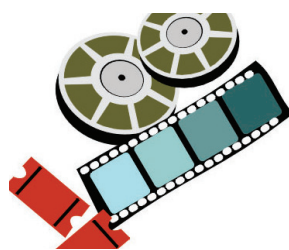


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"Behold, my friends, the spring is come; the earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the results of their love!"

~**Sitting Bull**

"Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush."

~**Doug Larson**

Eastern Statesman

Vol. 93 Issue 7

March 27, 2015

EASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE EST. 1908

Eastern students honored at State Capitol for academics



Senator Larry Boggs presents citations to All-Oklahoma Academic team members Hayley Myers, Victor Reich-Martins and Paige Henninger at the State Capitol.

Press Release

OKLAHOMA CITY—Three students representing Eastern Oklahoma State College were honored at the State Capitol as members of the All-Oklahoma Academic Team, according to Senator Larry Boggs, R-Wilburton.

Paige Henninger, Victor Reich-Martins and Hayley Myers were presented with citations by Sen. Boggs. Tylee Phillips was also recognized but was not in attendance.

"I am proud of these outstanding students," said Sen. Boggs. "Their hard work and commitment to their education shows in all they do."

"They are some of the best and brightest in Oklahoma and I encourage them to continue to strive for academic excellence."

Each year the Oklahoma Council of Two-Year College Presidents and the Oklahoma Association of Community Colleges recognize 40 of Oklahoma's brightest two-year college students through the All-Oklahoma/USA Coca Cola Academic Team.

These students will graduate from an Oklahoma two-year college in the Spring of 2015, and are recognized with a certificate, medallion, and scholarship opportunities from Oklahoma universities. Oklahoma is one of 38 states participating in the State Academic Team Program through Phi Theta Kappa International.

To be eligible, students must be nominated by their college president and have at least a 3.5 cumulative grade point average.

BLOOMING CAMPUS



Signs of spring are popping up all over campus as students return from Spring Break. With only six weeks of class remaining before finals week and graduation, Eastern Oklahoma State College students, staff and faculty will be busy with many end-of-year activities. *Statesman* staff photo by Derek Hatridge

Book club discusses I Am Malala

LIBRARY Students, staff and faculty examine young girl's stand against the Taliban

Chelsie Peckio
Editor

Eastern Oklahoma State College Library staff held its book club on Feb. 21. The event was hosted by Maria Martinez, Director of Library Media Service, and was in collaboration with the Honors program.

Ruth Brelsford is teaching Honors Seminar this semester, and the class is focused on courage. They read and discussed the book, "I Am Malala," which is the story of a young girl who is known for standing up to the Taliban and fighting for girls right to be educated.

The event was the final wrap-up on the book for the class and included a wide range of topics.

SEE BOOK CLUB PAGE 3



Theatre presents "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee (The Musical)"

Six awkward spelling champions learn that winning (and losing) isn't everything.

Winner of the TONY and the Drama Desk Awards for Best Book, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee has charmed audiences across the country with its effortless wit and humor. Featuring a fast-paced wildly funny and touching book by Rachel Sheinkin and a truly fresh and vibrant score by William Finn, this bee is one unforgettable experience.

An eclectic group of six mid-pubescent vie for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home life, the tweens spell their way through a series of [potentially made-up] words hoping to never hear the soul-crushing, pout-inducing, life un-affirming "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. Six spellers enter; one speller leaves! At least the losers get a juice box.

A riotous ride complete with audience participation, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a delightful den of comedic genius. The small cast and unit set make this a perfect option for high schools or community theatres. The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a fast-paced crowd pleaser and an instant theatre patron favorite.

Lt. Governor competes 77 county tour in 77 days

Lt. Governor Todd Lamb announced today that with his visits in Hughes and Pittsburg counties he has completed his tour of all 77 counties within the first 77 days of the year. This tour marks the Lt. Governor's fifth official tour of all 77 counties as Lt. Governor and his seventh tour during his professional career.

"It has been and will continue to be my commitment to be accountable and accessible to the people of Oklahoma," said Lt. Governor Lamb. "This tour once again has given the people of Oklahoma an opportunity to share their voice about Oklahoma in the convenience of where they live and work without having to come all the way to Oklahoma City."

This year's tour included stops at local businesses, schools, county court-houses, and tourism destinations. During the 77 county in 77 days tour, Lamb held dozens of town hall public forums. As the Lt. Governor traveled the state, he routinely asked citizens what challenges they were facing that impeded economic growth.

Lewetta Hefley, Superintendent of Felt Public Schools, said, "I thank the Lieutenant Governor Todd Lamb for taking time out of his busy schedule to visit



A group of Mass Communication students had the opportunity to meet Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb when he visited Latimer County in his visit to all 77 counties. Pictured, from left, Brandon Green, Ty Thompson, Lt. Gov. Lamb, Garrett Rogers, Chelsie Peckio, Kristen Turner and Taylor Cox.

community members, parents, teachers and students in Felt, Oklahoma. The community of Felt is closer to two other state capitals than we are to Oklahoma City. It is truly a blessing and an honor for the Oklahoma Lieutenant Governor to visit our remote area of the state."

Ryan Posey, President of HSI Sensing, said, "The entire HSI Sensing team considered it a great honor to have the opportunity to show the Lt. Governor our business and the great things we are doing as well as discuss how he can help us, in his role as small business advocate, be

even more successful as a business and as a state."

Horace Lindley, Town Administrator of Gore, said, "Todd Lamb has consistently shown interest in our part of the state. He has always helped us when needed. He cares and gets results."

State Regents recognize partnership between Eastern and AT&T

Twenty-seven business and higher education partnerships throughout the state were recently recognized as innovative collaborations that further the education of Oklahoma's workforce. The unique partnership between Eastern Oklahoma State College and AT&T Oklahoma was recognized at the event.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Regents Business Partnership Excellence Award is designed to highlight successful partnerships between higher education institutions and businesses and to further cultivate the higher learning environment through State Regents' Economic Development Grants.

Eastern's and AT&T Oklahoma's partnership benefits the greater Latimer and Pittsburg counties.

The partnership began when AT&T was seeking a location to place a new tower in order to bring 4G LTE service to the area. At the same time, Eastern was in search of a tower to place its 25,000-watt radio station. To meet both their needs, AT&T entered into an agreement with Eastern to build a 350-foot tower on the Wilburton campus in order to provide 4G service. With the addition of the tower, Eastern was able to launch Mountaineer Radio KWL 93.1 FM

in January.

"The radio station integrates perfectly into Eastern's mass communication program in radio broadcasting as well as providing non-stop marketing for the college within a 60-mile radius of the campus," said Eastern President Dr. Stephen E. Smith. "A long-term agreement is in place that will allow both services to be provided to the area for years to come."

Institutions involved in these partnerships provide \$500 for tuition waivers to employees of the partnering businesses; internships that enable current students to work at the partnering businesses; faculty externships with the partnering businesses; and/or enhancement of the partnerships with additional equipment, materials or supplies. The State Regents provide a \$500 match to the waivers.



Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb (far left) joins Eastern Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Janet Wansick, AT&T Oklahoma President Steve Hahn, Eastern President Dr. Stephen E. Smith, and OSRHE Chancellor Glen D. Johnson at a recent event to recognize successful partnerships between higher education institutions and businesses.

"Oklahoma's colleges and universities drive economic advancement, collaborating with business and industry partners to link academic programs directly to employment needs in high-demand areas," said Chan-

cellor Glen D. Johnson. "Through these partnerships, students engage in hands-on career-related experiences and are better prepared for the workforce."



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BOOK CLUB

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Some of the topics discussed things such as the injustices facing women in the Middle East, bravery and faith.

The conversation moved very quickly and many people shared their opinions on the book. Students, as well as guests and teachers, participated in the book club discussion, which gave a broad range of opinions.

The event provided students with the floor to discuss relevant topics in today's world. The conflict in the Middle East has been imperative to discuss, even more so because of ISIS controversy in the news recently.

Sparking discussion allows people who participate a new perspective on things they may not have been previously aware of.

For more information about EOSC Book Club contact Maria Martinez at mmartinez@eosc.edu.



Eastern's library hosted its Book Club Feb. 21 in the Johnnie Wray Little Theatre. The conversation was over the book "I Am Malala." The event provided students the opportunity to discuss relevant topics in today's world.



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Letters to the editor are not only welcomed, but encouraged. All letters must be able to be verified with the author's phone number, address, and e-mail address. The editor reserves the right to edit to fit space limitations and to comply with libel laws and good taste.

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Eastern Regent recovering after accident

Chelsie Peckio

Editor

Eastern Oklahoma State College Board of Regents member, Dr. Monte R. McAlester, from Wilburton, is recovering after he was admitted to St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa after he was declared in critical condition in a single vehicle accident.

Dr. McAlester was driving at

8:40 a.m. on Wed., Feb. 18, on Bowers Rd. According to Oklahoma State Trooper Tim Baker, who investigated the accident; he ran off the right side of and struck a tree. The cause of the accident was unknown at the time of the accident report.

McAlester suffered injuries involving the head, trunk internal and external, and leg.

McAlester is recovering at his home as he begins physical therapy.

"The employees at the college were shocked to hear of the car accident that involved Regent McAlester," Eastern President Dr. Stephen Smith said.

"We wish him the very best and hope he has a speedy recovery. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family."

OPINION

Higher Ed Day's message fell short of reaching its audience

Wyatt Stanford
Staff Writer

I had the pleasure of attending Higher Ed Day at the Capitol, during which I heard our Missouri-born governor tickle the ears of an audience of Oklahoma college students with what seemed to be great news.



For the college student that thinks critically, Gov. Mary Fallin's comments could be interpreted exactly as they were: feeble attempts to avoid the real issues. I thus allege that Gov. Fallin is too removed from what it means to be a college student and somewhat nearsighted.

First and foremost, Gov. Fallin spoke of Oklahoma having "some of the lowest tuition in the country." Great. That sounds excellent, right? No. What Gov. Fallin neglected to tell us is that Oklahoma has a lower standard of living compared to places like California and New York (Look at our \$7.25 minimum wage versus California's \$9 and New York's \$8). Even though we may be paying less for tuition, the standard of living makes up for the gap, so we are paying about the same.

Next, Gov. Fallin talked about the future job market, which she made sound like it was going to be nothing but science and technology. Yes, I agree that a huge percentage of jobs are going to be in those fields. However, who is going to make sure that those fields are filled with educated people? We need teachers in Oklahoma. Since wages are falling and expectations are beyond the means of the current system, many people either do not become teachers or move away to places like Texas, where someone can make nearly \$20,000 more. Without teachers or a solid education system, many students probably would

be less likely to go to college or even be prepared. So until Governor Fallin decides to allocate more funds to schools and helps in weeding out faulty administration, she won't have those beautiful jobs she talks about.

After discussing the major fields in the job market, Gov. Fallin talked about the source of these potential jobs: big business. She said that big businesses are looking for places to invest time and money, and one of those places is Oklahoma. Does she not pay attention to the news? Look at our dependence on the oil industry and where that has gotten us. I respect all of the men and women that are employed in the oil field, but the petroleum industry is just super risky. Also, why would big business come to Oklahoma? Costs to operate in our great State are low; however, we also need a skilled workforce to meet the demands of whatever big business that decides to move in, which goes back to the need of solid educators. Big business will continue to see Oklahoma as the fly-over state that it has become if conditions do not change.

Finally, Gov. Fallin took a stab at people who cannot finish college in four years or less. I hate to break it to her, but sometimes you can't and there is nothing wrong with that. If you want a degree, you make the time for it. If you decide that a certain degree is not your calling, then change. College gets too expensive and you need to prolong your studies in order to make it affordable. Life happens and not all of us live in a big cushy mansion that gets renovated by funds from the sale of Christmas ornaments.

I respect Gov. Fallin's position as Commander-in-Chief of the State of Oklahoma. I feel that she needs to come off our Capitol Hill and see how Oklahomans are living. Maybe then she may see that our state is capable of great things by looking at us, the people.

Follow us on Twitter at
@EOSC_Statesman

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Tips for writing a resumé

SUBMITTED REPORTS

One of the most difficult and daunting tasks after graduating from college is creating your first post-college resume. Your final resume should preferably end at a one-page document, with a brief job goal that gives the person reviewing your resume an idea of your previous experience by assessing your expertise.

The following are guidelines, per "Forbes" online, to consider when creating a resume fresh out of college:

1. List a career objective. Do this only if you're sure of what you want to do or if you're applying to a specific job that you can tailor the objective.
2. List the details of your

education. This includes your school and the year you obtained your degree. Make sure to include any honors, if possible, as well as GPA if it's high.

3. Re-evaluate all of your job experiences. Think about what you've done from a broader perspective: did you manage anyone? Interact with customers or clients? Responsible for managing a small business? All of these are valuable skills that should not be left off a resume since employers would find candidates highly employable.
4. Consider alternative resume formats. There is no correct format for a resume, though there is a standard. The standard layout is objective, education, experience and skills. The ultimate goal is to give the potential

employer a picture of who you are as an employee, not a person, so only job-relevant information is necessary.

For information on resumes, cover letters, interview skills and more, go to the following page: <http://libguides.eosc.edu/prof>.

Important dates to remember:

Upcoming summer and fall enrollment for current students begin April 7

New student enrollment will begin on April 14

Last day to withdraw from spring 2015 classes is April 10

Graduation ceremonies will be May 8 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Come see us, we are here to help! Tina Ray and Sandra Robertson Located in Library Building, Enrollment Center Offices 156 and 157

GAME REVIEW

Final Fantasy XV is finally here in playable form after years of waiting

Robert Bedford
Staff Writer

Final Fantasy XV, the long awaited game first announced in 2006 as Final Fantasy Versus XIII, has finally arrived in playable form with the demo Episode Duscae.

Those who preordered or purchased Day One editions of Final Fantasy Type-0 HD were able to input a special code within the box to download and play the Episode Duscae demo.

Many people, like myself, simply preordered Type-0 to get their hands on this demo. Was the 9-year wait worth it?

Well, technically the game has only actually been in development since 2011 because before that it was simply in the conceptual stages and then in 2013 it was rebranded as Final Fantasy XV and the plat-

form changed from Playstation 3 to Playstation 4 and Xbox One. I can assure you the wait was well worth it though.

The demo takes place in a large area called the Duscae region, though the area in the demo is only actually about 10 percent of the actual Duscae region which will be much larger in the full game.

Players are tasked with finding and defeating a monster in order to afford the repairs to their car. The demo should only really last about 2-3 hours, though I managed to log about 7 and a half hours (and plan on logging more) into it because of wandering around the gorgeous scenery and fighting tons of interesting and difficult monsters.

The combat shines through in this game, with the fighting consisting of action combat involving well executed attacks and dodging, as well

as knowing when to flee from your powerful foes so you can recuperate. Fighting at night is one of the biggest dangers as darkness surrounds you and powerful foes lurk the area at night.

The demo does feature some minor hiccups, such as suffering from framerate dips at times and the lack of certain features like magic and party customization.

These minor annoyances are, however, extremely fixable and will be fixed in the coming months for the full game, which is not expected to actually come out for at least another year at the soonest.

For those who can get their hands on a demo code or an early copy of Type-0, Final Fantasy XV: Episode Duscae is a real treat and a fantastic look into what will surely be one of the greatest Final Fantasy games of all time.

Spring in Oklahoma means tornado season, know where to go on campus

Tornados are made up of violently swirling winds with velocities of up to 250 miles per hour. Most damages and deaths are caused by the flying debris that the winds carry with them.

Tornado Watch: Means conditions are favorable to the formation of a tornado, for example, during a severe thunderstorm. During a "tornado watch" be prepared to take shelter immediately if conditions worsen.

Tornado Warning: A "Tornado warning" is given when a tornado funnel is sighted or indicated by radar. You should take shelter immediately.

The following are designated shelters for the dorms and apartments.

Miller Hall (East and West)

- Primary shelter – Basement boiler room and laundry room

- Secondary shelter – 1st floor hallways away from entry doors. Close all doors to rooms and bathrooms.

Salmon Hall

- Primary shelter – Basement boiler room and laundry room.

Johnston Hall

- Primary shelter – Basement boiler room and laundry room

Apartments – Go to Miller Hall or Gunning Hall basement. If conditions are too severe to leave your apartment, go to an interior space, i.e., hallway, bathroom, or closet. Get low and cover your head.

Avoid glass areas.

Signs are being updated to show these designated areas.

- Notice of impending Tornado danger will be given by Eastern staff or Campus police.

- Eastern Oklahoma State College's radio station, FM 93.1, McAlester radio stations FM 101.3 and FM 105.1 and AM 1170 usually will be broadcasting any threatening conditions for this area.

- The City of Wilburton has a siren that sounds when threatening conditions are present. If you hear these sirens get to a shelter immediately and stay there until the "all clear" is sounded.

All campus buildings have designated shelters. These will be posted to guide you to safety.

Some things "not to do" when a tornado is coming.

If you are in an automobile, "DO NOT TRY TO OUTFRAN A TORNADO IN YOUR CAR! A MOTOR VEHICLE IS ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS PLACES TO BE IN A TORNADO. If you see a tornado, stop your vehicle and get out. Seek shelter away from the vehicle in a nearby ditch or ravine; do not get under your vehicle. Lie flat and put your arms over your head. Cars, busses, and trucks are easily tossed by tornado winds.

Get out of long span buildings such

as shopping malls, civic centers, indoor pools, theaters, or gymnasiums. The entire roof structure is supported only by the outside walls.

If you are caught in such a building, get away from windows and get into a restroom, if possible. Some of these areas may have designated shelters.

If you are caught outside during a tornado, and there is no underground shelter immediately available, lie in a gully, ditch, or low spot in the ground. Protect your body and head with anything available. Do not get around trees or under a vehicle.

(Source of information: Emergency Management, State of Oklahoma)

Birders to flock to southeast Oklahoma in May

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Registration is open for the 7th annual Red Slough Birding Convention. Hosted by the Idabel Chamber of Commerce, the convention appeals to experienced birders and beginning wildlife enthusiasts. Bird-watching opportunities during the event will include chances to see bitterns, rails and other secretive marsh birds, rare woodpeckers and warblers.

The four-day convention based in Idabel will kick off Saturday, May 9, with keynote speaker Jay Huner entertaining participants with tales from his research in Louisiana. Later in the convention, participants will hear about bird migration research from the University of Oklahoma's Jeff Kelly. Huner will return for the final presentation, "A Bumbling Birder's Big Year" at the May 11 banquet, describing his 2012 search for 346 species in his home state of Louisiana.

Robert Bastarache, U.S. Forest Service district biologist and event commit-

tee member, said the remainder of the convention will be spent in the field. "We've set up six great tour options for our participants," Bastarache said. Morning sessions will be spent touring three conservation areas; Red Slough Wildlife Management Area, Little River National Wildlife Refuge and the McCurtain County Wilderness Area. Afternoon tours will focus on McCurtain County's diverse dragonfly and wildflower communities, as well as the county's state champion trees. Bastarache said, "In addition to several unique plants, reptiles and invertebrates, it's not uncommon for participants to see over 150 species of birds during the convention." Information about each tour and the species that might be encountered can be found on the event's webpage, redsloughconvention.com.

The \$125 registration includes six tour options, three presentations, a banquet and the 2015 birding convention T-shirt.

Anti-texting measure clears state Senate

A measure making it illegal to text and drive is now one step closer to becoming law. Senate Bill 821, authored by the Senate Public Safety Committee, would make it illegal to operate a motor vehicle while using a hand-held electronic device to compose, send or read electronic messages while driving. The measure received overwhelming approval, with members voting 42 to 3 in favor of the legislation.

Under the provisions of SB 821, the law would be enforced as a secondary offense, meaning an individual would have to be detained for another suspected violation of another traffic law in able to be cited for texted and driving. Those convicted of breaking the law could be fined up to \$100 per violation. The law wouldn't apply if the person was using their cell phone to contact law enforcement, an emergency operator, firefighters or other emergency responders.

Sen. Brian Crain presented the measure on the floor Wednesday. Crain ac-

knowledgeed the fact that the bill could have been stronger, but said it was an important first step in addressing the problem of texting while driving.

"This bill is an extremely cautious bill. This bill is an extremely basic bill," said Crain, R-Tulsa. "Is this a perfect bill? I don't think we've ever seen a perfect bill out here. But is this a great initial step to figure out what, if anything, we need to do to change this in the future? Absolutely."

Sen. Ron Sharp was among a handful of members who introduced legislation addressing texting while driving this session. He debated in favor of the bill, pointing to polling that showed the majority of Oklahoma supported an anti-texting while driving law.

"This is not supposed to be our opinions on this legislation," said Sharp, R-Shawnee. "If 73 to 76 percent of the people of Oklahoma say that they want an anti-texting law, we should respond to that opinion."

Sen. Jack Fry told members he'd seen the danger of texting while driving first hand during his 26 years as a firefighter.

"I've run on six fatalities for texting. I've run on one fatality for DUI," said Fry, R-Midwest City. "This is a very serious problem."

Sen. Ervin Yen, R-Oklahoma City, unsuccessfully proposed an amendment to make the bill enforceable as a primary offense, but still urged the bill's passage. He noted there had been several fatalities within the last year as a result of texting while driving, including the recent death of a state trooper. That same accident left another trooper critically injured. Yen told fellow members it was a matter of life and death.

"We need to pass something so that I can tell my kids, my five kids, that it's against the law to text and drive," Yen said.

The bill now moves to the House of Representatives for further consideration.

93.1 FM RADIO INFORMATION

The Best Mix of Top 40, pop, adult, contemporary, light classic rock and today's cross-over country music.

The Morning Show with J.Rowe
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To listen free on your smartphone:
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2. Download the free app to your phone.

3. Open the app on your phone and search for Mountaineer Ra-

dio.

4. Select Mountaineer Radio and start listening.

5. Save Mountaineer Radio as a preset for future listening.

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Join the *Statesman* staff

If you would like to work for the newspaper next semester, please contact Kristen Turner at 918.465.1720 or ktturner@eosc.edu.

You do not have to be a Mass Communication major.

Annual Sapphire Ball scholarship fundraiser raises over \$14,000

Press Release

Despite a winter storm that blanketed the area in snow, Eastern Oklahoma State College's sixth annual Sapphire Ball was the most successful yet. More than 230 tickets were sold for the event that raised \$14,100 for student scholarships while honoring alumni, outstanding employees and community supporters.

The annual black-tie event, which is Eastern's largest scholarship fundraiser, featured dinner, a silent and live auction, student entertainment and the awards presentation.

"An unexpected winter storm didn't deter our supporters. We are enormously proud and excited that our Eastern family – our alumni, community partners, faculty and staff – support Eastern's mission of providing a high quality education to as many students as possible," said Treva Kennedy, Eastern's director of Institutional Advancement. "The fact that the Sapphire Ball continues to grow each year is a reflection of the continued commitment of our sponsors, donors and community."

The evening began with a reception and silent auction that included a diverse mix of items, including jewelry, home goods, gift certificates, handmade items, artwork, gift baskets and autographed Eastern athletic memorabilia. Attendees also purchased "sapphire eggs" for the chance to win additional prizes. Guests were engaged in friendly bidding wars during a live auction later in the evening. All of the items were donated by local businesses, organizations and individuals specifically to raise scholarship funds at the Sapphire Ball.

Eastern President Dr. Stephen E. Smith also honored four individuals and one organization during the evening. The annual



Eastern President Dr. Stephen E. Smith (far left) gathers with honorees at the 2015 Sapphire Ball. Honorees include (from left to right) Karen Darby, J.C. Hunt Award; David and Patricia Donley of A-OK Railroad, President's Community Spirit Award; Marilyn Duncan, President's Excellence in Teaching Award; Dr. Marsha Gore and Dr. Bill Brewer, Distinguished Alumnus Awards.

awards presentation recognizes those who have made a significant impact on the college or in their community.

Dr. Marsha Gore of McAlester (Class of 1974) and Dr. William Brewer of Yukon (Class of 1958) received the Distinguished Alumnus Award, presented annually to alumni who have distinguished themselves professionally and through service to the college.

A career educator and community volunteer, Gore has served as the superintendent of McAlester Public Schools since 2011. Throughout her career in education, she has either taught, led as an administrator or developed curriculum for high schools, community colleges and universities in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Tennessee, Kentucky and Pennsylvania. She is also an ac-

tive community volunteer, serving on the boards of the EOSC Foundation, McAlester Boys and Girls Club, and the Southeastern OK Interlocal Cooperative Board. Last year, Gore was one of two Oklahoma superintendents chosen as a "Future Ready Superintendent" and attended President Barack Obama's Future Ready Summit at the White House. While there, she was one of six U.S. superintendents chosen to review the national technology plan.

Brewer has enjoyed a diverse and exciting career since graduating from Eastern in 1958. Brewer began his career as a speech teacher for Midwest City Public Schools before earning his doctor of dentistry in 1968. Brewer also served 20 years in the U.S. Army Reserve, rising to the rank of Colonel and commanding the

Dental Group Level Headquarters Unit. After 40 years of private practice, Brewer retired from dentistry and began a career as a voice and stage actor. He has appeared in several short films, television commercials and theater productions, as well as performed voiceovers for numerous television and radio commercials. He has also led more than 25 medical construction teams to all the countries in Central America as well as Vieques Islands, Puerto Rico and Alaska.

The Arkansas-Oklahoma Railroad (A-OK Railroad) received the Community Spirit Award for outstanding support and service to Eastern and the Wilburton community. A-OK Railroad began operating in Wilburton in 1996 with six employees. The company has grown to 51 employees and operates 127 miles of railroad. Own-

ers David and Patricia Donley have been long-time supporters of many community organizations, including Eastern, Wilburton Public Schools, the Wilburton Chamber of Commerce, Boy Scouts, the Fire Department and local churches.

The President's Excellence in Teaching Award was presented to Marilyn Duncan, dean of Eastern's behavioral and social sciences division. A Muskogee native, Duncan has taught at Eastern for 40 years and has been named "Teacher of the Year" on six occasions. She was inducted into the Muskogee Service Leagues Hall of Fame and is an active member of the national service sororities, Delta Sigma Theta and Phi Delta Kappa.

During her tenure at Eastern, Duncan has served on numerous academic and faculty committees, sponsored the student psychology/sociology club and NAACP student organization, and is a former board member for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate), an organization that supports and promotes court-appointed volunteer advocacy for abused and neglected children.

Karen Darby of McAlester received the J.C. Hunt Award for staff excellence. A 1997 Eastern graduate, Darby joined Eastern during her final semester of college as the administrative assistant to the Nursing Department.

In 2001, Darby became a recruiter for Eastern, working with high school students in search of higher education possibilities. She is also an advocate for non-traditional adult students who aspire to get a degree later in life, as she did. Darby currently serves on the Advisory Board for Adult Education and the Advisory Counsel for Eastern Student Success.

Would you like to see your club featured? Contact us: statesman@eosc.edu

Leland Walker to receive Outstanding Public Service in Agriculture Award

Press Release

The Governor's Excellence in Agriculture Awards will be presented during a special ceremony hosted by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry on April 1 at 2 p.m. in Senate Assembly Room 535 in the state capitol. The public is invited to attend.

Joe Mayer will be honored with the Outstanding Achievement Award in Agriculture. He and his family are actively involved in all aspects of a prosperous grain and cattle business in the Oklahoma Panhandle. Mayer is at the forefront in the beef industry utilizing and adapting the latest technologies to improve his own operation and benefit beef consumers. He has received numerous awards including the Certified Angus Beef Commercial Producer of the Year. Locally, Mayer has benefited his home area by serving on the Texas County Election Board, the Texas County Excise and Equalization Board, Texas County Farm Bureau Board and the TriCounty Electric Cooperative Board.

Leland Walker of Red Oak will receive the Outstanding Public Service in Agriculture Award for more than 39 years of teaching and mentoring. More than 70 current agriculture instructors in the state were taught under his leadership. Walker has been a high school agriculture instructor, a college agriculture professor and agriculture division chair for Eastern Oklahoma State College. Walker retired from public education in 2014, but retirement has not slowed his passion for agriculture. He still coaches the soils judging team at Eastern Oklahoma State College, runs hundreds of cattle in Latimer County and spends the rest of his time volunteering to help young people.

Two awards will be presented posthumously to former agricultural leaders and will be received by their family members. The Environmental Stewardship Award will honor Mike Thralls. Mike served 17 years as Executive Director of the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. Prior to that, he was assistant commissioner of the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, & Forestry. Under his leadership, Oklahoma's first state-funded cost-share program



Leland Walker

helped hundreds of landowners install conservation practices to improve water quality and reduce soil erosion. His leadership in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program created the largest program to provide nonpoint source water quality protection in the state's history. The National Watershed Coalition awarded Thralls its Meritorious Service Award for rehabilitation of an entire watershed project.

The Legacy in Agriculture Award will be presented posthumously to Dr. Bob Totusek who promoted agriculture for over 65 years. He obtained his Ph.D. at Purdue University before joining the Animal Husbandry faculty at Oklahoma A&M College in 1952 where he served 38 years. He served as Animal Science Department Head from 1976 until retiring in 1990. During his time at OSU, "Dr. Tot" taught more than 5,000 students in 14 different courses and authored or co-authored more than 200 publications.

Under his leadership, the undergraduate enrollment increased by more than 60 percent, graduate student enrollment increased by 50 percent, funding for research nearly doubled, and undergraduate scholarship endowments increased by 20 fold. Though he achieved many honors and accomplishments, nothing was more rewarding to him than the relationships he developed with students, farmers, and ranchers across the state.



Ty Thompson, Wyatt Stanford and Chelsie Peckio stop for a photo while looking at a few Andy Warhol pieces. The students traveled with the Photo Club to The Philbrook Museum Downtown.

Photo Club visits The Philbrook Downtown

Chelsie Peckio
Editor

The Eastern Oklahoma State College Photography Club attended a field trip on March 7. The students visited The Philbrook in the Brady District in downtown Tulsa. The students planned the trip around a Pop Art exhibit displaying works and Polaroid's from well-known artists including Andy Warhol.

Another featured exhibit was titled "Shifting Focus," and included

several pieces of art of Native American influence. The students got to see pieces like sculptures and paintings, but they also got to see different weaved baskets, and Native American bead work.

"I really liked the art especially the Native American art, because it highlighted not only Native American cultures but also the problems faced by Native American's in the United States today," Wyatt Stanford said.

The students also stopped by the Living Arts Museum which had a Glitch Analogous exhibit. The exhibit included

several pieces of art that were created from technology glitches. This showed the students that art can be created even through mistakes.

The Photography Club plans on having their own art exhibit towards the end of the year and drew inspiration from the use of different media at the exhibit they visited. More information about the exhibit will be sent out closer to the date, but any students who have any form of art that they would like to submit should contact Kristen Turner at ktturner@eosc.edu.

November video game releases see success

Robert Bedford
Staff Writer

Pokemon Omega Ruby and Alpha Sapphire are the latest in the long-running series of games by Nintendo and were released in November of 2014 to great financial success.

I am personally a huge fan of the Pokemon series and have been since I was a young boy watching the show and movies. These latest games in the series are two more stellar additions to an already stellar series, despite being remakes of ones that came out over ten years ago. They add new things to the table, such as soaring on the back of a certain legendary poke-

mon and the ability to sneak up on wild pokemon. With the new gameplay additions that have been made also comes changes to the traditional story formula that the series has followed since the beginning. Upon completion of the main story, the player can embark on a new quest to stop a threat to the planet by capturing another legendary pokemon and then defeating and possibly catching another.

Of course, there are a couple of rather controversial or simply unnecessary changes in the games. The item experience share is still massively overpowered and lowers the difficulty of the game by a huge degree if it is left on throughout your journey. All of the gym leaders'

pokemon levels are the same as they were in the original Ruby and Sapphire, instead of the higher levels used in the third part of the trinity of games, Emerald. A small, but still important to some, issue is the removal of the player customization system, although this issue can be understood since these are remakes of games that did not originally have player customization.

The little flaws these games have do nothing to curb the amazing qualities that they possess overall. Omega Ruby and Alpha Sapphire serve as fantastic new additions to the Pokemon series and should keep fans like myself satisfied for a long time till the next games are eventually announced.



Eastern Oklahoma State College women's basketball team after receiving the regional runner up award.

Eastern Lady Mountaineers finish the season as the regional runner-up

The Eastern Oklahoma State College Lady Mountaineers finished as the runner-up in the NJCAA Region II Tournament for the second time in two years.

The Lady Mountaineers boast a winning season record of 21-12 in a region of 13 teams. Eastern is the only team in the Region II Conference to have made it to the regional championship for two consecutive seasons.

"We finished the regular season in seventh place and our girls kept playing hard," said Head Coach Am-

ber Taylor.

Sophomore Raquel Grant of Wewoka was one of five conference players selected to the All-Regional Tournament Team. She finished the season ranked third in the conference in steals and was also named to the regular season All-Conference Team. Taylor said that Grant worked hard in the offseason to get where the team needed her to be.

After the success from the past two seasons, Taylor said she sees more success in the future.

"We look to win the region next

year and go on to the national tournament," Taylor said.

The men's team also achieved a winning record this year, finishing 17-13 overall. The Mountaineers' season ended in a hard fought regional tournament game against Arkansas Baptist University that resulted in a 108-112 loss after four overtime periods.

Having successful seasons for both teams, the Eastern basketball programs look forward to next year with positivity and confidence.



Wilburton mayor Stephen Brinlee has a discussion with Harlem Ambassadors coach Lade Majic in this file photo.

Harlem Ambassadors return to Wilburton campus April 7

The internationally-acclaimed Harlem Ambassadors are headed to Wilburton for a game against the Wilburton Outlaws on Tuesday, April 7 at 7 p.m. in the C.C. Dunlap Field House at Eastern Oklahoma State College.

The Harlem Ambassadors offer a unique brand of Harlem-style basketball, featuring high-flying slam dunks, dazzling ball-handling tricks and hilarious comedy routines. The Ambassadors feature non-stop laughs and deliver a positive message for kids wherever the Ambassadors play.

"At our shows, we want the kids to know that they're part of our team too," Coach Ladè Majic said. "We invite as many kids as we can to the event, have a front row seat during the show, and get involved in all of the fun stuff we do."

The Ambassadors set themselves

apart from other "Harlem-style" basketball teams by working with local not-for-profit and service organizations and holding Harlem Ambassadors shows as community fundraising events. This is the third time the Ambassadors have partnered with the Wilburton Chamber of Commerce as a fundraiser to help with Chamber operations and activities.

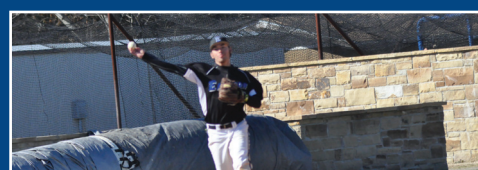
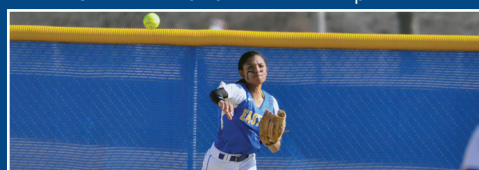
The Ambassadors will be playing the Wilburton Outlaws, which will consist of local and area community leaders. Advance ticket prices will be \$6 for students/seniors and \$9 for adults.

Tickets at the door will be \$8 for students/seniors and \$10 for adults. Kids four and under are admitted free. Tickets can be purchased at the Wilburton Chamber of Commerce office.

For more information, call the Chamber office at 918-465-2759.

EASTERN SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

3/28	Murray State*	Tishomingo, OK	2 p.m.
3/29	Rose State*	Midwest City, OK	2 p.m.
3/31	Carl Albert*	Poteau, OK	2 p.m.
4/2	Western*	Home	2 p.m.
4/3	Connors*	Warner, OK	2 p.m.
4/4	NOC - Enid*	Enid, OK	2 p.m.
4/7	NEO*	Home	2 p.m.



EASTERN BASEBALL SCHEDULE

3/28	Southwest Christian University	Home	2 p.m.
3/30	Carl Albert State College*	Home	6 p.m.
4/2	Arkansas Baptist College*	Little Rock, Ark.	1 p.m.
4/4	Arkansas Baptist College*	Home	1 p.m.
4/6	Murray State College*	Home	4 p.m.
4/9	Rose State College*	Home	2 p.m.
4/11	Rose State College*	Midwest City	2 p.m.