



reflections

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF **NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY**

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Betz: Work Together To Chart Second Century

As NSU prepares to mark 100 years as a state institution this spring, President Dr. Don Betz urged faculty and staff to continue working together to create an unforgettable education experience for students.

“This is the time to think about where we have been, where we are and where we are going,” Betz said while addressing members of the NSU faculty and staff at the Spring 2009 Opening Meeting. “It’s our turn to step up as we chart the course of our Second Century. It’s not going to be easy, but we have a responsibility; we have a duty to our students and we will do this together, because there is no other way to do this.”



Creating a positive college experience for students is just one of the over-arching goals laid out as part of a comprehensive plan being developed by the Enrollment Task Force, which was tasked by Betz to create a plan to increase enrollment at NSU. **CONTINUED ON PG 8 >>**

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

COMPLETED

- Education Building
- Wyly Hall Common Room
- Extreme Housing Makeover*

ONGOING

- Enrollment Management Center
- Fine Arts Building
- Business and Technology
- Broken Arrow Food Court
- Broken Arrow Auditorium
- Centennial Plaza

Everyone on campus, from the top down, has the opportunity to impact the lives of NSU students in a positive way, Betz stressed.

“Think of the lives you will touch over the semester,” said Betz. “Think, ‘What did we do today to change a life, to make a difference?’ These very ideas have been woven throughout the history of this great institution since its very first days.”

Team Working To Enroll Students at NSU

A team of administrators, faculty and staff at NSU have been hard at work during the past few months to help students enroll for classes.

Composed of representatives from each of the four NSU colleges, Enrollment Services, First Year Experience, High School and College Relations, Financial Aid, Career Services, Reach Higher, Veterans Office, and Student Affairs, this group has been traveling across northeast Oklahoma to educate students on the educational opportunities available at NSU and to make the transition to the university as seamless as possible.

The NSU enrollment team recently hosted NSU Nite at the Broken Arrow campus to aid students from Tulsa Community College make the transition from the two-year institution to the four-year institution, and attended a job fair in Pryor for laid-off Labinal employees to inform people of the educational opportunities available through Northeastern.

The team will also be on hand at RiverHawk Jam on Saturday, Jan. 24, to assist high school juniors and seniors as they visit the Tahlequah campus with their families.





March 6 Founders Day to Celebrate Centennial, NSU Heritage

Anyone driving north on Muskogee Avenue toward Northeastern State University recently may have noticed some changes taking place in front of Seminary Hall. Workers have labored diligently the past few months preparing the area for the placement of the Sequoyah sculpture and the creation of Centennial Plaza, just south of Seminary Hall. The area is being designed as a gathering place for NSU students, faculty, staff and visitors alike.

The statue will be unveiled as part of the dedication of Centennial Plaza during Founders Day festivities on Friday, March 6. The date commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Oklahoma legislature's purchase of Seminary Hall and the surrounding land from the Cherokee Nation and marks the official launch of NSU's Centennial Celebration. The bronze statue of Sequoyah (George

Guess), creator of the Cherokee syllabary, will stand at the heart of Centennial Plaza in front of Seminary Hall as a lasting tribute to NSU's shared history with the Cherokee Nation.

Following Founders Day, a number of activities and events are planned to honor the institution's historic milestone. The Centennial Book Committee is hard at work putting the finishing touches on a work that chronicles the history of Northeastern in photos and prose. The Larry Adair Centennial Lectureship is slated Wednesday, March 25, featuring Jessy Tolkan who is affiliated with the Washington, D.C.-based Energy Action Coalition. Larry Coker, former head coach of the Miami Hurricanes, will present the final Centennial Lecture on Saturday, April 18. NSU will hold the Inauguration of the 17th President, Dr. Don Betz, on Friday, May 1.

NSU Majestics Take First Place In Open Kick Competition

Members of the NSU Majestics dance squad recently took first place in the Open Kick Division at the Athletic Championships National Competition. The team placed first with a mean score of 9.18 out of 10 for the overall competition. The members of the NSU Majestics include Mariko Hirata, of Nagasaki, Japan, DeeAnn Amlin, of Tahlequah, Andie Doe, of Sperry, Alex Wolfe, of Omaha, Neb., April Truitt, of Hulbert, Tory Hand, of Tahlequah, Kallie Williamson, of Roland, Sara Pelton, of Sand Springs, and Lenzi Davidson, of Westville.



Religion Author to Speak at Broken Arrow, Tahlequah

The NSU Centennial Lecture Committee is presenting religion journalist and author Mark I. Pinsky as the next NSU Centennial Lecturer this week at both the Tahlequah and Broken Arrow campuses.

Pinsky, the author of the best-selling book, "The Gospel According to The Simpsons," will deliver lectures, give a special reading, and sign copies of his books at the NSU RiverHawk Shoppe. In conjunction with the lecture the Northeastern Activity Board is hosting "The Simpsons" Viewing Marathon in the UC basement.

Pinsky is a former religion writer for the Orlando Sentinel and Los Angeles Times. He is a contributor to USA Today, the Wall Street Journal, as well as the Harvard Divinity Bulletin, and was recently cited in the New Yorker magazine. Last summer, he was a Templeton-Cambridge Fellow in Science and Religion at the University of Cambridge in Britain.

In addition to his Simpsons Gospel, which has 150,000 copies in print, Pinsky has also written "The Gospel According to Disney: Faith, Hope, and Pixie Dust," and "A Jew Among the Evangelicals: A Guide for the Perplexed."

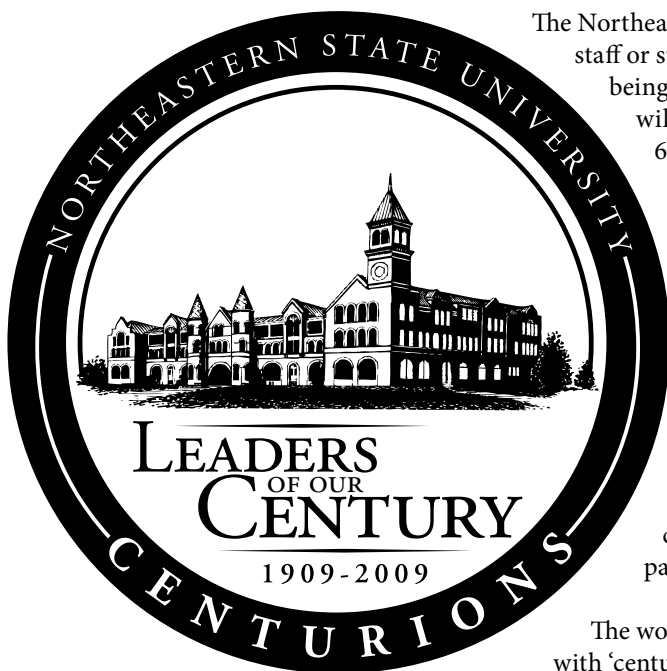
Pinsky has appeared on CNN, ABC-TV and the BBC, discussing religion and popular culture, as well as the role of American evangelicals in politics. In October, he wrote columns about evan-



gelicals' unease with vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin for the Chicago Sun-Times and Religion News Service.

Pinsky is the second speaker in the Centennial Lectureship Series. Elizabeth Eckford, of the Little Rock Nine, visited campus in the fall. Larry Coker, former college football coach, will speak on the Broken Arrow campus in April.

NSU Looking for Those Who Make a Difference



The Northeastern State University Centennial Committee wants to recognize faculty, staff or students who made an impact over the past 100 years. Nominations are now being taken online for NSU's 100 Centurions, a unique group of individuals who will be formally recognized during NSU's Founders Day activities on March 6, the official launch of the Centennial Celebration. Recipients of this special award may be living or deceased, and must have a direct connection to Northeastern.

The university is looking for people who have made a positive impact on the lives of students and community members throughout the past century. The legacy of NSU's family extends to every member of the alumni, faculty, staff and students. The person who made a difference in an individual's life could have been a professor, student, secretary or member of the university's support team.

To nominate an NSU Centurion, visit www.nsuok.edu/centennial/ and click the link to the 100 Centurions Nomination form at the bottom of the page. Nominations will be accepted online through Jan. 31.

The word 'centurion' refers to the commander of a century in the Roman army, with 'century' defined as 100 men. The Founders Day committee has adapted the term 'centurion' to indicate someone whose leadership, commitment, and sacrifice while helping others allowed them to 'command' the century, or create the past 100 years of NSU history.

Carhart Tapped To Lead International Studies



NSU recently welcomed Dr. Richard L. Carhart as the executive director of International Studies. Carhart will be responsible for recruiting students from other countries to attend NSU, and building relationships with universities in other countries to create exchange programs for NSU students to live and study abroad.

Carhart has worked extensively abroad in higher education. He has served as the president of Stamford International Col-

lege in Petchaburi, Thailand, dean of Student Affairs at the Huron University branch campus located in Tokyo, Japan, principal and

director of the Southern Illinois University – Carbondale campus in Nakajo, Japan, and executive director of the Fulbright Commission in Jakarta, Indonesia. He has also served as provost and chief executive officer of the Hawaii Technology Institute in Honolulu, dean of Student Services at Maui Community College for the University of Hawaii, director of the Job wvter at Kauai Community College for the University of Hawaii, and director of the Psychological Counseling and Evaluation Center at the University of Nevada – Las Vegas.

Carhart earned his bachelor’s degree in Liberal Arts from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis. in 1969. He went on to earn a Master of Arts in Human Learning and Development/Human Relations Services from Governors State University in University Park, Ill. in 1974, and a Doctorate of Education in Counselor Education/Student Personnel Services Administration from Northern Illinois University – DeKalb in 1977.

Dr. Lynn Cyert Named Interim Dean of NSUOCO

Dr. Lynn Cyert recently assumed administrative duties as interim dean of the NSU Oklahoma College of Optometry while the university conducts a nationwide search for a new NSUOCO dean. The position of dean of NSUOCO opened upon the retirement of Dr. George Foster in December, following 11 years of service.

Cyert assumes the position with 28 years experience at NSUOCO. She has been a professor of Optometry at NSU since 1981 and pediatric clinic chief since 1986. During her tenure, she has served as associate dean for Academic Affairs twice and also as interim dean of NSUOCO during a previous transition.

Cyert has worked actively with Head Start in northeastern Oklahoma for many years and is currently Chair of the Health Services Advisory Council for Cookson Hills CAF, Inc. Head Start and also for the Cherokee Nation Early Childhood Unit. Cherokee Nation Early Childhood Unit recently named her Child Advocate of the Year.

She earned a Doctorate of Optometry from New England College of Optometry in 1980. Cyert also holds a Ph.D. and the Master of Science in Experimental Psychology from Brown University, and the Bachelor of Arts from Reed College in Portland, Oregon.



Collins Named Executive Director of Libraries



Dr. Sheila Collins was recently named the new executive director of Libraries at NSU. In her position, she oversees services at the John Vaughan Library, located on the Tahlequah campus, as well as the branch libraries in Broken Arrow and Muskogee.

No stranger to library management, Collins has served as library director of Minot State University in North Dakota, library manager at Mid-State Technical College in Wisconsin, library director at Northwest State Community College in Archbold, Ohio, library director/associate professor at Defiance College in Defiance, Ohio, head of reference at Lima Public Library in Ohio,

law library director at Eastman & Smith Ltd., head of the Collection Services Department at George Washington University Law Library in Washington, D.C., and head of Reference and Collection Development at Ohio Northern University Law Library.

Collins earned her juris doctorate in 1989 and master of Library Science in 1993 from the University of Buffalo. She earned her undergraduate degree from the State University of New York College at Brockport in 1972.

Northeastern State Names Jeff Konya Director of Athletics



Jeff Konya, who brings more than a decade of experience in university athletics, including key leadership roles at nationally ranked Division I powerhouses Southern Methodist University and the University of Memphis, has been named Athletics Director at NSU.

Konya, who holds a law degree of the University of Iowa and earned his bachelor's degree at Princeton University, has extensive experience in athletic administration at several NCAA

institutions. His expectations are high and he envisions lofty goals to re-establish NSU Athletics as a perennial power, not only regionally, but nationally.

Previously the Senior Associate Athletics Director at SMU in Dallas, Konya supervised all marketing efforts and game day operations, the compliance and student services staff, which included the NCAA Life Skills and CHOICES programs, and was the direct contact for the SMU men's and women's basketball programs. He has also served as the Assistant Athletic Director for Compliance and adjunct professor at the University of Memphis, and held similar positions at the University of Texas at San Antonio, Bucknell University, the University of South Dakota, and was an assistant to the Associate Athletic Director at the University of Iowa.

While obtaining his undergraduate degree at Princeton, Konya played one season of football for the Tigers. He earned a Juris doctorate with distinction from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1998. In addition to his athletic administration credentials, Konya also briefly served as a staff attorney for the AYCO Company, L.P. in Albany, New York.

Konya has authored a novel, *SugarCane*, which was published in 2003. He is a recognized national speaker and has presented on NCAA Life Skills Issues and serves as a regional director for the National Consortium for Academics and Sport.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

NSU Team Advancing In Great Internet Mersenne Prime Search

The search is on to find the next prime number and a group of NSU mathematicians has formed a team to compete in the Great Internet Mersenne Prime Search.

"The GIMPS project is a search for prime numbers which are of interest to mathematicians," said Dr. Darryl Linde, chair of the NSU Department of Mathematics and Computer Science and coordinator of the NSU team. "The project is searching for extremely large prime numbers in the neighborhood of 10 million digits."

NSU currently has over 900 computers working on the project. The NSU team is in sixth place in overall production and is producing results at the second fastest rate in the world.

A Mersenne number is a positive number that is one less than a power of 2. A Mersenne prime number is a Mersenne number that is divisible only by one and itself. With only 46 known Mersenne primes, they are fairly rare – but two were discovered in the past six months.

NSU Offers Opportunity to Study in China

NSU is hosting a three-week educational excursion to China in May worth three hours of college credit in marketing, economics, liberal arts or business administration. The cost of the trip is \$3,000 for NSU students and \$3,500 for non-NSU students, which covers the cost of airfare, transportation in China, lodging and group meals. Tuition and nominal university fees are not included.

In addition to visiting numerous historical sites and cities in China, participants will also have the opportunity to meet with business leaders from both Chinese and American firms based in the country. Past trips have included stops at BAMA Beijing and GM-Shanghai.

Sponsored by the NSU College of Business and Technology, the trip will be hosted by Dr. David Pan, associate professor of Marketing. The trip is open to all NSU students, faculty, staff, alumni, business leaders and community members.

NSU Students, Professor Create Mural For Catoosa Museum



Visitors to the D.W. Correll Museum in Catoosa will soon be greeted by a masterpiece from several Northeastern State University students and their professor.

The city of Catoosa commissioned Lance Hunter, associate professor of Art, and a group of students to create a mural to be placed on the outside wall of the museum that highlights the history of the city. Hunter and the group of Independent Studies students conceptualized and created the mural during Winter Intersession at NSU.

The mural, depicting historic Route 66 and other points of interest within the city and museum, should be in place by the end of January. Funding for the project was provided by the city of Catoosa.

STUDENT NEWS

Drowning Bear First Graduate of Cherokee Education Degree Program at NSU

When Greg Drowning Bear crossed the stage at NSU's Fall Commencement in December, he left an indelible mark on the history of the institution. Through a partnership between NSU and the Cherokee Nation, Drowning Bear was the recipient of the first bachelor's degree in Cherokee Education from the historic institution.



"Every day we lose speakers of the Cherokee language," said Drowning Bear, Cherokee. "Most of the fluent speakers are above the age of 40. I think it's essential, for the language to survive, to produce fluent speakers."

Drowning Bear and his wife, Charlene, moved to Tahlequah in 2004 from north Alabama to enroll their children, daughters Tsahani and Goga, and son Asuyedv, in the Cherokee Language Immersion School at the Cherokee Nation. Drowning Bear returned to finish his studies at Cleveland State Community College in Cleveland, Tenn., where he earned an Associate of Science in Education in the spring of 2005, and returned to join his family in Tahlequah.

Allard Elected President of AOSA

Northeastern State University Oklahoma College of Optometry third-year student Tyson Allard, of Roosevelt, Okla., was recently elected president of the American Optometric Student Association.



Each year, a student from one of the 19 schools and colleges of optometry is elected president of the AOSA. Since 2001, five NSUOCO students have been elected president of AOSA.

Allard, a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force, is the recipient of the 2007-2008 AOSA Appreciation Award, 2007-2008 NSUOCO President Award, 2007-2008 Outstanding Student Award and the 2008-2009 Health Profession Scholarship from the U.S. Air Force.

A 2006 graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, Allard serves as chairman of the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians Legislative Committee, director of the Oklahoma State Legislator Day, and co-chair of the NSUOCO 4-State Symposium.

The AOSA is committed to promoting the optometric profession, enhancing the education and welfare of optometry students, as well as enhancing the vision and ocular health of the public.

BA Exhibit Urges Children To Play To Learn

Northeastern State University - Broken Arrow hosted a grand opening celebration and ribbon cutting for "The Wonders of Learning - The Hundred Languages of Children," a traveling exhibit from the North American Reggio Emilia Alliance, on Thursday, Jan. 15 in the Building A Visitor Center Gallery.

The free exhibit will be open in the Building A Visitor Center Gallery and lobby area through July 1 for viewing during regular campus

hours. NSU-Broken Arrow is one of only two locations in the United States hosting the exhibit this year.

The Hundred Languages of Children is a continuously updated traveling exhibition that, translated into various languages, has been telling the story of the Reggio Emilia early childhood educational experience worldwide to thousands of visitors for over 25 years.

NSU's Wyly Hall Wins Extreme Housing Makeover

For the Northeastern State University students living in Wyly Hall, winning Extreme Housing Makeover was more an act of sheer will than heart-warming reality show story.

Inspired by the TV show "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," Extreme Housing Makeover pitted the students living in each of NSU's residence halls against each other in a competition to win a remodel of a hall common area.

"The students of Wyly Hall really turned out for this event," said Tammie Willis, hall manager in University Housing. "They put a lot of effort into the competition and thought outside the box. They were creative and provided programs and events on campus that interested all of our students. They really wanted to win this contest."

Each residence hall earned points throughout the fall semester by attending university events, hosting programs, participating in Residential Housing Association meetings, creating a hall newsletter and submitting a video detailing why their hall was most deserving of the makeover. Each hall also had the opportunity to submit a general concept of what they wanted in their remodeled room.

"The overall goal was to get students to want to live on campus," said Dana Boren-Boer, university marketing coordinator, who spearheaded the organization of Extreme Housing Makeover. "Students that live on campus are more likely to be successful and graduate."

After a tough three months of competition, Wyly Hall, home to the NSU Honors students, was announced the winner of Extreme Housing Makeover in December, and work began on creating a gamer lounge and theater in the first floor common area.

NSU dedicated \$20,000 to the project, and area sponsors have donated nearly \$40,000 worth of labor and materials to create the student's desired space. Sponsors for Extreme Housing Makeover include Business Interior, Nabholz Construction, Childers Architect, Action Floors, Lowe's, Building Supply, Sodexo, Chickasaw Telecom, Dell, Sherwin Williams, The Image Group and Tahl-equah Lumber.

NSU Physical Plant workers began demolition on the room on Dec. 19. Construction on the new space began Monday, Jan. 12 and can be observed live via webcam by clicking the Extreme Housing Makeover link on the NSU homepage, www.nsuok.edu.



NSU EXTREME HOUSING MAKEOVER

An unveiling party for the new Wyly Hall Theater and Gamer Lounge will be held on Thursday, Jan. 22 at 4 p.m. in the parking lot next to the residence hall.

Fife Visits Wal-Mart Home Office As Part Of American Indian Heritage Month

As part of American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month, Dr. Phyllis Fife, director of the NSU Center for Tribal Studies was among the more than 30 partners from across the country to visit Wal-Mart's Home Office in Bentonville, Ark. on Nov. 18-20.

The three-day meeting, co-sponsored by Wal-Mart's Corporate Affairs - Diversity Relations and the company's American Indian and Alaska Native Associate Resource Group, Tribal Voices, featured discussions about Wal-Mart's efforts to better serve the needs of Indian Country in the areas of education and recruitment, financial services, marketing, health and wellness and merchandising. The meeting was also aimed at fostering greater understanding and awareness about the programs and services offered by NSU and the Center for Tribal Studies.

Wal-Mart and NSU recently partnered to create the Supply Chain Management degree program, geared toward training students for careers in the expanding field. In addition to working with NSU on

the logistics of the program, Wal-Mart also created a scholarship endowment for students studying Supply Chain Management, with a preference for American Indian students.

As part of the multi-day event, the group visited Bentonville's Museum of Native American Artifacts. The museum offers a glimpse into what life was like for America's indigenous people through exhibits and artifacts of five different time periods. There were several other programs and events held at the Home Office throughout the month, including an Osage powwow demonstration event, hosted by Tribal Voices.

Currently, Wal-Mart operates more than 150 stores and Sam's Clubs on or near tribal lands and reservations nationwide. Throughout the year, Wal-Mart works to support Native American Nations through scholarship, program sponsorship and service including donating to the American Indian College Fund.

Opening Meeting

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“We have a good overview of where we are, but there’s work to be done,” said Betz. “We can’t just accept students. We can’t just wait for them to pull into the drive and sign up for classes. We have people on campus whose mission is to recruit students every day. We have to trumpet that message every day.”

The Enrollment Task Force, headed by College of Business and Technology Dean Dr. John Schleede, is addressing the needs of today’s students and developing a comprehensive recruitment plan for the university.

Under the direction of Dr. David Kern, Betz has also created the University Planning Group to refine the university’s strategic plan to provide specific implementation plans and ways to measure the success. The group will continue meeting during spring semester to layout their specific goals, plans and timeline for completion.

As the university moves toward the launch of the Centennial Celebration, on Founders Day, March 6, Betz reminded all faculty and staff that everything from this moment on will carry NSU into the next 100 years.

“We need to look back on the past, to embrace, to squeeze it for all of the knowledge, all of the insight that we can,” said Betz. “As we chart our Second Century, we are not required to finish the work, but woe are we to neglect it.”



Mankiller Honored With President’s Award for Community Service



NSU President Dr. Don Betz presented Wilma Mankiller, former principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, with the President’s Award for Community Service at the 11th Annual Emerald Ball held Saturday, Dec. 6.

Emerald Ball honors distinguished alumni and outstanding members of the communities that Northeastern serves. Along with Mankiller, NSU also honored Distinguished Alumna Michele McCarthy ('76, '77) and Outstanding Young Alumnus Eddie Miller.

Mankiller made history, serving two years as the first female elected deputy chief and 10 years as the first female principal chief of the Cherokee Nation. She serves on the Board of

Trustees of the Freedom Forum and the Board of Directors of the Newseum, a \$400 million museum of the news in Washington, D.C. She also serves as an external diversity advisor to Merrill Lynch.

Mankiller was inducted into the National Women’s Hall of Fame, the International Women’s Hall of Fame, the Minority Business Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma Women’s Hall of Fame and the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. She has presented more than 100 lectures at universities and published more than a dozen papers in journals and newspapers on a variety of subjects. She is the author of several books, including “Every Day is a Good Day.”



NSU Jazz Serves Up JAMbalaya! in February With Bob Sheppard

The 2008-‘09 Green Country Jazz Series will continue with the Fourth Annual NSU Jazz Studies JAMbalaya! on Thursday, Feb. 5, starting at 6:30 p.m. Cajun food, a silent auction and live performances from NSU jazz groups have become a staple for the annual event. This year’s event also features one of the stars of the Los Angeles jazz scene, saxophonist Bob Sheppard.

Local artists, businesses and civic groups have donated services and items for the popular silent auction. Proceeds go to benefit the NSU Jazz Studies program. This year, a portion of the proceeds will go to the Joe Davis/Jacob Farinelli Memorial Jazz Scholarship Fund.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$35 for couples, and \$10 for students. For more information on the benefit, call (918) 444-4602 or (918) 444-4603.

NSU Sweethearts

The NSU Alumni Association will host NSU Sweethearts, a special dinner for couples who found or nurtured a lasting love on campus, on Friday, Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sen. Herb Rozell Ballroom of the University Center.

“A lot of alumni got their start right here on our campus,” said Anita Thompson, director of Alumni Relations. “We talk a lot about how they started their careers, but some of them also started their families here.”

Alumni and friends of NSU will share their stories of how they met and fell in love during this Centennial Countdown event.

Tickets for the event are \$30 per couple and can be reserved by contacting the NSU Office of Alumni Relations at (918) 458-2143.

