Alumni Columns
Northwestern State University Magazine

WINTER 2020
Dear Alumni:

The close of the fall semester and calendar year provides an opportunity to reflect on the numerous accomplishments at our university in recent months and the collaborative spirit of our faculty and staff that helped make those achievements possible. We have initiated many new programs, projects and cooperative agreements and endeavors that will enhance academics and student services and experiences in the years ahead.

At the root of the university’s progress are the willingness and ability of our faculty and staff to think outside the box. That innovative spirit is prevalent throughout the university and with our external partners.

These relationships provide momentum as we continue on the path to producing the state’s most educated generation and preparing students for good jobs as we work to keep our best and brightest graduates in Louisiana.

Northwestern has been an important part of the fabric of this region for 135 years. Our ongoing collaborations with partners in education, health care, business, the nonprofit sector and cultural entities have strengthened the university and the communities we serve.

Thank you for your continuing support of your alma mater. Your growing involvement with the university provides assurances that our brightest days are still ahead.

My family and I wish you a joyful holiday season.

Dear Alumni:

On behalf of everyone in the offices of Alumni and Development and the NSU Foundation, I want to thank you for another year of positive growth at Northwestern State. I owe a debt of gratitude to our individual and community partners, to the anonymous donors who will never receive a proper thank you note and to our future partners who I know will give when the time is right. You truly make a difference in the lives of students.

In the last three years, the NSU Foundation has executed several projects to enhance the student experience with the opening of new dining options, improved facilities and strategic investment of our resources to achieve specific goals. We have come a long way and we still have important work to do.

You are helping make good things happen and we appreciate your support.

I wish you all peace and prosperity for the new year.
Mathews attends White House ceremony awarding National Medal of the Arts

Northwestern State University Director of Bands Dr. Jeffrey C. Mathews was among those attending a White House ceremony honoring the nation's military bands in November.

President Donald J. Trump awarded The National Medal of Arts, our nation's highest award to artists, to The Musicians of the U.S. Military, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley accepted the honor on behalf of all of the U.S. military band musicians. The medal was also awarded to musician Alison Krauss, philanthropist Sharon Percy Rockefeller and actor Jon Voight.

Mathews, who holds the rank of colonel in the Air National Guard, attended the ceremony representing the military musicians of the National Guard Bureau. This includes members of both Army and Air National Guard Bands. Members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff attended along with other commanders of military service bands including The United States Army Band, "The President's Own" United States Marine Band, The United States Navy Band, The United States Air Force Band and The United States Coast Guard Band.

"I was both humbled and honored to represent the musicians of the National Guard at this ceremony to award them the National Medal of the Arts, our nation's highest award for artists," said Mathews. "They are dedicated professionals who work diligently to tell the National Guard and U.S. military stories to the public. They honor our veterans, inspire patriotism and connect with the public through their performances across the country and around the globe. To receive an award of this magnitude is rare in a military career. To receive it from the president makes it even more meaningful."

In awarding the National Medal of the Arts, the citation stated that military bands "provide an essential element in maintaining troop morale and esprit de corps at home and abroad, to include those deployed on the front lines protecting freedom around the globe. Additionally, they inspire patriotism and encourage young men and women to serve in all branches of the military."

The citation further stated "Using music to bridge language, cultural, societal and socio-economic differences, military bands play a key role in increasing public understanding of the importance of military power, the mission, policies, and programs of the Department of Defense, and the bravery, sacrifice and dedication of our service members."

Mathews serves as Chief, Air National Guard Bands for the National Guard Bureau. He is the chief policy maker and advisor to all Air National Guard bands.

Mathews has served in the National Guard for 34 years. He was the commander and conductor of the Air National Guard Band of the Gulf Coast from 1997 to 2011. He received his commission on July 2, 1998, from the Academy of Military Science in Knoxville, Tennessee. Prior to joining the Texas Air National Guard he served 10 years with the 156th Army Band of the Louisiana National Guard and two years with the 132nd Army Band of the Wisconsin National Guard. In 2007, he deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Horn of Africa with members of the Air National Guard Band of the Gulf Coast. Most recently, he was activated for a six-month assignment where he served as the Commander of the United States Air Force Band of the West.

At Northwestern State, Mathews serves as director of bands where he leads a band program of over 360 students. He conducts the Wind Symphony and Honors Chamber Winds and teaches conducting to both graduate and undergraduate students. His professional memberships include Louisiana Music Educators Association, World Association of Symphonic Bands and Ensemble and the College Band Directors National Association.

Mathews earned a Bachelor of Music Education at Northwestern State in 1990, a Master of Music Education at the University of North Texas and a Doctor of Musical Arts in Conducting Pedagogy at the University of Southern Mississippi.
Alumn James Palmer is winner of Louisiana Film Prize

Northwestern State alumnus James Harlon Palmer, a 2005 graduate in theatre, won the 2019 Louisiana Film Prize in Shreveport in October. Palmer, who lives in Mansfield, won $50,000 for his film "Anniversary." He wrote, produced and co-starred in the film. NSU alumnus John Chambers was director of photography and Courtney Shay Young was choreographer and appeared in the film.

"Anniversary" is a musical about a couple who is celebrating one year of happily dating. Although both are in love, the sweethearts face a dilemma when Jimmy feels pressured by Ellie (played by Kelly R. Vaden) to pop the question. A standoff occurs as they take turns presenting their cases for freedom vs. nuptials in a comedic, yet heartfelt lyrical battle.

"Anniversary" is Palmer's directorial debut. He has more than 20 film and television credits in both short and full-length feature films. Palmer has composed music for and acted in numerous films that finished in the Louisiana Film Prize's Top 20. He was also involved other competing films this year. Palmer said winning the prize taught him an important personal lesson. "Winning has taught me to listen to all the friends and family who tell me of my talent and who support me," he said.

"They believed in me when I did not believe in myself. I know what I can do, but without their support and their positivity, there is a great chance that I would have just talked myself out of making a film at all."

The Prize Foundation received submissions of short films from across the country and internationally. A curated film committee selected 20 to represent the top 20 finalists. The grand prize and outcomes were based on the judges and audience votes. The judges consisted of national film industry professionals from across the U.S. Palmer hopes the exposure will provide additional opportunities.

"The exposure and the networking that comes from winning the film prize has the potential to lead to some really great things," said Palmer. "As an actor, things tend to be feast or famine."

"My connection to NSU has never been broken," he said. "Whether it's simple acting warmups before going on stage in a play, or digging deep into the works of Shakespeare or the in-depth study of the different approaches to acting and finding what technique, or combination of techniques, fits my nature. The things I learned in the NSU Theatre program stay with me to this day."

Palmer auditions for films regularly. He has a role in the upcoming film "Walkaway Joe" starring Jeffrey Dean Morgan and David Strathairn and in Julia Edward's play "Family Planning" in January at Shreveport Little Theatre. He hopes to start work on a music album this year and begin his next musical short film. Information on the Louisiana Film Prize is available at prizefest.org.

C.E. "Buzz" Dranguet

Dranguet earns safety award for avoiding flight disaster

C.E. "Buzz" Dranguet, a captain for American Airlines, was recently honored with the Michael Michaelis Safety Award for Excellence of outstanding airmanship and professionalism. Out of 15,000 American Airlines pilots, he and his co-pilot were honored.

On April 13, while deviating around weather, the air speed indicator on the MD-80 airplane malfunctioned. After recovering from two stalls, the crew prepared for an emergency landing at Shreveport. The approach and landing were a success.

According to the president of American Pilot Association, the airmanship of the pilots prevented a potential disaster. The accurate detailed briefing helped develop mitigations to the MD-80 fleet for a recently identified hazard.

Dranguet graduated from St. Mary's High School and is a 1986 graduate of the Northwestern State's aviation curriculum. He is a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity.

He is married to Anita Mares Dranguet and has two sons, Matthew and Johnathan. He is the son of Ed (1961) and Mary Dranguet of Natchitoches.
Sabine educators recognized

Sabine Parish Superintendent Dr. Sara Ebarb, left, was selected as a nominee for the Region VII Louisiana Superintendent of the Year. She was one of six nominees from across the state. Ebarb has served as superintendent of schools in Sabine Parish since 2010. She earned a bachelor’s degree in education at Northwestern in 1983, a master’s in counseling at Louisiana Tech in 1985 and a master’s degree plus 30 in supervision in 1995. She earned her doctorate from Nova Southeastern University in 2008. Ebarb has earned many professional honors during her career, including being named Louisiana PTA Educator of Distinction, regional and district Principal of the Year and Assistant Principal of the Year. In 2014, Ebarb was inducted into NSU’s Hall of Distinguished Educators.

Téné Leach, right, of Many was a semifinalist for the 2020 Principal of the Year Awards. She and other finalists for Principal and Teacher of the Year were honored during a reception hosted by first lady Donna Edwards and Dream Teachers, LLC, at the Louisiana Governor’s Mansion. Leach earned a B.A. in 1999 with certification in elementary education and a PreK/K add-on. She earned a master’s in educational leadership from ULM. She served as principal of Zwolle Elementary for four years and at Many Elementary for two years. She is currently the Elementary Supervisor for Sabine Parish.

Freeman awarded Bandworld Legion of Honor

Northwestern State alum Robert Freeman (1992) was honored with a special award of the John Philip Sousa Foundation, the Bandworld Legion of Honor, that recognizes the finest band directors in the profession. Recipients must have taught for at least 15 years, maintained a high-quality concert band program and contributed to the profession through dedication to bands and band music.

Freeman and other honorees were recognized at the Sousa Foundation awards ceremony during the Midwest Band Clinic in Chicago.

Freeman has been director of bands at West Monroe High School since 2003. Prior to that, he was the assistant director of bands at West Monroe and director at North Forest High School. He earned a bachelor’s degree in music education at Northwestern State and a Master of Music in euphonium performance at University of Southern Mississippi.

Freeman is known for his musicality, personality, leadership and teaching skills. He is tireless in meeting and recruiting prospective students and is a teacher, conductor and mentor who is equally comfortable working with both marching and concert bands.

“I love music. Music saved me as a young man from an uncertain future and gave purpose to me,” Freeman said. “My goal is, through excellence, to impart that same passion for music in my students. But perhaps more important is for them to know how much they are loved and valued beyond the classroom.”
Spotlights

Lt. Col. LaTasha Moody-Love (1993) was named the University of Massachusetts Army Reserve Officer Training Corps professor of military science.

Moody-Love is a distinguished graduate of NSU’s Army ROTC program where she earned her A.A.S. in veterinary technology and later a B.A. in anthropology with a minor in microbiology. She went on to receive a master of science degree in international relations from Troy University.

Prior to receiving her commission as an active duty second lieutenant in the Army, Moody-Love enlisted in the Army serving as a combat medic with the 1/228th Aviation Regiment in Panama. She later transitioned into the Simultaneous Membership Program with the Louisiana National Guard.

Moody-Love served the majority of her military career in the Indo Pacific Command region – Hawaii, Okinawa, Joint Base Lewis McChord and South Korea providing logistics support to light infantry units to include a Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT). She has served at all levels – strategic, operational and tactical. Her areas of expertise include Asia-Pacific, international relations, military planning, cultural awareness, leadership and mentoring.

Moody-Love hails from a military family. Her father retired from the U.S. Army and is a Vietnam War veteran. She is married to Cedric Love, who served on the USS Duluth with the U.S. Navy, and her godson is currently serving in the Navy.

Richelle Dorris, who earned a Master of Arts in fine art in 2018, was chosen as the poster artist for the 2019 Zwolle Tamale Fiesta.

The 35th annual poster was revealed to the public during an annual poster unveiling celebration. Her artist’s statement is as follows.

“Sketching out her career in art, Richelle combines her love of fantasy and nature, inspired by growing up in her hometown of Hornbeck. She began drawing at an early age — first copying her sister’s stick figure doodles — and she continues to practice and develop her craft every day. Her form of art is best described as imaginative, creating pictures that burst onto the page with intricate details and bold colors. She uses watercolor and gouache to express her ideas through unique layered compositions. Her first artistic hero was Aubrey Beardsley, leading her to fall in love with the Art Nouveau movement. She continues to build her own quirky style while finding new artistic influences and techniques.

Presently, she is pursuing a Masters of Fine Art degree at Stephen F. Austin in Nacogdoches, Texas, where she is exploring a mixture of representational and abstract art. Her art exhibitions include solo exhibitions such as Richelle Dorris: Recent Work (2019), Written in the Stars: The Journey of the Zodiac (2018) and Steampunk: Out of Place out of Time (2015). Group shows include 5 Artists (2018), Creative Art Exhibition (2018), and Eclectica (2017). Additionally, her work was part of artist showcases in New Orleans for RAW: Merge in 2015 and in Houston for RAW: Verve in 2016.

The 2019 Zwolle Tamale Fiesta Poster reflects a festive mood and cultural expression that is common to the yearly celebration. It contributes to the Fiesta with its authentic representation of our town and its people.

Martial Broussard (1969) was named Erath High School Homecoming Grand Marshal this past fall in recognition of his lifelong support of the Erath community. In his 72 years, Broussard has been known as a hard worker and strong leader. He was a teacher in Vermilion Parish, owned two businesses and in his retirement years is driving a school bus. In his spare time, he assists with EHS sporting events, works as chairman of the Hall of Fame committee and is a staunch advocate for his community.

In 1964, at age 17 and two months into his senior year of high school, Broussard had a life altering experience when Hurricane Hilda hit the gulf coast and spawned a tornado that collapsed the Erath water tower and crushed the town city hall below. At the time, Broussard’s father, who owned a funeral home and ambulance service and was part of the civil defense team, enlisted his son’s to help with the CB

Jeneal and Martial Broussard

Spotlights continued on page 5
radio. Broussard had just arrived at the old city hall when the water tower collapsed, killing eight men in the building. Broussard was the only survivor. After surviving the ordeal, Broussard made a commitment to serve his community and has been involved in many projects and events involving Erath schools, churches, civic events and more.

Broussard graduated from Erath High School in 1965 and enrolled at NSU. Another tragedy struck his family when his 13-year-old sister died suddenly of an aneurysm in 1966. Broussard graduated from NSU, returned home, married and started a family. All three of his children and now four grandchildren attend Erath schools.

For all of his adult life, Broussard has been involved with the Erath schools and is a die-hard Erath Bobcat. His mantra is "A Bobcat now, a Bobcat then, a Bobcat forever."

The 2019-20 principal of the year for the St. Charles Parish Public School System is Kelli Oertling (2001) of Lakewood Elementary School in Luling. Oertling holds a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in educational leadership from Northwestern State University. Prior to her appointment in 2014 as principal of Lakewood, she was a social studies teacher at Hahnville High School, and principal at St. Rose and Norco elementary schools. Oertling is a member of the Louisiana Association of Principals, the American Association of School Administrators, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development and the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

Oertling, who was honored at the Principal of the Year Spotlight Soirée on Oct. 24, will now represent the district in the state competition.

Paula Shuford Callender (2001), a biology teacher at Natchitoches Central High School, was one of three teachers in Louisiana to be named a state finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching. This award is one of the highest honors for a kindergarten through 12th grade mathematics or science teacher in the U.S., with approximately 108 teachers being recognized each year. Callender was recognized at a luncheon at the Governor's Mansion in September.

Callender is certified in all areas of science grades 6-12, as well as being National Board Certified in early adolescence science once in 2007 and renewed in 2017. She holds a Bachelor of Science in health and human performance from NSU along with an instructional coaching certification from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

At NCHS, Callender is the adviser to the Leo Club and FCA co-adviser. Since returning to her classroom she has had an opportunity to work with Northwestern State University's Department of Education as a student teacher mentor and is currently enrolled in the Louisiana Department of Education's Mentor Teacher Training Program. Outside education, Callender leads a very active life. She is a member of Wallace Baptist Church where she serves as choir director and as a member of the youth committee. In her spare time, she participates as an actor/musician with Back Alley Theater in Grand Cane and has numerous musicals to her credit.

Dr. Lissa Pollacia, professor of information technology and assistant dean of the School of Science and Technology at Georgia Gwinnett College, was named this year's CompTIA Outstanding Faculty Advisor. This national honor recognizes an educator who has demonstrated substantial contributions to their school's CompTIA Association of Information Technology Professionals student chapter by supporting officers and student activities through excellence as a teacher, advisor and mentor.

Pollacia earned a degree in mathematics at NSU in 1982 and taught at NSU for 28 years in the Department of Mathematics and the computer information systems program. She has been teaching at Georgia Gwinnett since 2010.

Pollacia holds a master's degree in both mathematics and computer science, and a Ph.D. in computer science. She has many years of teaching experience, has served as principal investigator for various research grants and published numerous journal articles and papers. In addition, she serves as advisor for the GGC student chapter of the Association of Information Technology Professionals. She has coached several teams of students who have won the national championship in Database Design contest at AITP National Collegiate Conference and the United States Information Technology Collegiate Conference.

She received the AITP national award for outstanding advisor, called the "Faculty Advisor Extra Mile" and the CompTIA "Outstanding Faculty Advisor" Award in 2018.

Other awards include the Mildred Hart Bailey Award for Outstanding Research and the Excellence in Teaching Award for the College of Business at Northwestern State University and "Outstanding Student Engagement" GGC Award for
2018. Pollacia focuses on improving student engagement outside of the classroom and in preparing students for transitioning from the academic to the professional environment.

Chris Alley, an alumnus of the Beta Omicron chapter of Pi Kappa Phi at Northwestern State University, has been named among the national fraternity’s most promising young alumni. Now in its sixth year, their ‘Thirty Under 30’ program recognizes young alumni for their achievement after their undergraduate careers have come to an end.

Alley initiated into the Beta Omicron chapter in 2008 and served as housing manager, vice archon, chief justice of the Standards Board and Ability Experience chairman. He served as a member of the Gear Up Florida team in 2011, cycling across the state of Florida to raise money and awareness for programs that support people with disabilities. He was also part of the chartering teams for Louisiana Tech University and Stephen F. Austin State University. While at NSU, he was a Freshman Connector, a Student Government Association senator and vice president of the Interfraternity Council.

After graduating Alley joined the Beta Omicron Alumni Chapter, where he was elected a board member last year. He is active with Pi Kappa Phi alumni in the New Orleans area, where he lives and works.

Alley is very involved with his church, St. Catherine of Sienna, where he sings in the choir, is a member of the men’s club and volunteers with many church functions and events. He assisted with hurricane and storm relief efforts in Baton Rouge, New Orleans and Houston, where he aided in fundraising and supply drives, while also helping load three 18-wheelers with supplies for Hurricane Harvey relief efforts.

After graduating from NSU, Alley worked on a judge's campaign in Jefferson Parish. He later began a successful career with Enterprise Rent-a-Car, where he worked his way up to assistant manager of the three brands (Enterprise, Alamo and National) at New Orleans International Airport. He was then promoted to their car sales division, where he earned ‘Top Dog Award’ for selling 24 vehicles in one month in 2016.

In 2018 Alley was named an alumni officer for the Catholic boys preparatory school Brother Martin in New Orleans. Alley uses his talents as a communicator, event coordinator and fundraiser to work with a development team to host alumni events, reunions and lead several high-level fundraising efforts, including a $1.2 million capital campaign for facility enhancements at the distinguished 150-year-old school. He also maintains daily contact with alumni in order to facilitate continuing relationships with the school and sustained giving.

Fellow Beta Omicron chapter alumni Mark Springer, Nick Breaux, Shayne Creppel, Manny Angello, Lane Luckie and Wil Adams were previous recipients of the ‘Thirty Under 30’ honor.

Richard Turpin (1993) was one of three individuals who flew to the aid of a middle school student who collapsed at a North DeSoto football game last fall. Turpin was watching his son play when a player from Rusheon Middle School left the huddle and collapsed face first. Turpin, a detective with the Shreveport Police Department, along with other parents Brandy McCloskey, a nurse, and Larry McCloskey, a DeSoto parish deputy, rushed to help and began doing chest compressions and performing CPR until EMS arrived five minutes later. In all their years of service, none had performed CPR on a child before.

The Caddo Parish Commission approved the appointment of Patrick F. Wesley (1989) as the new director of parks and recreation for the Parish of Caddo. Wesley brings more than 21 years of service and experience in parks and recreation management to Caddo Parish. He most recently served as the assistant director of Shreveport Public Assembly and Recreation, where he helped to oversee day to day management of the city’s facilities, parks and athletic/recreation venues.

Wesley has a track record of establishing partnerships with community organizations nationwide and recruiting and executing a host of events that provided increased economic impact in Shreveport and Caddo Parish.

Wesley received his bachelor’s degree in sociology at NSU and dual master’s degrees in sports administration and teaching (sociology) from Grambling State University.
Nelson named 2020 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year

In college, Jena Nelson studied theatre at Northwestern State University and began working in the profession after graduation. Teaching was nowhere in her plans, but one day that changed.

"I was actually working as a director and agent at the time, and I was asked to teach an acting class to some inner-city kids. I was hooked," said Nelson. "I loved watching these kids come alive and find joy in creating art. I started teaching full-time, and I have never looked back."

Fourteen years later, she has shown her skills as an educator. Nelson was named Oklahoma's 2020 Teacher of the Year. Nelson was chosen from a field of 12 finalists and over the next year will speak around the state and serve as Oklahoma's ambassador of teaching in addition to her duties as a seventh and eighth grade English composition and academic enhancement teacher at Deer Creek Middle School in Edmond, Oklahoma.

"Jena's passion for teaching and her dedication to her students show in everything she does," said Oklahoma Superintendent of Public Instruction Joy Hofmeister. "She uses her past experiences to go beyond the curriculum and create nurturing relationships with the children in her classroom, and that shows in the tremendous difference she's made in the lives of her students." Nelson said she was honored to be a finalist and didn't expect to win the award.

"I was absolutely shocked. I am truly thrilled to represent my profession, peers, and students on a statewide level," she said.

In working with students, Nelson said her teaching philosophy is simple.

"Inspire them, teach them and get out of their way," she said. "I believe that in this day and age that kids need someone to look up to. In the era of YouTube stars and flash in the pan celebrities, kids need true professional role models that can say, 'I have made mistakes, but I believe in every single one of you.' I tell my students from day one that it is OK to make mistakes in class because I am going to make them too.

"They are granted a fresh start every day so that they can show the same leadership to other students. Too often we give up on the kids that are not easy to love, like or teach. I find that I gravitate towards those kids first, and I work to establish a positive relationship with each of them so that they know that this is a safe environment for them to thrive in."

Nelson uses her theatrical background in the classroom using props, catchphrases, pool noodles, kinetic learning, songs and choreography to teach writing and "engage a generation that thrives on being entertained."

"I use my high energy personality with skills honed through my background in theatre every day to engage the kids and celebrate those little victories and encourage those who want to quit to not give up," said Nelson. "For me, every hour is a different show."

According to Nelson, the support and guidance she received at NSU led to her success. In her previous position as a drama teacher at Edmond High School, she encouraged several students to attend Northwestern State where they gained roles in several productions and earned degrees.

"You cannot help but be inspired and challenged by the high-quality professors at NSU," said Nelson. "I have sent many students over the years to many universities across the country. However, the ones that I send to NSU have been the most prepared students for the workforce, and for life. NSU thrives on creating well-rounded students with the emphasis on work ethic and community. I am proud to be a Demon for life."

For more information and to see Nelson's application video, go to sde.ok.gov. https://vimeo.com/352128518
Seven alumni inducted into Hall of Distinguished Educators

Northwestern State University's Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development inducted several individuals into the Hall of Distinguished Educators and named one the Outstanding Young Professional for 2019.

Individuals inducted into the Hall of Distinguished Educators must have graduated from Northwestern State at least 30 years prior to nomination. This year's honorees were Dr. Ben Barron, Dr. Derwood Duke, Johnnie Emmons and Coach Mike McConathy, all of Natchitoches; Theresa Hamilton of Hammond and Barbara Moham of Cedar Hill, Texas.

This year's Outstanding Young Professional was Lacy Blocker of Sulphur. The Outstanding Young Professional in Education Award recognizes an individual who made contributions in pre-K through higher education or to the profession of education through teaching, research or community service. Nominees must be 40 or younger, have at least 10 years of meritorious service to education and gained prominence in some areas of teaching, administrative achievement, contributions to research, leadership in professional associations, contributions to professional literature and/or outstanding community service.

Barron earned a degree in secondary education at Northwestern State in 1957, a master's in education administration at Louisiana State University in 1961 and an Ed.D. in elementary education/reading and educational administration at the University of Southern Mississippi in 1967. He earned elementary certification in 1966. Barron is married to Janice Susan Barron and has three children and five grandchildren.

Duke earned a degree in physical education with a minor in mathematics at University of Louisiana-Lafayette in 1958, a master's degree in education administration with a minor in physical education in 1959 and an Ed.D. in physical education with an administration minor at Northwestern State in 1974. He is married to Ann Gibson Duke and has three children, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Emmons earned a bachelor's degree in physical education with a minor in mathematics at Northwestern State in 1951 and a master's in P.E. at Louisiana Tech and completed Plus 30 at NSU. He was an outstanding student-athlete at NSU. Emmons and his wife Nelda have been married 67 years and have two children, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Hamilton earned an undergraduate degree in elementary education at Southern University in 1983 and a master's degree in educational administration and Plus 30 at NSU in 2001. She and her husband Alvin have been married 29 years. They have two children and one grandson.

McConathy graduated from Louisiana Tech University in 1977 with a bachelor's degree in health and physical education. He earned a master's degree in health and physical education at Northwestern State in 1983 and completed Plus 30 in 1989 at Northwestern State, Centenary College and Louisiana Tech. He has been married to Connie McConathy for 41 years. They have two sons and three grandchildren.

Moham earned an undergraduate degree in elementary education at Northwestern State in 1986, a master's of science (reading) at University of Central Arkansas in 1993, certification as curriculum specialist at UCA in 1993 and certification in education administration at University of Arkansas in 1999. In 2011, she completed a program of study in data analysis and urban education at Harvard University. Moham has been married to her husband William for 10 years.

Blocker earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education at NSU in 2004. She has been an elementary and junior high English-Language Arts teacher in Rapides, Vernon and Calcasieu parishes and became certified to teach in Texas for one year in the Newton Independent School District. She has been married to Jeremy Blocker for 14 years and has a 5-year-old daughter.
2019 inductees into Northwestern State University's College of Business and Technology Hall of Distinction are, from left, Louie Bernard, Trey Hill, Adrian Howard, the late Dr. John L. Hix represented by his son Kenny Hix, Robert Turner and Logan Morris.

College of Business & Technology honors Hall of Distinction inductees

Northwestern State University's College of Business and Technology honored six individuals with induction into the School of Business Hall of Distinction during a brunch and program that took place as part of Homecoming festivities on Oct. 19.

Honorees were Louie Bernard, Trey Hill, the late Dr. John L. Hix, Adrian Howard, Logan Morris and Robert Turner.

For 24 years, Bernard served the citizens of Natchitoches Parish as clerk of court. Bernard was recently elected state senator for District 31 which includes all or parts of Natchitoches, Sabine, Red River, Winn, Grant and Rapides parishes. Bernard is a 1973 graduate of NSU. He has been married for the past 44 years to Gayle Haworth Bernard. They have three children and four grandchildren.

Hill is vice president of rates and regulatory affairs with Atmos Energy. He received his degree in business administration from NSU in 1985. Hill and his wife of 34 years, Jackie, have three grown children, Andrew, 27; Brennan, 25, and Rachael, 22.

Dr. John Hix was born on April 25, 1937, in Batesville, Arkansas, the only child of John A. and Monnie Hix. The family moved to Port Arthur, Texas, where Hix attended high school. He went on to attain his Bachelor of Science degree from Lamar State University in Beaumont, Texas, where he met and married Jo Condray. Upon graduating from Lamar, Hix earned a master's degree in business administration from Louisiana State University and a Doctor of Philosophy in marketing from the University of Arkansas in 1972. A lifelong educator, he held teaching positions at the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now UL-Lafayette), Northwestern State, McMurry University, Louisiana College and overseas graduate programs for the University of Arkansas, Troy State University and Boston University. Hix died Nov. 24, 2018.

Howard is originally from Tyler, Texas. Upon graduating from high school, he attended and graduated from Northwestern State University with a degree in business administration and a minor in marketing. He was joined for the induction by his wife Carol, also a graduate of Northwestern State. They have two children, Brandon and Kennedy Howard.

Morris is a 2002 graduate of Leesville High School and son of Malcolm (NSU 1970) and Shirley Morris. He earned a degree in business administration at NSU in 2006 and is a successful licensed insurance agent and realtor at Morris Insurance Agency and Morris Team Realty. He was joined by his husband Dr. Jeremy Draper.

Turner is an assistant professor in the College of Business. Previously, he served as vice president for business affairs at McNeese State University and at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. Turner is a 1961 NSU School of Business graduate.
Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity broke ground on a new fraternity house expected to be complete next summer. From left are Robert Broadwell, project director and alumni board member; Cameron Moises, alumni board member; Wes Breeden, alumni board president; David Morgan, alumni board treasurer; Lane Luckie, alumni board member and past president, and alumni board members Shayne Creppel and Dr. Chris Lyles.

Pi Kappa Phi breaks ground on new fraternity house

The Beta Omicron Pi chapter of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity at Northwestern State University broke ground on a new fraternity house with active members, alumni, friends and NSU administrators joining the occasion, held in conjunction with Homecoming festivities.

The new house will be located on NSU’s Organization Row with an expected completion date of July 2020.

"This is a red letter day for Pi Kappa Phi Beta Omicron chapter," said David Morgan, a 1973 NSU grad and longtime supporter of the fraternity and the university.

Tudor Construction is the contractor for the 5,300-square-foot house, which will cost an estimated $1,100,000, funded by Pi Kappa Phi alumni donations and Sabine State Bank. The house will feature 12 single bedrooms, four study lounges, a large meeting room, den, full laundry and a kitchen.

NSU’s Beta Omicron chapter of Pi Kappa Phi was an outgrowth of Phi Kappa Nu fraternity founded in the 1920s at Louisiana State Normal College, as NSU was then known. Pi Kappa Nu became part of Pi Kappa Phi is 1956. Jack McCain of Natchitoches was president at the time and was initiated as member number one. The chapter was reorganized in 2000 and, with assistance from alumni, purchased a house on University Parkway.

"Pi Kappa Phi’s Beta Omicron Chapter is the oldest fraternity at Northwestern State, dating back to 1956," said Wes Breeden, alumni board president. "Over the years, Pi Kappa Phi has attracted some of the very best students on campus who have excelled in the classroom, on the athletic field and in numerous elected organizational positions while at NSU. Once they graduated from our institution, many contributed Pi Kappa Phi as an instrumental building block to their post college success."

Breeden said the chapter’s alumni have not only provided members with financial support through scholarships but have also mentored students active in the organization.

"This type of service work has earned the Pi Kappa Phi’s Beta Omicron Alumni Association the top alumni chapter award from its national fraternity about a dozen times over the last 19 years," Breeden added. "The alumni chapter believes that building the new Pi Kappa Phi house is the next step in helping our active chapter continue to grow as well as help secure its future for many years to come."
Nungesser, Lasyone named HMT “Hospitalitarians”

Lasyone earned a degree in business administration at NSU in 1986 and was a member of Phi Mu fraternity. She has spent her career working in her family’s business that began as a meat market and evolved to become a landmark restaurant in north Louisiana and a catering business recognized throughout Louisiana and the U.S. Lasyone’s Meat Pie Restaurant marked its 52nd year in October.

Angela Lasyone and her sister Tina have been strong supporters of NSU over the years and established two scholarships in memory of their parents, Jo Ann and James Lasyone, awarded to students seeking careers in travel/tourism and culinary arts.

Nungesser is no stranger to NSU, having been instrumental in establishing the university’s partnership with the Louisiana Seafood Board in presenting NSU’s largest and most popular annual spring fund raiser, Flavor of Louisiana. Nungesser has been especially effective in promoting Louisiana destinations and attractions above I-10, encouraging Louisiana residents to treat themselves to staycations in their home state.

NSU’s HMT program commemorated its 25th year in 2019. Housed within the School of Business, the program offers a four-year degree with concentrations of study in travel and tourism, hospitality services and culinary arts. The program is integrated with other disciplines, including business, social sciences, communications and public relations.

“Our program is a leader here at NSU in experiential learning,” said HMT Program Coordinator Connie Jones. “We have a café run by students twice a month and cater multiple functions every month for our program, our college and the university.”

Information on Northwestern State’s Hospitality Management and Tourism program can be accessed at https://hmt.nsula.edu.

Northwestern State University’s Hospitality Management and Tourism program honored Natchitoches chef/restaurateur Angela Lasyone and Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser as the first inductees into the New Hall of Distinguished Hospitalitarians.

The distinction acknowledges the contributions to Natchitoches cuisine, culture and tourism of the Lasyone family and Lasyone’s Meat Pie Restaurant, an institution in the state, and Nungesser’s many accomplishments in promoting Louisiana as a tourist destination, particularly Natchitoches and NSU.

NSU’s College of Nursing and School of Allied Health hosted events to commemorate the College of Nursing’s 70th anniversary and the Radiologic Sciences program’s 50th year.

Dr. Joel Hicks, director of the School of Allied Health, recognized Cynthia B. Robertson (1987) as the earliest radiologic science graduate in attendance.

Pictured at the reception are three generations of nurses, Harriett Hoot Scott (1968), Bernie Grappe-Driggers (1981) and a recent December graduate, Ellen Grappe (2019).

Dr. Dana Clawson, dean of the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health, recognized Lou Murphy (1953) as the earliest nursing graduate in attendance.
Enrollment open for Call me MISTER program

Enrollment is open for the Call Me MISTER program at Northwestern State University, an initiative aimed at recruiting African American males to be teachers and mentors, particularly at low-performing schools. The first cohort of students will begin the program in the Fall 2020 semester.

Call me MISTER (Mentors Instructing Students Toward Effective Role Models) was founded at Clemson University in 2000 to address the critical shortage of minority male teachers in America’s classrooms. Student participants are largely selected from underserved, socioeconomically disadvantaged and educationally at-risk communities.

Northwestern State has a rich legacy of teacher preparation and is proud to partner with Clemson University to fulfill this goal, according to Ramona Wynder, program coordinator.

"Only two percent of America’s public school teachers are African American men, according to the U.S. Department of Education, but there is a place for African American male teachers in our schools and classrooms," Wynder said. "African American men need to be viewed in positive contexts. What better place for that to happen than in our schools? This program has the potential to change lives."

Antavious Roberson is a 2018 graduate of Northwestern State and is currently the fourth and fifth grade math teacher at Crawford Elementary School in Arcadia, his hometown. He said his students definitely react differently to him than his peers because a young African American man teaching elementary school is not the norm.

"Typically, students matriculate through grade school not ever seeing a male in the classroom," Roberson said. "They’re more conditioned to seeing them in administrative roles such as a principal. The impact that I have on my students is quite noticeable. My students are more engaged and motivated about the material that I present to them. They’re more eager to listen and do as they are asked."

Roberson chose to pursue education as a career because of the influence of two African American teachers.

"Prior to my sophomore year of high school, I had never had a black male teacher. Being able to see someone that not only looked like me, but came from the same circumstances, influenced me a great deal to choose teaching as a profession."

Applications for Call me MISTER will be reviewed on a competitive basis each spring for consideration for cohorts that will begin each fall semester. Preference will be given to graduating high school seniors; two-year community college transfers; and first-year college freshmen. Eligible candidates will be selected based upon their potential for teaching and their motivation for participation in the program.

Prospective Misters must be a minority male and come from an underserved, socioeconomically disadvantaged, and/or educationally at-risk community. They must major in early childhood education, elementary education, health & physical education or music education and demonstrate record of high scholastic achievement and participation in extracurricular and community service activities.

Misters will benefit from financial assistance to help cover tuition and fees, instructional support and preparation for licensure exams, a cohort system for social and cultural support and leadership development. They will gain immediate exposure to a classroom environment and job placement assistance after graduation.

"Research shows that teachers of color boost the academic performance of students of color," Wynder said. "Increasing teacher diversity is important for closing achievement gaps."

"The people who have inspired me as a student, and as a teacher are Cynthia Mason, my fourth grade teacher; Christopher Jackson, my 10th grade English teacher, and Dr. April Giddens, NSU College of Education. Those three phenomenal people have all instilled in me what it means to be an educator, and I thank them for that," Roberson said.

"I would tell my peers who are looking to pursue a career in education to be the teacher or person that you needed when you were their age," he added. "The students are looking to find some part of themselves in you. They want to know that you care about them. Once you show them that you have their best interest at heart, they will perform for you."

For more information or to enroll in Call Me MISTER, contact Wynder at wynderr@nsula.edu or (318) 357-4549.
Wise recognized as Foundation Board Member Emeritus

The NSU Foundation Board of Directors honored MG (R) Erbon Wise as Board Member Emeritus in thanks for 50 years of service to the Foundation. Drake Owens, left, Foundation director, and Nicole Gray, board president, made the presentation.

Wise has served on the Foundation Board since its inception in 1969 and, along with his late wife Marie, has a long history of supporting Northwestern State. Both graduated from NSU in 1941.

Erbon Wise is a retired Major General of the U.S. Army who enjoyed a long journalism career in Louisiana. He holds a B.S. degree from Northwestern, a master's degree from the Army's Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and an honorary doctorate of humane letters from Northwestern.

Marie Wise was also a journalist and recognized as an expert in genealogy. For many years she wrote a weekly genealogy column that appeared in many Louisiana newspapers. After the couple married in 1942, they moved to Sulphur where they established or published several newspapers in Louisiana.

In 1998 they retired and sold the three daily and four weekly newspapers that they then owned. Earlier they had established the Guide Newspapers in the New Orleans area, a six-paper group that they sold to Cox Enterprises of Atlanta, Georgia. Their west Louisiana group of newspapers included dailies in Sulphur, DeRidder and Leesville and weekly newspapers in Vinton, Westlake, Moss Bluff and Iowa. For many years they published court news publications in Lake Charles, Shreveport, New Orleans, Leesville, DeRidder and Cameron and in Beaumont and Orange, Texas.

With the donation of approximately three thousand books from their genealogical library in 1987, the couple helped establish the Erbon and Marie Wise Genealogical Library in the Louisiana State Archives in Baton Rouge. In 1991 the two established the Erbon and Marie Wise Educational Trust to award scholarships to students interested in newspaper and media-related fields. In 2015, the Wises transferred the assets of the trust to the NSU Foundation. In 2002 they helped fund the $1 million Erbon W. and Marie Wise Endowed Chair in Journalism at Northwestern State. They also supported the university's ROTC building program.

Marie Wise passed away in 2016 at age 95.

ON THE BOOKSHELF

Children's author Perry Anderson (1985) and illustrator Beth Dupree signed copies of "Mr. Green and Mr. Blue's Party at the Zoo" and "Mr. Green and Mr. Blue's Party at the Farm," two children's books they wrote and illustrated. The two were featured during a book signing at NSU Campus Marketplace where they were visited by NSU President and First Lady Dr. Chris and Jennifer Maggio. Anderson's books are also available at Amazon, Books-A-Million, Barnes & Noble and Mascot Books.
Northwestern State inducted six members into the N-Club Hall of Fame and honored a seventh. From left to right, Skeeter Salim (Distinguished Service Award winner), Wayne Waggoner, Mike McConathy, Judy Clark, Missy Payne Howe, Kenny Wright and Mike Green.

Family ties bond N-Club Hall of Fame inductees

Ask a Northwestern State student-athlete why they decided to become a Demon, and most will say the University fosters a "family-like atmosphere."

Six N-Club Hall of Famers and a seventh honoree gave their version of that mantra at the Oct. 19 induction ceremony, but two inductees were actually joining family members in the most prestigious honor that can be bestowed on a former student-athlete.

Basketball's Wayne Waggoner watched his father Bernard be inducted in 1982, something that left a mark on him 37 years later at his own induction with his sons looking on.

Waggoner was joined in the 2019 induction class by NSU basketball coach Mike McConathy, professional football defensive backs Kenny Wright and Mike Green, women's basketball point guard Judy Clark and soccer standout Missy Payne Howe. Longtime NSU donor and supporter Skeeter Salim was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award.

Waggoner, a sixth-round draft pick by the Dallas Mavericks, averaged nearly 17 points per game while shooting 57 percent from the field as a point guard. The two-time Trans America Athletic Conference selection led NSU to a 19-9 record as a senior and joined his father on the 100-man All-Century Team.

With McConathy's entry in this class, he becomes the fourth McConathy to be enshrined in NSU's Hall. Father Johnny and uncles J.J. and George also call the N-Club Hall of Fame home.

While his predecessors were inducted based on their play on the floor, Mike McConathy displayed prowess on the NSU sidelines.

After finishing a career as one of the greatest scorers in Southland Conference history at Louisiana Tech, McConathy has the most college basketball victories in Louisiana history at 647 as he enters his 37th season overall and 21st in Natchitoches.

Soccer student-athlete Missy Payne Howe is adding to her education repertoire as she's pursuing a nursing degree, but on the field, Payne Howe was known for her tenacity and toughness.

The three-time All-Southland Conference selection led the program to its first Southland Conference regular season title and NCAA Tournament appearance in 2000.

The other three inductees each won at least one SLC championship.

Call Mike Green "Mr. Championship." The safety won a pair of SLC football titles in 1997 and 1998 as well as two track team championships.

Picked by the Chicago Bears with last pick of the 2000 draft, this "Mr. Irrelevant" was anything but, playing nine years in the NFL with 426 career tackles.

Green and Kenny Wright played together at Ruston High, and Wright's desire to be closer to friends and family led him to transfer to NSU after one season at Arkansas.

Wright excelled at cornerback for the Demons, intercepting five passes on SLC championship teams in 1997 and 1998 before playing nine NFL seasons and starting for four different NFL teams (Minnesota, Houston, Jacksonville and Washington).

Wright knew Green since middle school, and the pair had an ongoing competition to see who could make the most impact.

The duo combined for 11 career interceptions in the NFL, and both had their first interception off Green Bay Packer great Brett Favre.

Wright was known as a talker, but Demon point guard Judy Clark let her play make her statement.

The 1998-99 Southland Conference Player of the Year scored 1,616 career points (her 14.4 points per game was seventh in NSU history) and finished her career second in program lore with 609 assists.

Clark, a legendary high school player from Singer who would routinely score 40, 50, 60 and even 70 points in a game, was a two-time all-conference and All-Louisiana player who led NSU to a regular season title in 1998-99 and a WNIT appearance.

Salim, the Distinguished Service Award winner, can say he's done both.

The Natchitoches lawyer with a national reputation built his career arguing cases, but when it comes to NSU, he's often quietly supported different projects and renovations across the sports spectrum to fuel competitiveness in the league.
‘Ageless and Remarkable’
Jackie Smith honored by St. Andrew’s Charitable Foundation

Playing most of his career with the St. Louis Cardinals, Jackie Smith fashioned a career worthy of inclusion in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

In the four decades since the conclusion of his 16-year NFL career, the former Northwestern State standout has authored an off-the-field resume equally worthy of acclaim. He was honored by St. Andrew’s Charitable Foundation as one of its Ageless and Remarkable St. Louisians last fall.

Smith spent 15 of his 16 seasons with the Cardinals, becoming embedded in the St. Louis community. Although the franchise moved to Phoenix following the 1987 NFL season, neither Smith’s involvement nor his name recognition has faded.

As such, Smith is one of 11 St. Andrew’s honorees feted as “awe-inspiring individuals” who are “proof that, at any age, we can make a difference in our community and the lives of others.”

Smith’s 15 playing seasons, which included five straight Pro Bowl selections from 1967-70, left an impact on him and on the St. Louis community.

“There is a lot of (player) movement now,” Smith said. “When I was playing, you didn’t have a chance to do that. Consequently, all my children were born here and were raised here and have a strong connection here. They married people from here. This is our home. My only regret is I don’t get to come down to Louisiana very much anymore, especially with this project. St. Louis has been a great place to raise a family, and I’m glad to be here.”

That project is the Missouri National Veterans Memorial, which is located in Perryville, Missouri, approximately an hour’s drive south of St. Louis along Interstate 55.

Smith was driving back to St. Louis from Perryville while discussing the project, which includes a permanent full-scale black granite model of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial identical to the one in Washington, D.C.

Smith has worked alongside fellow NFL Hall of Famers Dan Dierdorf and Roger Staubach as well as Pro Football Hall of Fame President and CEO David Baker to raise awareness and funds for the project, which began with a $2.5 million donation and a land offering from Jim and Charlene Eddleman.

His tireless work advocating for the campus as well as his years of service to the St. Louis community led Smith, 79, to the St. Andrews honor, which is presented to St. Louisans age 75 or older.

“A lot of the people know me because I stuck around so long,” said Smith, a 1980 N-Club Hall of Fame and 1983 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame inductee who lettered in football and track at Northwestern State. “I played here 15 years when the average life span is two years. During that period of time, I got to know a lot of people and got involved. I’m very delighted to be able to be involved in something like this.”
Visit Natchitoches

Feb. 22 – Krewe of Dionysos Mardi Gras Parade, East/West Natchitoches parade route
Feb. 29 – Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce Home and Garden Expo, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Natchitoches Events Center
March 7 – Reading on the Cane hosted by Service League of Natchitoches & Cane River National Heritage Area, downtown Riverbank

March 14 – Bloomin’ on the Bricks/Art Along the Bricks, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
March 14 – Spring Garden Tours presented by Natchitoches Historic Foundation, Details TBA
March 14 – CAPA on the Cane Outdoor Pops Concert presented by NSU School of Creative and Performing Arts, Details TBA
March 22-23 – Cane River Film Festival, Multiple Events & Locations, Caneriverfilmfestival.com

ENVELOPE

Join or renew your membership using enclosed envelope or go online at NorthwesternAlumni.com/membership

Receive these benefits:
- NSU Membership Card and Pocket Calendar
- Annual subscription to the Alumni Columns quarterly magazine
- Discounts with various corporate partners and travel partners
- Complimentary access to tailgates at the Collins Pavilion during all home football games
- Discounted admission and other perks applicable to various alumni events
- NSU Member Decal
- Access to exclusive GoNext Vacations, Trips and Cruises
- University store discount – 25% off of spirit gear
- Discounted GEICO Insurance rates
- Discounted hotel stays and car rentals
Guess Who

The 1980 Potpourri featured a picture of the winner and runners-up in Lady of the Bracelet the previous year. Can you name them? E-mail jacksonl@nsula.edu with the correct answers, the year you graduated and your city of residence.

Fall 2019 Guess Who Answers:
1999 actresses were Jena Westbrook, Kayla LeMarie and Amy Lynne Houk.

In Memory

1949 - Janie Clifford Palmer Dobbins,
Sept. 3, 2019, Baton Rouge

1952 - Ruth Lee Harlan, Nov. 6, 2019,
Natchitoches

1952 - Kermit Valentine, Nov. 6, 2019,
Mansfield

1957 - Dr. Dwight Delbert "Del" Vines,
Oct. 26, 2019, Monroe

1959 - Oscar Alford, Sept. 27, 2019, Many

1959 - Ross Buford Murphy,
Sept. 25, 2019, Many

1960 - Betty Ledet, Sept. 24, 2019,
Nacogdoches, Texas

1962 - Rachael Ann Maines Gardiner,
Oct. 12, 2019, Natchitoches

1967 - Janet Methvin Howard Tuten,
Oct. 20, 2019, Draper, Utah

1969 - Camille J. Giordano, Oct. 1, 2019,
Alexandria

1969 - Charles W. Seaman, Nov. 5, 2019,
Natchitoches

1977 - Cortez Bridges, Oct. 15, 2019,
Bossier City

1977 - Dr. Nelda Self Wellman,
Sept. 21, 2019, Natchitoches

1979 - Paul Darlington, Sept. 5, 2019,
Orlando, Florida

1995 - Danny McCormick, Dec. 1, 2019,
Many

Nobie Sullivan Gibbs Makar,
Sept. 3, 2019, Natchitoches

Sue Gilmore Sibley, Sept. 8, 2019,
St. Petersburg, Florida

Margaret Joyce "Jo" Geepfort Hargis,
Sept. 23, 2019, Natchitoches

Molly Darla DeBlieux Hunt, Nov. 5, 2019,
Winfield

Carolyn "Carol" McConnell Wells (former
NSU archivist), Oct. 9, 2019,
Natchitoches

Jackie Dean Davies, Nov. 5, 2019,
Winfield

Looking Back

From the 1930 Potpourri

Normal Commuters Club

The number of students coming to Normal who drive back and forth from their homes had been steadily increasing. These students were required to attend society for credits to meet regulations. Many of them lived at quite a distance from the Normal, and it was inconvenient for many of them to be here on Friday nights every two weeks.

To take care of this situation, the Normal Commuters Club was organized in the Fall Term of 1936, under the direction of Miss Martha Fitzma. This club meets on Saturdays at the end of the fifth period. The organization is the same as any other club or society, having a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and Current Sauce reporter.

The club has continued to grow and at times has been almost too large. This organization has been a great benefit to these out-of-town students, giving them the opportunity to become experienced in this kind of work and training in parliamentary law drill as well.

Their programs are always interesting and well presented. Topics for discussion are as widespread as the field of human knowledge. There are always musical numbers to add to the enjoyment of their programs.

The Normal Commuters Club is a growing organization, indicative of the growth of the college.