

Chapter 37

“Encouraging more democratic participation”

1947-1950

The extension division continued to provide off-campus educational opportunities for public school teachers and other students, but the number of people enrolling was smaller than in the early years when most teachers were struggling to obtain or maintain teaching credentials. In the fall semester of 1947, ninety-three students enrolled in classes taught beyond the Tahlequah campus, and in the spring the number dropped to seventy-four. In addition to Dr. J.B. Steed, who directed the division, H.W. Gunther, W.C. Evans, and H.J. Holt taught the off-campus classes.

While the extension division no longer sent correspondence lessons to far-flung combat zones throughout the world as it had during the war, it continued to allow students to work at their homes in Oklahoma and fifteen other states. During the 1947-48 school year, 778 students earned credit through correspondence. The cost for both extension and correspondence classes remained four dollars a credit hour. Saturday classes were also offered both semesters of the school year to enable those working during the weekdays to continue their education.¹

Seminarians crowded the campus on Friday, May 7, for their annual reunion. Presiding over the homecoming, seventy-seven-year-old Albert Sidney Wyly, president of the group's association, was a living link between the school built by the Cherokees and the college. Wyly had served on the tribal School Board that administered the seminaries in the final years of the Cherokee Nation. After statehood, he played a major role in persuading the Oklahoma legislature to establish a normal school in Tahlequah and served briefly as the new state school's first president in 1909. Although the last class of seminarians had earned their degrees thirty-eight years earlier, Wyly and the other graduates and former students who returned each year ensured their alma mater and its

¹ “Extension Work Done By 167 This Year,” *Northeastern*, 1 July 1948, 2. “Saturday Classes Being Organized For This Year,” *Northeastern*, 12 September 1947, 2. “Correspondence Courses Supplement Residence,” *Northeastern*, 24 September 1948, 4. *Northeastern Bulletin*, 1947-48, 23.

educational legacy were not forgotten.²

The May 7 reunion planning committee selected two Cherokees to honor at their 1948 gathering—Sequoyah and U.S. senator from Oklahoma Robert L. Owen, who had died in 1947. Elzie Caywood, a Colcord sophomore majoring in history, was chosen to read the speech delivered by Owen at the unveiling of the bust of Sequoyah in Statuary Hall in the nation's Capitol Building in 1916. The great grandson of Cherokees who had traveled the Trail of Tears, Caywood's grandmother had been a student at the female seminary in 1890. After completing his degree at Northeastern in 1949, Caywood earned a master's degree at the University of Oklahoma, where he wrote this thesis on "The History of Northeastern State College" in 1950. His 172-page study, which focused as much on the female seminary as the college, was the first, in-depth study of the institution.³

On Thursday, May 27, 139 seniors received degrees at the college's 39th convocation. The third largest graduating class in the state, 111 earned teaching credentials and 28 received degrees in other disciplines. The numbers did not accurately reflect the percentage of NSC students who did not plan to teach since most of the students studying to be physicians, attorneys, and engineers usually transferred to other schools before graduation.⁴

Almost 47% of the graduates were female, which challenged a widely held view that women attended college to find a husband. In some institutions of higher learning, many coeds may have enrolled primarily to trap a man, but at Northeastern, which remained predominately a teacher-training college, many female students seemed as determined to earn a B.S.Ed. as an Mrs., perhaps because they realized that if the husband they acquired was a teacher, they would need to supplement his income.

Nonetheless, even at NSC, the prevailing belief that women enrolled in college primarily to find a husband, seemed to be accepted by students of both sexes. In a *Northeastern* editorial that appeared just before graduation, Betty Bonham, Keota junior, dismissed the need to poll coeds again to determine their reason for attending college since earlier polls confirmed their predatory

² "Cherokee General Albert S. Wily to Preside at Reunion," *Northeastern*, 9 April 1948. 1. "Cherokee Seminary Reunion Today," *Northeastern*, 7 May 1948, 1.

³ "Sen. Bob L. Owen, Sequoyah Will Be Honored on May 7," *Northeastern*, 23 April 1948, 1.

⁴ "Northeastern State College Degrees Conferred, 1921-, NSU University Archives. "140 Seniors To Receive Degrees; Third Largest Class in Oklahoma," *Northeastern* 21 May 1948, 1.

motives. Instead, she decided to provide advice to those unfortunate senior women who had failed to bag the legal limit. With only a week to go, she urged them to "think of the sacrifices your parents have made to give you this glorious opportunity! Think how it's going to hurt your poor old mother if you fail! Think how disappointed your poor old father is going to be if he's stuck with you for another four years!" She emphasized, "Now is the time for action. Splash on your deadliest perfume and get your man!"⁵

Male students who had not survived leap year single found their college experience considerably different than their bachelor classmates. Wendell Guess, a Stilwell senior and Coast Guard veteran with service in almost every theater in World War II, found time his major challenge. Married to Margaret Flagg Guess, the college nurse, he was the father of two children and a math major. Guess, like most of the married veterans, was almost always pressed for time. The slightest disruption of the morning routine could make him late for his first class, and children usually proved to be more than slight disruptions. Most veterans found that their maturity more than compensated for the demands of college, family style. Guess not only graduated with an "A" average in his Northeastern course work, he also served as president of Alpha Chi, national scholastic society.⁶ After the graduation of her husband, Margaret Guess resigned as school nurse and was replaced by Catherine Smith, R.N., Hillcrest.⁷

The 979 students who attended the nine-week summer term, which began Monday, May 31, represented a 7% increase over the previous summer. Because of North Central pressure, eleven faculty members were granted two-month sabbaticals or leaves of absence to complete their master's degrees or work on doctorates. Public school teachers and junior college instructors were hired to take their places during the summer session.⁸ M.E. Franklin, a member of the faculty since 1922, was granted a year's leave of absence at half pay to pursue a doctorate.⁹

⁵ "Most Northeastern Women in College To Find Husband, Recent Poll Reveals," *Northeastern*, 21 May 1948, 2.

⁶ "Guesses Completing Work At Northeastern; Honor Student and Wife Called Typical Vets," *Northeastern*, 21 May 1948, 3.

⁷ John Vaughan to State Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges, 29 May 1948, 7.

⁸ Summary of Enrollment in statistics maintained by President John Vaughan, NSU University Archives. "Faculty Members Away For Summer," *Northeastern*, 1 July 1948, 1. John Vaughan to State Board of Regents for Oklahoma Colleges, 2 April 1948, 29 May 1948.

⁹ Minutes of the meeting of the State Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges, 3 July 1949, 24.

The college sponsored one summer workshop in cooperation with the State Board of Education. Dr. Vaud Travis supervised the two-week session on the teaching of mathematics for nineteen elementary and junior high school teachers. Dr. Claud Harris, elementary supervisor of the Muskogee city schools, was hired to direct the workshop that reviewed state-adopted math books and developed instructional strategies and aids for teaching the subject at four grade levels.¹⁰

Although roads to Tahlequah had been improved since the 1920s, most remained gravel, and a majority of summer students found accommodations on or near campus rather than commute. To attract students in the summer, the school provided recreational outlets and entertainment as well as classes. The tradition of staging an operetta during the summer, suspended at the beginning of the war, was revived on June 22 with the production of "Cox and Box," an eighty-year-old-farce with music by Arthur Sullivan. Despite the age of the play, the plot, involving a housing shortage, was familiar to post-war NSC students. Unlike pre-war performances, the 1948 operetta was a professional production of the Chautauqua Opera Company featuring performers with Broadway credentials.¹¹

Most dramatic and musical summer productions featured Northeastern students. The college's drama students presented several one-act plays during the summer term, but S. Walker James, assistant professor of speech, postponed a three-act play scheduled for summer until fall.¹² The NSC orchestra presented a floodlight concert in front of the Bagley Training School on the evening of July 19, and Tahlequah's fifth annual Fourth of July rodeo provided variety for students seeking escape from the academic regimen.¹³ As in past summers, Northeastern's athletic department offered a varied program of recreation featuring round-robin and tournament competition in softball, table tennis, badminton, and tennis for women and tennis, volleyball, horseshoe pitching, softball, table tennis, and badminton for men.¹⁴

Even before President Vaughan received the written report of the

¹⁰ "Math Workshop Will Be Held Under Supervision of Travis," *Northeastern*, 7 May 1948, 6. "Nineteen Enrolled In Math Workshop," *Northeastern*, 1 July 1948, 2.

¹¹ "Campus Entertainment Features Farce Operetta 'Cox and Box,' on June 22," *Northeastern*, 1 July 1948, 2.

¹² "One-Act Plays Planned," *Northeastern*, 1 July 1948, 2.

¹³ "NSC Orchestra In Concert Monday Eve," *Tahlequah Citizen*, 15 July 1948, 8. "Famed Ballerina Will Lead Rodeo Parade July 3," *Northeastern*, 1 July 1948, 3.

¹⁴ "Summer Sports Program Varied; Large Participation Seen," *Northeastern*, 1 July 1948, 4.

North Central inspectors, he, the administration, and the faculty had been working to correct problem areas the visitors had called to their attention. Many of the deficiencies were the result of inadequate funding over much of the school's history, and could not be resolved without the assistance of the regents and the legislature. Both seemed receptive to the schools needs. In January, Vaughan recommended the following salary schedule for the faculty and administration:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Min.</u>	<u>Med.</u>	<u>Max.</u>
Instructor	\$2,100	\$2,400	3,000
Assistant Professor	\$2,400	\$2,820	\$3,600
Associate Professor	\$2,700	\$3,120	\$4,200
Professor	\$3,000	\$3,600	\$4,800

The dean of the college received an additional \$800 per year; the director of the training school, dean of men, dean of women, and the registrar—\$600; and heads of departments and others assigned administrative duties—\$400. The regents also approved funds for additional faculty members to lower the student-teacher ratio.¹⁵

In early July, State Question 328, the proposal to convert the school's governing board created by statute in 1947 into a constitutional agency, was submitted to a vote of the people. President Vaughan and members of the faculty publicly urged adoption of the amendment, which would make "it impossible for any administration to gain a majority [of members of the Board of Regents for Oklahoma Colleges] in a four-year term." The state of Oklahoma had received adverse national publicity because of political interference in higher education, and President Vaughan argued that passage of State Question 328 would give "state colleges a decisive boost in national academic rankings." The constitutional amendment was approved by a wide margin.¹⁶

During the summer Mary Jarvis, the school dietician, resigned and was replaced by Claudine Fay Payer, who had a bachelor's degree in home economics from Kansas State College. At the same time, the school hired Gertrude Englert, an experienced dietitian trained at the Oklahoma College for Women, to manage the new

¹⁵ "Recommendations and Reports for Northeastern State College, Tahlequah, Oklahoma," January 10, 1948, NSU University Archives.

¹⁶ "Vote Yes On Question No. 328," "Favor State Bill No. 328," *Northeastern*, 1 July 1948, 1 and 2.

cafeteria.¹⁷

As the college library building approached completion, two assistants were hired. Roscoe Rouse, B.L.Sc. University of Oklahoma, and Helen Hitt, A.B., Oklahoma Baptist University, were appointed assistant librarians; Miss Hitt was assigned to the training school to meet North Central standards. North Central also spurred the acquisition of library materials. In September alone, 1,100 new books were accessioned according to Sue Thornton, the librarian. The sudden infusion of material literally blocked every entrance to the library and occupied most of the tables and chairs and monopolized the attention of the three librarians and their seventeen student assistants.¹⁸

Commencement ceremonies on July 29 for the seventy-nine students who completed their degrees in the summer (twelve fewer than the previous summer) marked the end of an era at Northeastern. The last remaining member of the 1909 faculty, Dr. J.M. Hackler, retired at the end of the summer term, after thirty-nine years of service to the school. Hackler's influence extended far beyond the math department he was hired to head shortly after the school was established. For thirty-five years, he served a secretary of the northeastern section of the Oklahoma Education Association. During his tenure at Northeastern, Hackler had chaired many key committees, including student housing and placement, and served as head of the education department, director of the training school, and president of the college for six months following the death of Monroe P. Hammond.¹⁹ Hackler's retirement marked the passing of the first generation of members of the Northeastern faculty—those hired before the First World War. Several like Dr. Ballenger remained a few more years, but they would soon join their old colleagues in the ranks of the emeriti.

The seventy-one-year-old educator's retirement left a vacancy in NSC's administrative structure at a critical period when the school was working to gain admission to the North Central Association. To fill the void Hackler left, President Vaughan recommended that Luther D. Brown be granted a spring and summer sabbatical to complete his doctorate at George Peabody College. On his return to Northeastern in the fall, Brown assumed Hackler's duties as director

¹⁷ John Vaughan to State Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges, 28 June 1948.

¹⁸ "Librarians Busy With Accessions," *Northeastern*, 8 October 1948, 3.

¹⁹ "Twelve Countians In NSC Graduating Class," *Tahlequah Citizen*, 22 July 1948, 4. "Hackler to Retire in August; Will End 39th Year of Service," *Northeastern*, 1 July 1948, 1

of the training school and chairman of the teacher placement bureau. In May, in recommending the hiring of Wesley A. Deneke, B.S., Southeast Missouri State Teachers College, A.M., Ed.D., University of Missouri, Vaughan informed the board of regents that Dr. Deneke will "take part of his [Hackler's] work, but his principal duties will be to coordinate and develop our student personnel services that are now handled by a number of individuals. This is in keeping with the recommendations of the North Central inspection committee."²⁰

The retirement of Dr. Hackler also called attention to a weakness identified by North Central—an "extremely inadequate" retirement plan. The two individuals who had semi-retired since the state adopted a teacher retirement plan were paid approximately half pay and given "minor assignments" by the college to justify maintaining them on the payroll because the amount paid by the state retirement fund was "insufficient to maintain their standard of living." Since they remained on the payroll, they were not eligible to collect retirement benefits from the state fund, which left the entire burden of providing retirement income on the college. President Vaughan recommended that Hackler be appointed professor emeritus and remain on the college payroll and be given the \$125 a month others were receiving, but he suggested that the regents adopt some policy to address the issue of retiring members of the faculty.²¹

The August intersession continued to grow, drawing students from 24 Oklahoma counties, 8 other states, and Canada. The enrollment of 484 was 45 larger than the previous year, and 40% of those attending the three-week session, which ended August 19, were veterans.²²

Expanding enrollment and the need for additional space prompted President Vaughan to explore the acquisition of land adjacent to or near the campus. During the summer, 11.68 acres of land, adjoining the 5 acres purchased in 1946 for an athletic practice field, were acquired by the college. When officials at Hastings Hospital indicated a willingness to transfer a portion of their property, Vaughan contacted Oklahoma Congressman W.G. Stigler who introduced a bill in the 80th Congress authorizing the transfer of two and a half acres of land just north of Redmen Village to

²⁰ John Vaughan to State Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges, 10 February 1948 and 29 May 1948, NSU University Archives. "Deneke Gets New Staff Assignment," *Northeastern*, 1 July 1948, 1. "Brown to Direct Teacher Training and Placement," *Northeastern*, 8 October 1948, 3.

²¹ John Vaughan to State Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges, 28 June 1948, 3.

²² "Intersession Binds Own Record for '48," *Northeastern*, 24 September 1948, 4 [Actually 2].

Northeastern. Foreshadowing a trend that continued into the twenty-first century, the land acquired from Hastings was converted into a parking lot. The 1948 land transactions increased the size of Northeastern's campus to 65.18 acres.²³

Northeastern's enrollment increased with the number of students in the fall and spring semesters of 1948-49 slightly larger than the prior year. The college continued to draw students from a wider geographical area than it had attracted before the war, and more freshmen enrolled than ever before. In addition to Oklahoma, students came from seventeen other states and Canada. Unlike the pre-war era, women remained a distinct minority at NSC, with two men for every coed. Actually, the ratio was even more skewed because fifty-seven of the sixty-two students who attended only on Saturday were women, and most of them were commuters who did not attend dances and other campus social events. Despite national trends indicating that the influx of veterans had crested and was beginning to decrease, former servicemen constituted over 40% of Northeastern's student body.²⁴

Noting the decreasing numbers of veterans enrolling as freshmen and sophomores, Duard Lawley, associate editor of the *Tsa-La-Gi*, predicted, "It will not be many years before the veteran will be a man of long gone days." He was only partially correct; while most World War II vets had completed their educations by the early 1950s, their academic success and the positive impact their education had on the national economy prompted Congress to extend the GI Bill indefinitely and enact other programs designed to enable the sons and daughters of middle and lower income families to attend college.

The GI Bill had a long-term impact on Northeastern and colleges throughout the nation that began to make accommodations for non-traditional students. By the 1949 spring semester, 133 NSC veterans had children. When the first veterans enrolled under the provisions of the GI Bill, Northeastern had housing only for single students,

²³ "Bill by Stigler Adds Acreage to NSC Campus," *Northeastern*, 24 September 1948, 4 [Actually 2]. "New Acreage Affords New Parking Space," *Northeastern*, 8 October 1948, 4. John Vaughan to State Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges, 3 April 1948, 2, 5 August 1948, 3, Information to Regents On Request For Capital Improvements, August 1948, NSU University Archives.

²⁴ Summary of Enrollment in statistics maintained by President John Vaughan, NSU University Archives. "Enrollment Reaches 1054 At Close of Second Week," *Northeastern*, 24 September 1948, 1. "Freshman Class To Choose Queen," *Northeastern*, 29 October 1948, 1. "Dating Odds Favor the Girls, Boys Outnumber Girls, 2-1," *Northeastern*, 19 November 1948, 3. "Northeastern Has More Vets Than Ever Before," *Northeastern*, 13 February 1949, 4.

and few accommodations in Tahlequah were suitable for families. Since the establishment of Vet Village in 1947, facilities for married students expanded and improved. While juggling the responsibilities of parenthood could have been used as an excuse to justify poor grades, Lawley observed, "as in other schools where notice has been made of the progress of married veterans, the fathers seem to make the best grades."²⁵

The growth of the college and pressure to decrease the student-faculty ratio produced another year of significant faculty expansion. Frank A. Vesley, B.S., A.M., University of Nebraska, was appointed associate professor of English. Calvin Turnbow, A.B., Northeastern State College, A.M., George Peabody College, joined the history department as an assistant professor. Vira E. Rigdon, A.B., University of Nebraska, A.M., University of California, Ph.D., University of Nebraska, was employed as a professor of earth science. Mary Haas, A.B., Lander College, M.S., University of Tennessee, was appointed an assistant professor of home economics. Mary Bell, B.S., Central State College, M.S., Oklahoma A&M College, was added to the department of business education as an associate professor. Marianne Bray, B.M., Cosmopolitan School of Music, M.M. Northwestern University, joined the faculty as an instructor of music. Martha Sims Markham, B.S., Oklahoma A&M College, returned to Northeastern as an instructor of physical education; she had taught in that department from 1931 to 1936. Edwin H. J. Marchant, B.S., M.S., University of Manitoba, Ph.D., McGill University, was hired as a professor of biology. C. Wayne Cravens, an Oklahoma A&M graduate, was added to the industrial arts department. When Zelma Scott resigned in late August, Maxwell O. White, A.B., A.M., Ph.D., University of Iowa, B.S. (Library Science), Columbia University, was hired to replace her in the history department.²⁶

The report of the North Central Association included a list of thirteen weaknesses identified by the inspectors who visited the campus in December. First on the list was an observation that "the institution makes inadequate use of the entire faculty in the development of policies and practices." Early in the fall semester a

²⁵ Duard Lawley "Vets On Campus Occupied At Home; Walking Babies Named Popular Fad," *Northeastern*, 13 May 1949, 2.

²⁶ "Faculty, New Buildings Aid Program," *Northeastern*, 24 September 1948, 3. "President Greets Faculty Members," "Dr. White From Iowa New Member of Faculty," *Northeastern*, 8 October 1948, 1. John Vaughan to State Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges, 9 September 1948.

fourteen-member faculty council was established as “an integral part of the Northeastern faculty organization in a new constitution which was adopted [in] the summer. It was inaugurated for the purpose of encouraging more democratic participation in the solution of all school problems which are of direct concern to the entire staff.”²⁷

Half the members of the council were elected at large by the faculty; those chosen in the first election included James Robinson, professor of speech and government and director of public relations, Ruth Allison, chairman of the department of art, E.H. Haworth, chairman of the department of business education, Dr. Merle Farnsworth, chairman of the department of foreign languages, Dr. Vaud Travis, professor of education, Dr. W.G. Johnson, professor of history, and W.C. Evans, associate professor of history. Non-elected members of the faculty council were drawn from the school’s executive committee. They included President Vaughan, Dean Bally, Registrar Bryan, Business Manager Scarce, Deneke, dean of student personnel, Woods, dean of men and freshman counselor, and Brown, director of teacher training and principal of Bagley training school. The council selected Dr. Bally as its chairman and James Robinson as vice chairman. Matters of school policy were to be considered by the faculty council, which would recommend action to the Faculty Association.²⁸

Another problem identified by the North Central inspectors was that “faculty salaries at Northeastern State College are very low, ranking the institution at the 13th [14 inserted above the line] percentile.”²⁹ In August, President Vaughan informed the Board of Regents for Oklahoma Colleges that faculty salaries at Northeastern were approximately twenty-five percent below those of comparable institutions in other states. Accepting his recommendation, the board approved a five percent raise retroactive to July 1.³⁰

To standardize the granting of faculty rank among the six institutions under the Regents for Oklahoma Colleges, the Council of Presidents, chaired by John Vaughan, recommended that the

²⁷ Northeastern State College Report to the Board of Review of the Commission on Colleges and Universities, North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, [1947], 38-39, NSU University Archives.

²⁸ “Bally, Robinson Head of Group,” *Northeastern*, 24 September 1948, 4 [actually 2].

²⁹ Northeastern State College Report to the Board of Review of the Commission on Colleges and Universities, North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, [1947], 5.

³⁰ John Vaughan to State Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges, 5 August 1948, 1, NSU University Archives. Minutes of the meeting of the State Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges, 11 September 1948, 2, Archives Oklahoma Department of Libraries.

board reaffirm the policy adopted by the State Board of Education in June of 1946 that minimum qualifications for the rank of professor and associate professor be sixty hours of graduate work, including a master's degree, and for assistant professor and instructor, a master's degree. In all cases, faculty members must have a major in graduate work in their teaching field. The recommendation was approved with an implementation date of July 1, 1951.

The president's council also recommended that a sabbatical policy be adopted by the regents granting leave at the rate of one year at half pay for six years of academic service. After two years of service, proportional leave at half pay could be granted. In all cases, faculty members were to post bond guaranteeing their return after the sabbatical. Policies were also recommended by the presidents concerning uniform retirement procedures, professional meetings, and a uniform insurance policy, all issues raised by North Central.³¹

To address the accreditation agency's concerns, Northeastern officials organized a North Central Committee on Institutional Studies. Chaired by Dr. Travis, who had attended a workshop sponsored by the Association at the University of Minnesota in August, the committee directed the work of four subcommittees involving almost the entire faculty. The subcommittees patterned on a model used at the University of Minnesota workshop included instructional improvement, general education, student personnel, and professional improvement. Committee members met throughout the school year evaluating existing practices and recommending revisions.³²

After Northeastern's application for accreditation was deferred, the college had been invited to participate in the self-study program involving nineteen other colleges from thirteen states. In early December, Dr. Ernest Mahan, the coordinator of a North Central-sponsored educational improvement program addressed a special meeting of the college faculty. Mahan's presentation was followed by meetings that summarized and evaluated the work of the North Central Institutional Studies committee, on which Vaud Travis represented the college. The all-day session provided school

³¹ Minutes of the meeting of the State Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges, 7 February 1949, 3-4; March 21, 1949, 1.

³² "Faculty Organizes Study Committee," *Northeastern*, 29 October 1948, 6. Report of Participation in North Central Association Committee on Institutions for Teacher Education Workshop, University of Minnesota, Summer 1948, by Vaud A. Travis. Meeting of the North Central Committee on Institutional Studies, 30 September 1948. NSU University Archives.

officials with ideas and advice they used in making the final revisions to the report they submitted to North Central early in the 1949 spring semester.³³

Northeastern's athletic program did not escape the scrutiny of the North Central inspectors who gave it "a relatively high ranking," except in the category of financial aid where they discovered a disproportionate percentage of male athletes were on the school payroll. Unfortunately, their preferential treatment was not reflected on the scoreboards of the school's two major sports. Even with twenty-two returning lettermen, the Redmen football team managed only one victory in conference play, finishing the season in last place. Local fans could listen to a play-by-play of local games because of Tahlequah merchants who financed their broadcast on Muskogee radio station KMUS.³⁴

The basketball team did little better winning six of their twenty-two games and notching a single victory in conference play, but fans were able to keep track of the scores of the games and the elapsed time because of a new electric scoreboard and four-foot clock installed in the men's gym, a \$500 gift of the "N" Club and the athletic council.³⁵

In spring sports, NSC teams did a little better. In its second season of baseball, the college team participated in league competition. Not only did the school purchase uniforms for their baseball players to prevent further taunting by properly-clad opponents, the team completed its second season with a record of ten wins and six losses. Redmen tennis players advanced to the finals of the conference tournament in Edmond in both singles and doubles play. For the first time in school history the Redmen fielded a golf team. Coached by D.M. Wadley, in its debut season, the team finished first in the conference tournament, and Clyde Glover, a Tulsa senior, narrowly edged out his teammate, Bob Inman of Tulsa, for the individual championship. In boxing six returning lettermen gave the NSC squad more experience but no team victories in matches against the University of Oklahoma, Murray A&M, and

³³ "Dr. Ernest Mahan To Speak To N.E. Faculty," *Tahlequah Star-Citizen*, 9 December 1948, 1.

³⁴ Northeastern State College Report to the Board of Review of the Commission on Colleges and Universities, North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, [1947]. "The Coaching Staff and Athletic Council," "The Football Season," *Tsa La Gi*, 1949, 104-11. "Merchants Sponsor Game Broadcasts," *Northeastern*, 8 October 1948, 2.

³⁵ "The Basketball Season," *Tsa La Gi*, 1949, 111-13. "Scoreboard & Clock Added At College Basketball Gym," *Tahlequah Star-Citizen*, 2 December 1948, 1.

teams from Springfield, Missouri, and Fort Smith, Arkansas.³⁶ So few students answered the call for track practice in the spring that Coach Wadley decided the school would not field a team.³⁷

Eighteen students including three returning lettermen answered the call for volunteers for the debate squad early in the fall semester.³⁸ The NSC band had not recovered the size and visibility that had characterized its pre-war years. With the beginning of the fall semester, the forty-five-member organization, described as "revitalized," received new uniforms, which had been on order for two years. The West Point-style tunics and trousers were grey trimmed in Northeastern green and white colors. The shakos were topped with ostrich plumes. Norman White, who assumed direction of the band in November 1947, hoped to have it back to its pre-war size within a year. With the arrival of the new uniforms, he planned make it more visible by participating in parades and community celebrations throughout the area.³⁹

Although the college offered no classes in Indian history, culture, or language, the administration building, the annual reunion of Cherokee seminary students, and many of its current students were a constant reminder of its connection to the seminary the Cherokees established for their daughters in 1851. In an informal survey conducted in the fall of 1948, Richard Vesley, Tahlequah freshman, was unable to determine if the college had more Cherokees enrolled than the seminary, but he was certain that the college could claim a greater variety of students from other tribes. In an unscientific and hasty poll, he counted students representing seven different tribes—Cherokee, Choctaw, Creeks, Pawnee, Delaware, Kiowa, and Apache. Graduates of at least three different Indian schools were represented in the Northeastern student body—Haskell, Bacone, and Sequoyah. He estimated that approximately sixty half- to full-blood Indians were enrolled. Not surprisingly, he found that most of Northeastern's Indian students were Cherokees, including at least four full-bloods. Vesley concluded, "we can rest assured that Northeastern not only has a rich Indian heritage from years past but also is adding to that endowment year by year as more and more young Indians find at Northeastern the fulfillment of their

³⁶ "The Boxing Season," "Baseball," "Tennis," *Tsa La Gi*, 1949, 114-17.

³⁷ "Interest Wanes In Track and Field," *Northeastern*, 1 April 1949, 4.

³⁸ "Debaters Study New Topic—"Federal Aid For Education," *Northeastern*, 8 October 1948, 1.

³⁹ "NSC Band Struts In New Uniforms," *Northeastern*, 8 October 1948, 1, "NE Music Department Moves to New Building," *Tahlequah Citizen*, 26 August 1948, 7.

educational ideals.”⁴⁰

Northeastern, like all institutions with long histories, resembled a kaleidoscope in a state of continuous change. Students, faculty members, organizations, programs, and courses were constantly evolving. At the beginning of the spring semester of 1949, Mary Bell, hired as an instructor in the commercial department the previous September, was granted a leave of absence to complete work on a doctorate. Lucylle Durkee, A.B., East Central State College, A.M., University of Oklahoma, was hired as a replacement instructor of business education and remained at the college after Bell’s return.⁴¹ Wilhelmina Barton, supervisor of social studies at Bagley for the past twelve years requested a sabbatical for the spring semester and submitted her resignation effective at the semester’s end. She was replaced on a temporary basis by Dolores Rowe, B.S., Northeastern. After completing her A.M. from the University of Oklahoma, her appointment was made permanent. Dennie D. Jones, A.B., Northeastern, who had been assistant librarian at the Bagley training school, was transferred to the college library.⁴²

In response to a request from the Veterans Administration, the college developed a non-credit maintenance-mechanics program, which offered training in carpentry, woodworking, painting, plumbing, electrical work, metal shop, masonry and concrete work and automobile maintenance. The twenty-two-month course of instruction, President Vaughan observed, “will not only be an excellent course for undergraduate men, but will enable us to do a great deal of work about the College with these men while they are on the job learning this particular type of work.” The program offered college-level vocational instruction for veterans who were not academically qualified to pursue bachelor’s degrees.⁴³ Alvin Vineyard, who had wide practical experience in the various skills, was employed to supervise and teach the program. The course quickly reached its quota of twenty students who attended six hours a day, two in classroom instruction and four practicing the skills

⁴⁰ Richard Vesley, “Indian Roll Call Today Shows Smaller Total But Greater Variety of Tribes,” *Northeastern*, 29 October 1948, 2.

⁴¹ “Miss Durkee To Supply For Instructor on Leave,” *Northeastern*, 21 January 1949, 1. John Vaughan to State Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges, 3 February 1949, NSU University Archives.

⁴² John Vaughan to State Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges, 3 February 1949, 22 November 1948, and 19 March 1949, NSU University Archives.

⁴³ John Vaughan to State Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges, 3 February 1949, NSU University Archives.

they learned in class. Although they were not candidates for degrees, the maintenance-mechanics students received the same benefits as regularly enrolled students under the GI Bill and enjoyed the same access to college services, including housing, infirmary, and student activities.⁴⁴

New or infrequently offered classes in music, biology, economics, business education, geography, history, and physical education were introduced in the spring semester to give students more variety and broader options in developing their courses of study.⁴⁵ Fannie Baker offered a course in scientific German, which was designed to improve the ability of science majors to read articles about physics, chemistry and biology written in German.⁴⁶ Sociology, an academic discipline that almost disappeared during the war, rebounded rapidly in the post-war era. Although sociology had only eight majors and twenty-seven minors in the spring of 1949, classes in the subject attracted many students majoring in teaching, pre-law, and other fields in which an understanding of human nature was helpful. H.D. Boggan, department chairman, estimated that nearly ten percent of all students were enrolled in sociology classes each semester.⁴⁷

Teacher training, which had declined during the war and attracted few veterans immediately afterward, enjoyed a resurgence late in the decade, stimulated by a pressing shortage in the public schools. The spring semester of 1949 produced the largest number of students enrolled in practice teaching since the pre-war years according to Luther D. Brown, head of the education department, who noted that "practically none" of the students expressed an interest in elementary teaching where the greatest shortage existed. Of the 136 students enrolled in practice teaching, the areas that attracted most prospective teachers were shop, physical education, commerce, social science, and science.⁴⁸

The home economics department introduced an evening course for women unable to attend classes during the day. The members of the department, Nadene Harris, Mary Haas, and Pearl Crawford, offered instruction on a variety of topics from meal planning to

⁴⁴ John Vaughan to State Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges, 19 March 1949. "New Vets Course Now Under Way," *Northeastern*, 20 May 1949, 2.

⁴⁵ "College to Add New Courses Next Semester," *Northeastern*, 21 January 1949, 3.

⁴⁶ "New German Course Offered NSC Scientists," *Northeastern*, 21 January 1949, 4 [actually 2].

⁴⁷ "Sociology Is Favorite Field at Northeastern," *Northeastern*, 18 February 1949, 1.

⁴⁸ "NSC Has Largest Student Teacher Crop Since War," *Northeastern*, 4 February 1949, 1.

clothing selection in classes that had no tuition, prerequisites, or credit. Public response was almost overwhelming; 135 students, including 6 men, enrolled in the three courses. To enable mothers to attend, a playschool was established to provide care for small children. Because of the large numbers of people attending the classes, home economics students were used to assist with the instruction.⁴⁹

A variety of new organizations began in the 1948-49 school year. The wives of members of the faculty organized an auxiliary in October and elected Mrs. L. P. Woods as their first president.⁵⁰ Female students also met in October and formed a nine-member Women's Student Government Board to facilitate "closer cooperation among the different groups of women students in serving the needs of all women students." Anna Swartwood of Bixby, wife of Buford Swartwood, a veteran attending the college on the GI Bill, was elected the group's first chairman.⁵¹

In November, the Square and Compass organized with the encouragement of President Vaughan. A service club affiliated with the Masons, the organization's first president was Malcolm Craig of Stilwell. Membership was restricted to those who had attained the Blue Lodge degree of Master Mason. N.N. Duncan served as the organization's faculty sponsor.⁵²

Oo-Na-Le, organized on the Northeastern campus in 1933, like many organizations, had been inactive during the war. In November, seventeen Indian students, representing nine different tribes, revived the club and elected Marland Aitson, a Kiowa from Ganada, Arizona, president. The NSC chapter re-affiliated with Itt-A-Naha [Ittanaha], a state association of college Indian clubs. At its April 1950 meeting on the Bacone College campus, Aitson was elected president of the state organization. The Northeastern chapter was co-sponsored by Mary Bell and Fannie Baker. Club members were in demand throughout the region for the colorful, Plains Indian war dances they performed at civic clubs, folk festivals, and school events.⁵³

⁴⁹ "Evening Classes In Homemaking Started Here," *Northeastern*, 18 February 1949, 3. "Home Economic Department Offers Evening Courses; First Class Held Last Night," *Northeastern*, 4 March 1949, 1. "Home Ec Students Help Teach Adult Cooking Classes," *Northeastern*, 13 May 1949, 3.

⁵⁰ "Mrs. Woods Heads New Campus Club," *Northeastern*, 29 October 1948, 5.

⁵¹ "Anna Swartwood Heads New Board," *Northeastern*, 29 October 1948, 5.

⁵² "First Masonic Club Started On Campus," *Northeastern*, 19 November 1948, 1. "Square and Compass Club," *Tsa La Gi*, 1949, 137.

⁵³ "Indian Society To Be Revived," *Northeastern*, 19 November 1948, 2. "'Oo-Na-Le' Group Is

Two other organizations that had not survived the war reorganized late in the decade. On December 8, a chapter of Pi Omega Pi, a national honorary fraternity for business education majors, was re-installed on the Northeastern campus. Designed to improve and raise the standards of business education, the organization had first established a chapter at Northeastern in 1930. The new chapter's first president was Curtis Class of Pawnee, and its faculty sponsor was Mary Bell.⁵⁴

Before the war members of the band had organized a chapter of Kappa Kappa Psi, a national intercollegiate fraternity for bandsmen. In early 1949, members of the Northeastern band reorganized the chapter and sought to renew their national affiliation.⁵⁵

A College Music Club was organized in November with Orvind White of Coweta as its first president and T.L. Pittenger as faculty sponsor. The group sponsored an open house at the new music building in December. The members hoped to affiliate with a national Greek-letter organization or the National Federation of Music Clubs, but it was active for only two years.⁵⁶ Independent students had organized in 1940, but their association did not survive the war. In 1946, unaffiliated students resurrected their organization, which did not secure college recognition until 1948. Motivated in part by a desire to challenge the domination of the Greeks in the political and social life of the college, the Independent Students Association (ISA) shared many of the objectives of Northeastern's social fraternities and sororities. The ISA invited "any students who have not already found themselves a social niche on the campus" to join them Tuesday evening, "fraternity night."⁵⁷

For years, student dances had attracted large numbers of Independents and Greeks, but no one had formed a dancing club. In the spring of 1949, students interested in square dancing organized and elected Charles Norman of Muskogee, as the first president of

Reorganized," *Northeastern*, 17 March 1950, 3. "Local Indian Club Has Large Agenda," *Northeastern*, 7 April 1950, 4. "Aitson New Chief Of Itt-A-Naha," *Northeastern*, 28 April 1950, 2. "Northeastern Indian Club In Ozark Folk Festival," "WAA IS Hostess To OAF CW Tomorrow; Indians Will Romp," *Northeastern*, 13 October 1950, 1.

⁵⁴ "Business Frat To Install Chapter at NSC," *Northeastern*, 3 December 1948, 3. "Pi Omega Pi," *Tsa La Gi*, 1950, 132.

⁵⁵ "Nat'l. Band Frat To Be Reactivated," *Northeastern*, 4 February 1949, 1.

⁵⁶ "Music Club Organizes," *Northeastern*, 19 November 1948, 3. "Music Club Invites Inspection Their New Building," *Northeastern*, 3 December 1948, 1. "College Music Club," *Tsa La Gi*, 1950, 133.

⁵⁷ "Independents Plan to Affiliate in NIA," *Northeastern*, 3 December 1948, 1. "Independent Students Association," *Tsa La Gi*, 1950, 134.

Northeastern's Square Dance Club. The organization's first activity was an all-school square dance.⁵⁸

Members of the student council decided that after twenty-three years the constitution of the student association needed revision and clarification. After considerable discussion, a single proposal to add an additional, at-large member to the student council was submitted to a campus-wide vote and approved by a margin of 228 to 7.⁵⁹

Despite the apparent eagerness of students to form and join organizations, the number of clubs and activities and the academic and social demands of college life made it difficult for many organizations to attract enough members on a regular basis to realize the goals for which they existed. Alpha Phi Omega, a Boy Scout service fraternity established at NSC in 1939, was one of many organizations that had not survived the war. Efforts to revive it in 1949 never moved beyond the talking stage.⁶⁰ A *Tsa-La-Gi* columnist addressed this issue in an editorial inspired by the demise of a campus organization. Noting the sparse attendance that threatened many of the school's clubs, the writer urged students to support the school's extracurricular activities and organization and warned that "other clubs will die if you don't support them."⁶¹ Despite the appeal, clubs and activities organized with considerable fanfare and enthusiasms often withered and disappeared as student interests shifted.

Attendance at the periodic assemblies was also waning; no longer mandatory nor weekly, they drew fewer students despite increasing enrollment. The editor of the student newspaper observed, "Northeastern students have been neglecting to attend the assemblies in the college auditorium." Noting that a recent lecture drew only 200, almost half faculty, she urged, "every student on campus try to be in the auditorium at the appointed time."⁶²

Most students reached Tahlequah by car, often on roads not yet paved; a few arrived at Northeastern on buses, which offered regular service to the college town. Although commuters remained a distinct minority, students from nearby communities sometimes opted to live at home and drive to campus. Despite narrow, twisting, and

⁵⁸ "The Square Dance Revival Hits NE," *Tahlequah Star-Citizen*, 28 April 1949, [2]. "Square Dances Call First Practice," *Northeastern*, 29 April 1949, 3.

⁵⁹ "Shall the Constitution Be Changed?" *Northeastern*, 18 February 1949, 2. "Amendment Adopted," 13 May 1949, 1.

⁶⁰ "Former Boy Scouts To Have Fraternity," *Northeastern*, 14 October 1949, 3.

⁶¹ "Where Were You?" *Northeastern*, 18 March 1949, 2.

⁶² "Have You Been in Assembly Lately?" *Northeastern*, 1 April 1949, 2.

sometime unsurfaced roads, a few students elected to commute from long distances. In the fall semester of 1949, Evelyn Lay, superintendent of Nowata County schools, drove 630 miles a week to take nine hours she needed to complete her bachelor's degree. Gladys Miers and Bertha Smith, both public school teachers from Heavener enrolled in Saturday classes and rose at 2 a.m. to travel by train from their hometown to Sallisaw where they carpoled the rest of the way to Tahlequah to take an 8 a.m. class. Another carpool began in Fort Smith with two students, picked up two more students in Muldrow and a final two in Sallisaw. These early commuters probably had no idea that they were pioneering a trend that would have a profound impact on Northeastern and much of higher education in the decades to come.⁶³

As the school approached its fortieth year, a few members of the college community took advantage of a new form of transportation seldom imagined by the students in the first years of the normal school. In early December, Mid-Continent Airlines in Muskogee offered extra flights for the benefit of out-of-state students or faculty members planning long trips during the holidays. Fare to New Orleans was \$33.15, Kansas City, \$16.55, and Minneapolis, \$44.⁶⁴

Once in Tahlequah, most students were pedestrians since American families at mid-century usually had only one car, but the growing number of vehicles on campus contributed to traffic problems on Muskogee Avenue and forced the city council to enact a city traffic code. The speed limit on Muskogee from South Street to the college was lowered to fifteen miles an hour, U-turns were outlawed except at intersections, and parking was prohibited in front of the movie theaters, public buildings, and fire hydrants. Traffic congestion was not confined to Muskogee Avenue; it spread across the campus. A student editor wrote, "The original planners of Northeastern hardly foresaw the automobile and parking problems so we have a traffic jam over the whole campus." He admonished those with cars to "watch those speedy takeoffs, those squalling turns. There is a time and place for everything, and the cemetery waits for the speed boys."⁶⁵

In December, the student newspaper reported on the Tahlequah

⁶³ "Nowata Commuter Drives 630 Miles to NSC Each Week," "Saturday Students Have Difficulties," *Northeastern*, 2 December 1949, 2.

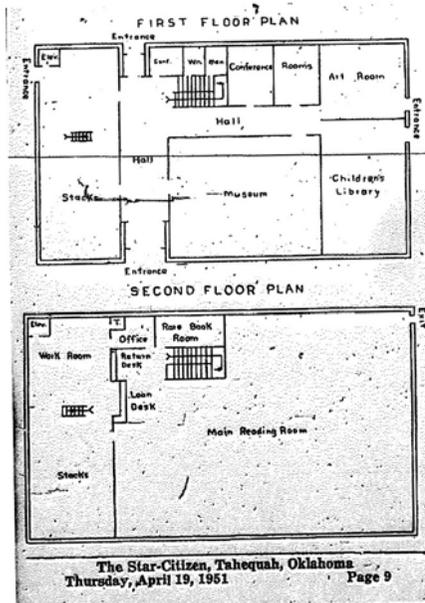
⁶⁴ "Extra Flights To Supplement Holiday Travel," *Northeastern*, 3 December 1948, 2.

⁶⁵ "New Traffic Code Adopted by City," *Tahlequah Star-Citizen*, 20 October 1949, 1. "Paging All Fools!" *Northeastern*, 11 November 1949, 2.

National Guard unit that was recruiting men to reach its authorized strength. Forty-one Northeastern students were members of the Tahlequah company, including its commanding officer Captain David P. Roye, who was a sophomore from Stigler by day. The National Guard was particularly attractive to former servicemen who could join with advanced rank and increased pay because of their years of service in World War II. Serving in the Forty-fifth seemed an ideal way to add a few dollars each month to GI Bill checks. Despite the perils of the Cold War, prospects that the National Guard would be called into federal service seemed remote. For the next eighteen months, no one regretted the decision to take advantage of the economic opportunity offered by devoting a night a week and a couple of weeks in the summer to Oklahoma's famed Thunderbirds.⁶⁶

At the beginning of the spring semester of 1949, the long-anticipated library building opened just before the rapidly expanding collection outgrew its old home. Within a year, the library accessioned its 50,000th volume; in addition the collection included

3,000 periodicals and half a million government documents. Within the state, only the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma A&M College had larger library collections. After years cramped on the first floor of the east wing of the administration building, the library's new accommodations were spacious. The terrazzo floors and marble staircase to the main reading room rivaled the elegance of libraries of the state's two principal institutions of higher learning, and the glass-walled room just east of the main entrance, dedicated to the



school's collection of artifacts, provided a home for the museum, which opened the first week of May in time for the annual seminary

⁶⁶ "Local National Guard Unit Draws Members From NSC," *Northeastern*, 17 December 1948, 4 [the page is misnumbered; it is actually 2].

reunion.⁶⁷

Members of the college's museum committee, chaired by Dr. T.L. Ballenger, visited the newly opened Will Rogers Museum in Claremore to study the arrangement of its collection and get ideas for organizing and displaying artifacts gathered over the past forty years. Although Northeastern's collection had earned the praise of officials from the Smithsonian Institution, the school, without the financial support available to the Claremore museum, had to refurbish old display cases and could not afford a professional curator. Dennie Jones, recently transferred from Bagley to the new college library, was appointed to oversee the museum in addition to her duties as the children's librarian. She prepared historic paintings, photographs, and documents for display, adjusted the lighting for glass cases of beads, weavings, and other Cherokee handicraft, and arranged rifles, cannon balls, and other weapons, some dating from the Civil War. For almost three decades the college's collection remained housed in the library, a source of pride to those who had assembled it, but decreasing interest to those less familiar with history the artifacts represented.⁶⁸

Rare documents principally dealing with American Indians were secured in an area of restricted access known as the "Cherokee Room." One of the library seminar rooms on the first floor was converted into a faculty reading room with a selection of books and periodicals of general interest to the school's instructional staff. Several weeks after the library opened, the first shipment of some six hundred new books ordered for the new children's collection was received. For students at Bagley and undergraduates majoring in elementary education, the children's reading room on the first floor of the south east side of the new building supplemented the departmental libraries in the Bagley building.⁶⁹

The transfer of the library from the administration building enabled workers to begin the job of converting its old quarters into additional academic and administrative space. Four new classrooms, a lounge for female faculty members, and an office for Dr. Wesley

⁶⁷ "New Building Ready For Use," *Northeastern*, 21 January 1949, 1. "Library Receives High Rating," *Northeastern*, 7 April 1950, 2.

⁶⁸ Ibid. "Cherokee Museum Nearly Complete," *Northeastern*, 29 April 1949, 1. "NSC Museum To Open First Week In May," *Northeastern*, 13 May 1949, 4. "Cherokee Museum To Be Opened," *Tahlequah Star-Citizen*, 14 April 1949, 1.

⁶⁹ "Committee Studies Claremore Displays," *Northeastern*, 18 February 1949, 3. "First Books Arrive For Training Library," "Faculty Reading Room To Aid in Special Work," *Northeastern*, 13 February 1949, 1 and 3.

Deneke, dean of student personnel, were created from the old library.⁷⁰ Originally planned as a new home for the home economics department, two of the classrooms were assigned to the foreign language department; one was used for mechanical drawing, and the last was shared by Dr. Bally and R.K. Jaggard.⁷¹

In the spring of 1949, Northeastern submitted information requested by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in March of 1948 when it deferred the college's request for membership. Specifically, the association sought information concerning the faculty, library, and finances. The secretary of North Central had sent President Vaughan a pattern map that provided a comparison of NSC and other colleges in a chart that revealed at a glance areas in which the Tahlequah school's ranking was low.⁷²

Northeastern's response documented steps taken in the past year to address areas of concern.⁷³ Faculty credentials had improved in every category, and personnel without terminal degrees were encouraged to return to graduate school with a generous sabbatical leave policy. In-service training was augmented by a two-day workshop at the beginning of the 1948 academic year, and all members of the faculty were involved in committees studying instructional improvements, general education, student personnel and guidance, and professional improvement. In addition, all faculty members were encouraged to attend national and regional professional conferences. Faculty meetings were held monthly, and minutes of all meetings were recorded and retained. Through these meetings and the newly established faculty council, the instructional staff was made part of the decision-making process.

The structure of the college was streamlined by reducing the number of departments from twenty at the time of the inspection in 1947 to thirteen in the spring semester of 1949 when the college's report was submitted to North Central. The inspectors had rated the college's general education requirements at the twenty-two percent

⁷⁰ "Old Library Wing Being Transformed To Variety of Uses," *Northeastern*, 13 February 1949, 3.

⁷¹ "Old Library Wing Is Now In Use," *Northeastern*, 1 April 1949, 3.

⁷² Norman Burns to John Vaughan, 18 March 1949, NSU University Archives.

⁷³ Unless otherwise noted the information in the following paragraphs relating to North Central accreditation is drawn from the following documents: Northeastern State College Report to the Board of Review of the Commission on Colleges and Universities, North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, [1947] and Northeastern State College, Tahlequah, Oklahoma, Information on North Central Association Application Since Visit of the Examiners, [spring semester, 1949]. Both documents may be found in the Northeastern State University University Archives.

level because they "found little evidence of a carefully designed program." Changes in the requirements, under consideration at the time of the inspection, were implemented in 1948; freshmen and sophomore-level work had required greater concentration in a few subjects. Under the new structure, students were exposed to more topics, but in less depth. General education requirements for education and non-education majors had been different in 1947; by the beginning of the 1949 academic year, they were identical. Under the new requirements students had to complete six hours of English classes that emphasized communication skills, five to six hours of humanities, twelve hours of social sciences, eight hours of natural science, six hours of health and physical education, and a one-hour freshman orientation course. The new lower division requirements allowed students to begin taking courses in their major during their sophomore year. School officials also abandoned the three-point grade system, which had been in effect since the college switched from counting classes to credit-hours in the early 1920s. Beginning with the 1949-50 academic year, an "A" was counted as four points, a "B" 3, a "C" 2, a "D" 1, and an "F" 0.

Based on the grade distribution for the 1946-47 academic year, the school's grading system was ranked at the ten-percent level because "the marks reported for students are consistently high, with marked variation from instructor to instructor." "Education" courses were singled out because ninety-nine percent of students received a grade of "A," "B," or "C." In his response, President Vaughan presented grade distributions charts for both semesters of 1947-48 and the fall semester of 1948-49. These charts revealed a grade distribution considerably lower than that of 1946-47 school year. Vaughan also reported that average semester grades were graphed and distributed to all members of the faculty with their grades compared to the school average.

NSC's library was rated below average for both the facility and the collection. By the time the school resubmitted its report, the new library building had been completed and so many books had been ordered to fill gaps in the collection that the school's catalogers were overwhelmed. Vaughan was able to report improvement in the library facility, its holdings,⁷⁴ and student and faculty usage in 1949.⁷⁴

In 1947 student personnel services at the college had been rated "passable, but not outstanding." Within a year, the college had

⁷⁴ "Library Receives High Rating," *Northeastern*, 7 April 1950, 2.

employed a full-time dean of student personnel and began administering a battery of entrance tests. Files were developed for all students to improve counseling, and a sophomore-testing program was instituted to evaluate students during their fourth semester of college work. This second round of diagnostic examinations not only enabled school officials to gauge the effectiveness of their general education component in comparison to other colleges, it also provided useful information for counseling and career advisement. By 1952, testing focused on three areas, English and reading, achievement in the fields covered in the general education sequence, and current events. Northeastern students were among 20,000 sophomores nationally who took the exam in 170 colleges in 37 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia.⁷⁵

Although the school had received high marks on its student-work program, additional funds were allocated to provide more on-campus jobs. In virtually every other area criticized by the inspectors, Vaughan reported improvement. Based on this report, North Central granted Northeastern full membership at its meeting on March 30, 1949.

Perhaps, no other event in the history of Northeastern produced as much change and improvement as the school's quest for accreditation following World War II. North Central's realistic evaluation of the school and its curriculum compelled state lawmakers and educational leaders to address the school's major problem—chronic underfunding. Northeastern and other Oklahoma institutions of higher learning faced periods of financial austerity during the next sixty years, but none of them approached the magnitude and length of the financial crisis that confronted the college throughout the Great Depression and World War II. The economic prosperity following the war and enlightened attitudes in Oklahoma City enabled Northeastern to provide a sound education to the veterans who threatened to overwhelm its facilities and faculty, atrophied by the depression and war.

In meeting the standards set by North Central, the school positioned itself to address the even larger challenge of providing education for the sons and daughters of those veterans, the baby-

⁷⁵ "Aptitude Tests Schedule Is Underway in Five Fields," *Northeastern*, 11 November 1949, 3. "Sophomores Scheduled For Annual Tests For Third Year," *Northeastern*, 3 March 1950, 1. Sophomore Test Scheduled March 18-19 At Northeastern," *Northeastern*, 7 March 1952, 1.

boom generation. To ensure that Northeastern remained alert to changes in theory and technology that would affect future accreditation evaluations, in April, twenty-nine NSC faculty members and administrators attended a two-day regional NCA conference on the improvement of teacher education in Pittsburgh, Kansas. Doctors Bally, Deneke, and Travis were all on the program. Throughout the next year, faculty committees worked in cooperation with North Central in studying instructional improvement, general education, professional education, and personnel guidance. In March of 1950, Dr. Ernest Mahan, coordinator of studies for North Central, spent two days meeting with the committees and discussing the NCA's goals. Early the next month, two deans and three faculty members attend an NCA-sponsored educational workshop in Cedar Falls, Iowa. Dr. Travis chaired a session dealing with professional education at the meeting attended by representatives from more than one hundred colleges in twenty states.⁷⁶

⁷⁶ "Report of NCA Meeting Received by Dr. Travis," *Northeastern*, 14 October 1949, 4 [actually 2]. "North Central Leader Visits NSC Campus," *Northeastern*, 17 March 1950, 2, "Faculty Members Attend Education Workshop," *Northeastern*, 7 April 1950, 2. Minutes of the meeting of the State Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges, 18 April 1949, 1.