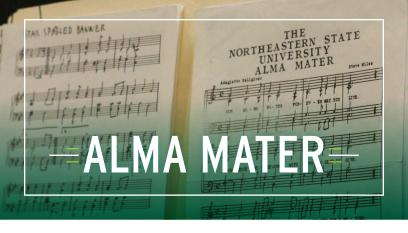






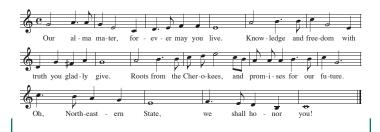
We empower students, faculty, staff and the community to reach their full intellectual and human potential by creating and expanding a culture of learning, discovery and diversity.

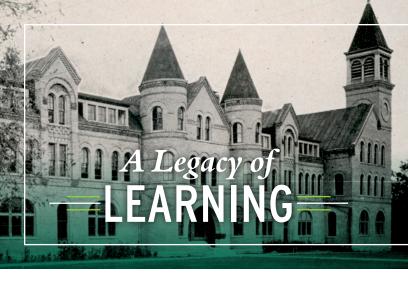


NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY ALMA MATER OBP JƏRE TJP G.SAWJB JOSGIAJ SHAIMY

Steve Wiles, translated by John Ross

GSAWAB JOSGIAA SSSGIA, TAALA DSOT. DSVAAR Do va dsa, oayz sgap dpppaa glaat. Dhgwy Dhoalp hlgoloot, do osy ea tsvp agjajar, o! Obp dre tax assy, tcawjadraa!





Northeastern State University's history begins long before Oklahoma's first governor officially created Northeastern State Normal School. Instead, it originates with a deep understanding of the importance of education shared by the Cherokees who settled this land long ago.

In 1851, the Cherokee ignited the lamp of learning in the wilderness. For more than a century, this has been a gathering place and where dreams find direction. The light burns brightly still.



The roots of NSU run deepest through the bricks and mortar of Seminary Hall. Built to ensure that the fire that destroyed its predecessor would not prevent students from achieving their dreams of higher education, the building was dedicated on May 7, 1889. The new state of Oklahoma purchased the building from the Cherokees in 1909 to meet the growing demand for knowledge. There, they began a "normal" school—an institution dedicated to training prospective teachers.

Today Seminary Hall houses a combination of offices, classrooms and a museum on the third floor.

/ALUES

Integrity:

NSU models integrity through ethical and intellectual behaviors and practices by advancing honesty, human dignity and accountability.

Creativity:

NSU advances creativity through exploration, innovation, critical inquiry and intellectual freedom.

Excellence:

NSU pursues excellence by continually improving individually and as a community. Collaboration:

NSU engages in collaboration through partnerships to create learning opportunities and promote educational and economic success.

Leadership:

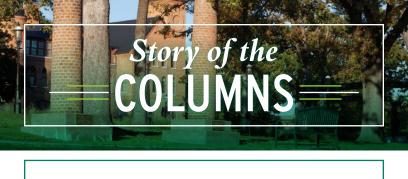
NSU inspires leadership through its commitment to prepare and serve others.

Communication:

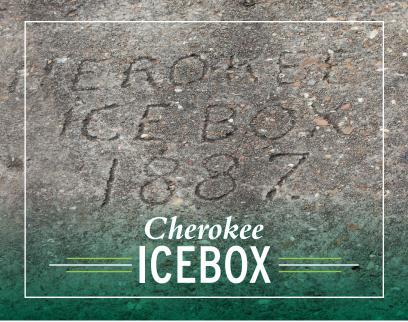
NSU advocates communication through the free flow of information and ideas.

Diversity:

NSU values diversity and empowerment by promoting the rights of individuals and equal access to educational and enrichment experiences, respecting cultural differences and ensuring equal opportunity.



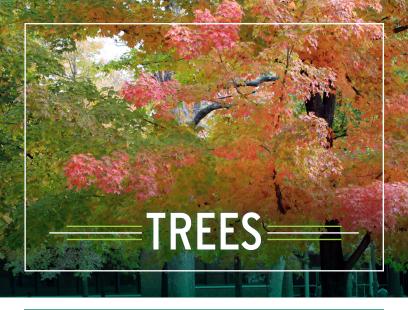
On the Tahlequah campus, two columns stand like silent sentinels linking Northeastern to its Cherokee predecessors. The first, constructed in December 1914 from bricks taken from the ruins of the female seminary at Park Hill, was built to honor the memory of Ann Florence Wilson who served as principal teacher at the Cherokee Female Seminary for all but two years from 1875 to 1901. The second was built five years later to honor Chief John Ross. It was built with bricks sourced from the remains of the male seminary. For almost 40 years the two columns flanked the sidewalk leading to the main entrance of the campus. Today, they stand tall near the Science Building—an unmistakable, powerful connection to the institution's noble history.



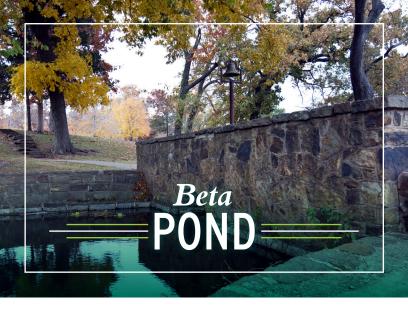
At the west entrance of Seminary Hall is a two-by-fourfoot cement slab permanently set in the sidewalk. Upon it is the inscription, "Cherokee Icebox, 1887." Beneath this slab used to be a deep, cool spring where faculty and students stored milk and butter. The spring was later converted into an icebox where large blocks of ice could be stored. The icebox remained undiscovered until the sidewalks between the Science Building and Seminary Hall were being poured in the early '50s.



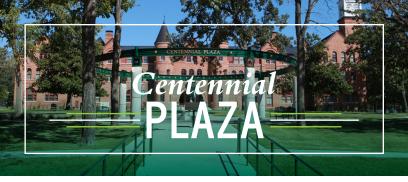
In the early years of Seminary Hall, passersby might hear a distinct sound—one made when metal is dragged across stone. The source of the mysterious noise came from the school's cooks who would sharpen their knives on the window sill of Seminary Hall. Even today, three distinct areas where different sized knives were sharpened can be seen if you look closely.



The natural beauty of NSU-Tahlequah's tree-filled campus has always been a perk of attending or working there. Early horticulturalists and scientists concluded that Northeastern had a greater variety of trees than any of the other colleges and universities in Oklahoma. In 1951, associate professor of biology Denver Bedwell asked the foreman of a maintenance crew to trowel leaf impressions into the sidewalks as the campus continued to expand. In addition to serving as a reminder to admire Mother Nature's handiwork, the manmade fossils pay homage to the continued impression Northeastern makes upon those who gather here.



For more than a century, folks have gathered on the beautiful grounds of NSU's Tahlequah campus. Located near the entrance to campus, Beta Pond is a popular university landmark where students, alumni and community members enjoy gathering. With its flowing water and picturesque scenery, it has been the backdrop for many memories and photoshoots over the years.



Centennial Plaza was designed and built to commemorate NSU's 100th anniversary as an Oklahoma institution of higher learning. The 2,300-square-foot exterior open frame structure features seven columns topped with curved steel beams. A bronze sculpture of Sequoyah, creator of the Cherokee syllabary, is in the center of the plaza. The seven Cherokee clans are represented by images atop each of the columns and the steel beams display the Cherokee syllabary.

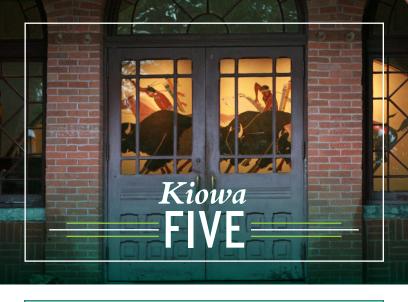


Rising 11 feet from the ground on a marble base that measures six feet in diameter, the Sequoyah statue stands as the focal point to the Centennial Plaza. Sequoyah, also known as George Guess, was the noted 19th century Cherokee diplomat and educator who created the Cherokee syllabary. The statue, designed and crafted by Daniel HorseChief, stands as a symbol of NSU's long relationship with the Cherokee Nation, which dates to the creation of the Cherokee National Female Seminary in 1846.

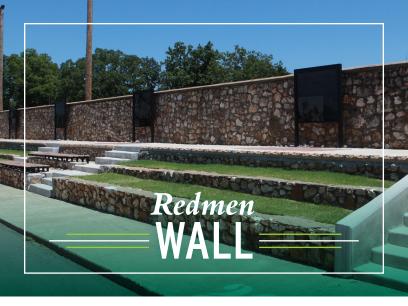
Sequoyah's left hand rests upon the staff that features intricately carved representations of the original Cherokee syllabary that was to become his enduring legacy. Around his neck is a replica of the silver medal struck in his honor by the Cherokee National Council in 1824. The leaves scattered at Sequoyah's feet represent "talking leaves," symbolic of thoughts immortalized through written language. To those who gather at Centennial Plaza, he extends the pen of knowledge, representing the power of learning.

<image>

The Monument to Forgiveness was created by Dutchborn sculptor Francis Jansen. The piece resided south of historic Seminary Hall from August 2001 until November 2002, before continuing its journey across America. The traveling bronze monument completed its sojourn when the artist donated the 15-foot replica of her original marble statue to the university. On June, 20, 2016, it was formally unveiled and rededicated on the Tahlequah campus. "Eagle Man," standing atop a turtle base near the end of the historic Trail of Tears, serves as a perpetual reminder that the power of forgiveness dwells in all of us.



NSU is home to two murals painted by the Kiowa Five, pioneers in modern Native American Art. These paintings are known for their flat, two-dimensional style and depiction of contemporary powwows and life. One, on the wall opposite the entrance of Seminary Hall, depicts Plains Indian warriors in a buffalo hunt, while the other above the main staircase features four American Indian war dancers around five drummers.



Retrofitted from one of the oldest standing structures on campus, the Redmen Wall was constructed from the remains of the east grandstand where students, faculty, staff, alumni and community members would gather to watch the football games. Erected on the original site of Gable Field before it was moved in 1964, the Redmen Heritage Wall now stands as a place where Redmen and Lady Reds from all eras, along with today's RiverHawks, can congregate to celebrate the rich history and heritage of Northeastern State University.



In 2006 the official mascot of Northeastern became Rowdy the RiverHawk. The new mascot was chosen to inspire school pride and nurture the competitive courage of the athletes. The distinctive RiverHawk identity captures the competitive nature of our teams while capitalizing on the rich heritage of our beautiful campus.

Rookie BRIDGE CAMP

Rookie Bridge Camp is a fun-filled, two-day event which facilitates a student's transition from high school to college. Established in 1989 to provide opportunities for incoming students to flourish, RBC prepares students with essential information on what to expect and how to succeed at NSU; including the chance to connect with other students.



The Freshmen Coin Walk is a Northeastern State University tradition that started in 2010. Each fall during the first week of classes, members of the freshmen class receive a coin and make a symbolic pilgrimage across campus through cheering crowds of NSU faculty, staff and upperclassmen. The freshmen are asked to keep the coin throughout their NSU career and upon graduation, they are to present it to someone on campus who has positively impacted their time at NSU, or who has served as a mentor to them.

President's HOUSE

Located on the Tahlequah campus, the president's house has been home to NSU's presidents since 1958.

The initial plans to construct the current presidential residence were approved by the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges on Dec. 14, 1955. It replaced the first home built for Northeastern's president in 1920 that had to be dismantled to construct the "New" Science Building. On June 13, 1956, the Board approved a construction budget of \$50,000 and accepted the building committees suggestion on the site. NSU's Maintenance Department began construction soon thereafter. The firm of Hudgins, Thompson, Ball and Associates of Oklahoma City served as the architect. An open house for the new president's home was held on Feb. 2, 1958.

The long tradition of welcoming students, faculty and staff, and the community to numerous events held in the home throughout the year carries on to this day.



Albert Sydney Wyly 1909

Frank Redd 1909 - 1911

Frank E. Buck 1911-1912

> **W. E. Gill** 1912 - 1914

George W. Gable 1914 - 1919

William T. Ford 1919 - 1923 **Monroe P. Hammond** 1923 - 1935

J.M. Hackler 1935 - 1936 (Acting)

John Samuel Vaughan 1936 - 1951

Louis H. Bally 1951 (Acting)

> Harrell E. Garrison 1951 - 1970

Robert E. Collier 1970 - 1977 **Elwin Fite** 1977 - 1978 (Acting)

W. Roger Webb 1978 - 1997

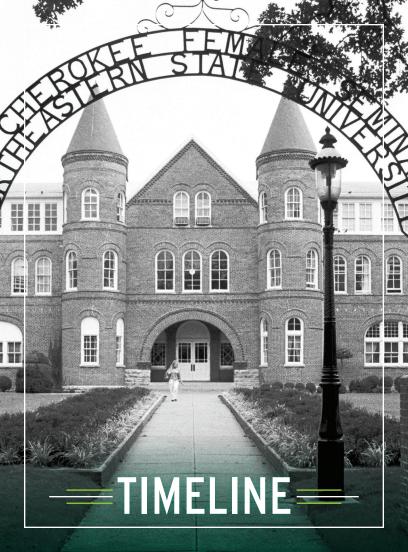
> **Larry B. Williams** 1997 - 2007

Kim Cherry 2007 - 2008 (Interim)

Don Betz 2008 - 2011

Martin Tadlock 2011 (Interim)

Steve Turner 2012 to present



The Cherokee treaty of 1828 grants the western branch of the Cherokees the area that will become northeastern Oklahoma and funds schools to aid their progress.

1855

Chief John Ross announces that the tribal schools have 12 Cherokee teachers, most graduates of their own institutions. He proudly notes that they were far better qualified for the task of educating the children of the Cherokee Nation than those obtained in earlier years from the "borders."

1866

The Cherokee Reconstruction Treaty of 1866 earmarks funds for tribal education, but restoration of the seminaries is delayed by a pervasive belief that travel sovereignty will be extinguished soon. The fear of loss of tribal sovereignty is warranted, but it will not occur until the first decade of the new century. For decades to come, the Cherokees continue the fight to maintain their rich heritage.

1852

In early August 1852 public examinations were conducted at Park Hill for 46 seminary girls. Dressed in white with pink sashes, the students demonstrate their mastery of the subjects they have studied in a daylong series of oral examinations.

1856

After drought and poor harvests erode the treasury of the nation, the Cherokee school fund is exhausted. To the dismay of Chief John Ross, the seminaries close, although he argues for the necessity of reopening them as quickly as possible.

On Easter Sunday, fire sweeps through the Seminary at Park Hill, destroying the building but not the spirits of the students. Isabel Cobb recalled, "it was tragic and pitiful to stand by helpless and see the dear old building burn. There was a bell in the cupola but no rope attached, so some of us climbed up...and banged the clapper by hand, almost deafening us, but being so isolated it is doubtful if the nearest neighbors heard the alarm." The ever-present, everdiligent, Miss Wilson got all the girls out of the building safely. When it was evident that nothing could be done with no means at hand for fighting the flames, Miss Wilson made sure all the little children were out and safe then directed the girls in saving clothes, bedding, books and themselves before the roof fell in. She risked her life to save the school's records—large leather-bound volumes that contained the institution's history.

Mrs. Sarah Jackson- recalling the fire that day

"I remember when...all of a sudden somebody hollered, FIRE! FIRE! THE SEMINARY'S ON FIRE! Everyone ran out in the halls. When they ran downstairs and saw the flames, some of them got hysterical and began to cry. All they could think of was getting their trunks downstairs to save their clothes. They ran back to their rooms and everything was pandemonium. The flames were crackling and the bumpity-bump of the trunks being dragged down the stairs filled the air. Teachers were trying to save a few school things and quiet the girls who were crying."

"I seldom tell my part of it, for I don't like it to appear that I am posing as a heroine. I was scared, too, but another girl and I, Etta Dunca, we thought about all the books in the library. We couldn't bear to think of them being burned. Somebody ought to try to save some of them at least."

"We ran down to the library but there wasn't a thing we could use to break the windows with, so we used our fists. We pounded on the window panes and broken big holes, but we cut our hands terribly on the glass. Then we began throwing the books out the windows. Mr. McClanahan, the music teacher, came in and saw what we were doing. 'Don't use your fists girls,' he said, ' Do it this way.' He took the palm of his hand and began breaking more windows. Etta and I ran to get a blanket and put it on the floor. We filled it with books, tied it together and threw it away to safety. We filled several blankets and threw them out before the smoke got so bad we had to leave. Etta and I lost our things, as we didn't have time to get our trunks downstairs. The books Etta and I saved are now in the library at Northeastern State Teacher's College in Tahlequah, but only a very few know that they came from the old seminary."

Extracurricular activities and sports are considered part of the learning experience at Northeastern. By the end of the first year, a dozen clubs and interest groups are organized, including chapters of the Young Men's and Women's Christian Association, two literary societies (Pierian and Senate), a debating club, dramatic club, choral club, orchestra, young men's and women's glee clubs, a variety of men's and mixed vocal groups, and the Crescendo Music Club. In November. students produce the first issue of the Northeastern, a monthly publication containing "everything of interests connected with the school."





1910

On Palm Sunday, two days after the end of NESN's winter term, fire swept through the 61-yearold Male Seminary Building southeast of Tahlequah. Most of the 175 students are attending church services in Tahlequah. No one is lost but the facility is left in smoldering ruins. Although the flames that consumed the male seminary end a remarkable chapter in tribal history, the purchase of the Female Seminary Building by the State of Oklahoma gives life to a new school, which like the Cherokee fabled Phoenix, springs from the ashes of its predecessor.

One of the last legacies of president Gable is a memorial dedicated to the memory of John Ross, chief of the Cherokees when the tribe's male and female seminaries were opened 68 years earlier. On July 13, NESN's outgoing president presides over a ceremony at which the monument, a column constructed of bricks from the Male Seminary, is unveiled on Northeastern's campus. The Ross memorial column was relocated in 1958 to make way for the construction of the school's second gymnasium.

1921

To draw students, press releases emphasized the natural beauty of the campus and its proximity to the Illinois River. The school provides a truck during the summer term to transport students to the river and assigns a faculty member to teach rowing and swimming.



1920

Northeastern officially becomes a four-year college. For most college students in 1920, class work and extracurricular activities demanded their full attention.



1921

The beginning of school in the fall of 1921 marks further change for the Tahlequah college as it becomes known as the Northeastern State Teachers College, a name used for the next 18 years until 1939 when the legislator officially renamed all the normal schools state schools. Also, this year marked the first bachelor of arts degree awarded by Northeastern Normal College.

The first Homecoming at Northeastern State is held on Friday, Nov. 21, 1924. Some of the homecoming events include an assembly at 11 a.m. and a large parade led by homecoming queen Miss Margaret Sims. The main event of the day is the football encounter with Kansas City University in which the home team emerges victorious, 10-0.

1934

Stephen Mopope and James Auchaih, two of the "Kiowa Five," young Indian artists who earned fame in the 1928 International Art Exhibition, are selected to paint murals. Three years after the murals are complete, students and professors who studied the murals on the first floor observed that the number of hooves in the painting is not divisible by four. Professor of Art Ruth Allison said the artist claimed one of the horse's hooves was "drawn up in running," and she added, "artists and people who appreciate art are not concerned with petty technical things of that nature but with color, schemes and form."

1952

The new student center alters the pattern of student life. Not only do students frequent the snack bar and cafeteria, community civic organizations such as the Kiwanis Club, the Chamber of Commerce and the Anti-Horse Thief Association book events there.

1928

The new education building is formally named Bagley Hall in honor of Dr. William C. Bagley, The Columbia University professor who had declared the facility "one of the best, if not the best, training school building west of the Mississippi."



1951

For the first time, Black students are admitted. While other universities garner national attention, integration occurs with little fanfare in Tahlequah.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education grant permission to offer a "fifthyear program" leading to a master's degree in teaching.

1955

To maximize opportunities for interns to teach nearby students, the Education Department adopts a block system that allows nine weeks of on-campus coursework. Because of the growing number of students preparing to be teachers, the Tahlequah public schools can no longer provide enough internships for every education major.

1959

The first mandatory American College Tests are administered to assess the mathematics, English, social studies and natural science aptitudes of college applicants.

1972

Northeastern adopts a stylized arrowhead as the school's new logo and a new slogan, "Pacesetter in Academic Excellence."

1954

As the first building on campus with air conditioning, the library is cool and comfortable as the mercury soars to 124 degrees! Since the classrooms were still sweltering, advice to beat the heat ranged from conducting class outside under shade trees, escaping to the Illinois River, or "enrolling in summer classes at the University Lower Slobovia." The Impact of the new facility is evident as the librarian notices a 58% rise in the circulation of library materials.

1958

The National Defense Education Act dramatically expands federal support for all education-especially post-secondary level. The NDEA also provides loans to promising students and opens the door to future grants and loans for worthy candidates.

1961

Oklahoma regents approve the first statewide admission and retention policy for higher education. Effective the fall semester of 1963, a high school graduate seeking admission must meet at least one of the new requirements.

The first President's Leadership Class sets a new standard of excellence for entering freshmen. By attracting outstanding high school graduates and encouraging their involvement in campus activities, the scholarship program leads to distinguished Northeastern graduates who excel in their communities and professions.

1992

In March, the Student Senate adopted a resolution to change the university's mascot from a hawk to a Redmen Light Horseman. In September, the same group proposed changing the mascot temporarily to David Letterman.

1997

Northeastern's \$6.4 Million Educational Technology Center is formally dedicated. The six-story, 54,000-squarefoot structure houses the nerve center of the university's computing and telecommunications systems.



1978

As part of President Webb's campaign to change the perception of the school, he changes its name to Northeastern State University-NSU. The unpopular, stylized arrowhead created as the school's logo during the Collier administration is replaced by a running NSU. The new name is only the first of many changes that Webb implemented as part of his campaign.

1995

Shawntel Smith, 1992 Miss NSU who graduated with a bachelor's degree in business administration in May 1993, is named Miss Oklahoma in June and Miss America in September in Atlantic City.

After years of controversy over Northeastern's mascot, "Rowdy," a new spirit leader, makes his debut at the first home football game. Andy Geppelt, a student worker in the public relations office, found inspiration for the new design in the rowdy Redman fans.

2006

After more than eighty years competing as the Redmen, President Larry Williams announces that NSU will soon "be sporting a new mascot." While the decision to abandon the Redmen designation in favor of one not offensive to American Indians initially produces a firestorm of opposition from many of the school's most loyal supporters, the controversy eventually fades. In mid-November, Williams announces the "RiverHawks" receive a plurality of the 4,204 votes cast online. The new RiverHawk logo makes its debut in the spring.



2005

Carrie Underwood, a Checotah senior majoring in mass communications and performer in the school's summer country show, appears on American Idol, a talent competition on the Fox network with a large national audience. After winning the contest, she returns to NSU to finish her degree and goes on to become a true country western star.

2008

Dan HorseChief helps unveil the bronze statue of Sequoyah he created. The focal point of Centennial Plaza, HorseChief's design includes many rich historic details.







NORTHEASTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

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