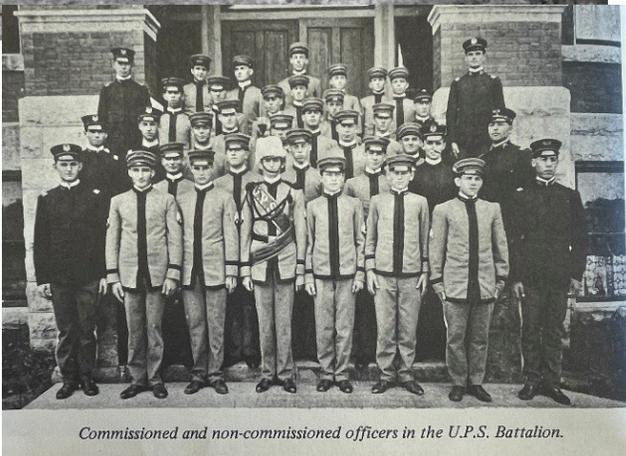
Months passed with no answers, until one day, President Kelley happened to look out from the 3rd floor of Central Hall. There, sitting proudly on the roof of the power plant, was one of the missing cannons.

The mystery had been solved. Four cadets had managed to haul a 300-pound cannon onto the roof and hid the second one among the sewer pipes with its muzzle pointed out.

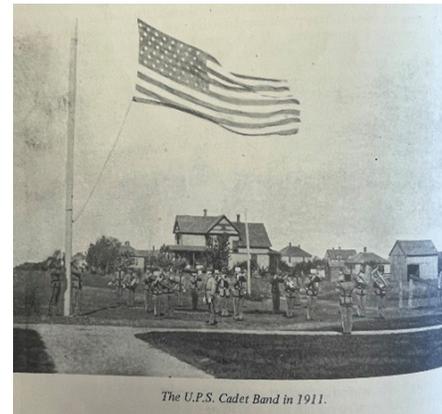
As for what happened to the cadets, there is zero record of the consequences. Although, I think it's safe to assume the adults were left both frustrated and slightly impressed.



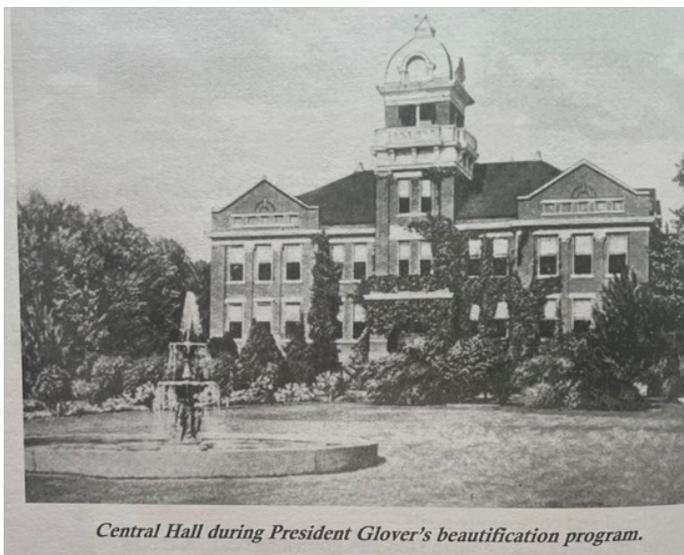
*The U.P.S. military encampment on the Chickaskia River.*



*Commissioned and non-commissioned officers in the U.P.S. Battalion.*



*The U.P.S. Cadet Band in 1911.*



*Central Hall during President Glover's beautification program.*

## The presidency of Lynn Glover (1911–1916).

Glover believed deeply in the power of an aesthetic education — he felt that “a pleasing environment was necessary for harmonious and symmetrical soul development.”

With that philosophy guiding him, he launched a campus beautification movement. One of the most charming additions? Three water fountains that brought new life to campus.

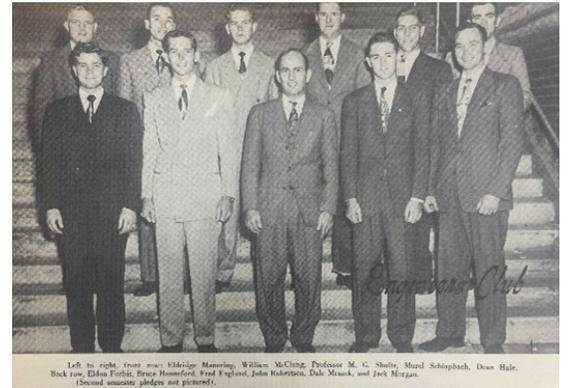
One fountain stood proudly in front of Wilkin, and the other two graced the entrance of Central Hall.

A little sparkle, a little vision, and a president who believed beauty mattered — a lovely chapter in NOC's early history

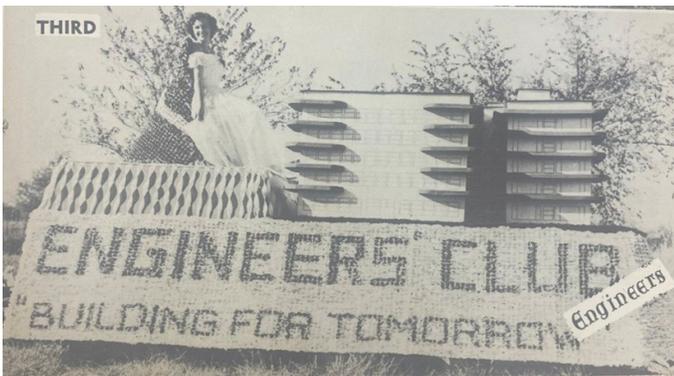
# Back to 1950: The Return of the Engineers Club

After years of absence, NOJC's Engineers Club made its comeback in 1950 thanks to math instructor Mayo Schultz, who responded to repeated requests from engineering students eager to revive the tradition. That year, club members jumped into campus life—competing in intramural basketball and softball, even earning 4th place in basketball. Their big project? Building a float for the annual homecoming parade, which proudly took 3rd place.

But the Engineers Club's roots go deeper. Originally founded in 1931, the club was known not only for promoting scholarship and sponsoring class contests for highest grade averages, but also for its legendary pranks. In 1933, they left behind a lasting tribute: a monument placed between Central and North Hall. According to NOC history, they even buried a bottle of historic artifacts nearby—adding a touch of mystery to their legacy.



Left to right, front row: Eldridge Manning, William McCreary, Professor M. G. Shultz, Mural Schlapbach, Dean Hale. Back row: Eldon Enble, Bruce Hunsford, Fred England, John Isaksson, Dale Masak, and Jack Morgan. (Second row's pledges not pictured.)



## Think you know NOC history?

In 1966, a new men's dormitory was built and named in honor of longtime grounds superintendent George Boehme. George first arrived on campus as a student in 1916, and he never really left—he spent decades serving the college, played violin in campus music groups, and even signed more than 3,000 diplomas in Old English script.

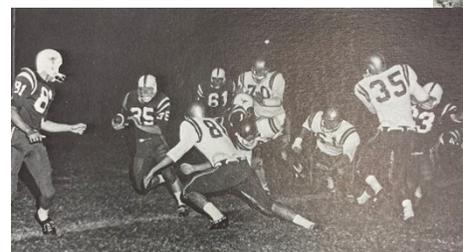
Then came 1967, a year of big transitions. Football was eliminated from campus, construction began on the science building, the band got new uniforms and two NOC legends retired: Dean Howard Harold—namesake of Harold Hall—and A.D. Buck, for whom the museum is named. Dean Harold summed up his long career with a smile: "I have served as everything around here except janitor."



Left to right: Ron McCleary, Proctor; Mrs. Naomi Foreman, House mother; and Bobby Wilson, President Dorm Council.



The science building under construction.



# 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/>

## 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 <https://www.noc.edu/development/foundation/give-online/>

## Subscribe Now

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



Life changing.