

The Week:

This week, NSU and the Entrepreneurial Accelerator Program (EAP), a division of the Biomedical Research Foundation (BRF), partnered to bring the inaugural *Inferno Pitch* competition to our campus. The *Inferno Pitch* was an entrepreneurial and business competition intended to provide NSU students with experience in developing a commercial product from inception to pitching the product to investors. More than 40 NSU student teams took part in the inaugural competition. Thanks to Dr. Carmella Parker for spearheading this effort and for the assistance of many College of Business and Technology faculty for making the event a huge success. The winning teams received a cash prize, a scholarship to Louisiana Startup Prize 2019, a scholarship to the Patent Academy and six months of professional services from the Entrepreneurial Accelerator Program.

Also this week, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) announced its 2017-18 Graduation Success Rate (GSR) study results. Since the NCAA created the GSR 14 years ago, NSU's current 78 percent rate is the best in school history and an increase of four percent over last year. This year's athletic department GSR is over seven percent better than NSU Athletics' average since 2004-2005. Thanks to our athletics academic staff, athletic director Greg Burke, Faculty Athletics Representative Jody Biscoe and the faculty and staff for your important role in assisting our student-athletes.

My Week:

Sunday evening, Greg Burke and I had dinner with administrators with the Louisiana High School Athletic Association to review last minute logistics for the LHSAA State Cross Country Championships.

Monday morning, I met with Dr. Darlene Williams and then with a prospective student and his family. At noon, I stopped by our Lady Demon Basketball game against LeTourneau University. Later, I spent time at the LHSAA Cross Country Championships.

Tuesday morning, I stopped by the LHSAA State Cross Country Championships. The event brought over 2,000 student-athletes and thousands of parents and spectators to campus. Thanks to our athletic and university facility staff for doing an amazing job hosting this major outdoor event in two days of inclement weather.

At noon, I joined Dr. Margaret Kilcoyne, Dr. Begona Perez-Mira, Dr. Eddie Horton, Dr. Mark Melder, Curtis Pernod, Suzette Hadden and Jerona Washington in Bossier City at the Cyber Innovation Luncheon. National Integrated Cyber Education Research Center, NICERC, Director of Academic Outreach Kevin Nolten was the keynote speaker, and the event provided our CIS faculty the opportunity to meet with high school students interested in cyber technology and programming.

Wednesday morning, Dawn Mitchell, Dr. Vickie Gentry, Jerry Pierce, Pat Jones and I had a conference call with Hanna Ruffreidge, Economist with Emsi to finalize an economic impact study that we are undertaking. Afterwards, LTC Wendell Bender and I met with Col. Joe Vongs, Commander, 6th Brigade, US Army Cadet Command, who was on campus touring our ROTC program.

Later, Jerry Pierce, Greg Burke, Pat Jones, Roxanne Freeman and I met with the Legislative Auditors for the NCAA Legislative Audit entrance conference. At noon, Jennifer and I hosted the Registrar's Office staff for lunch at the President's Residence.

Wednesday afternoon, I met with NSU SGA President Jacob Ellis and later met with the Strategic Planning team.

Wednesday evening, I attended a dinner with several Natchitoches area business leaders.

Thursday, I joined a large group of faculty, staff and students for the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperative Endeavor between NSU and KTBS-TV-3, Shreveport. The agreement will greatly enhance the New Media, Journalism and Communication Arts program at NSU. In this ever-changing field, our students will have internships and strategic opportunities as we prepare our next generation of journalists.

Afterwards, I attended funeral services for Dr. Tommy Dunagan. Tommy taught printing and drafting at NSU and oversaw the NSU print shop for many years.

At noon, Jerry Pierce and I had lunch with KTBS executives at the KTBS Community Caravan luncheon downtown. Thursday afternoon, Dr. Gentry, Dr. Williams and I met about online adult education initiatives.

Thursday evening, I traveled to Nacogdoches to watch our NSU football team defeat Stephen F. Austin University on a very chilly evening! It was exciting to bring Chief Caddo back to campus!

Friday morning, Dr. Gentry and I met on academic matters and later I met with the Long Purple Line Selection Committee to continue the process of selecting honorees for this year's induction class.

Friday afternoon, I attended ceremonies downtown where Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser recognized two local businesses, Exchange Bank and Kaffie Frederick General Mercantile Store, with special awards.

Friday evening, I attended the Southland Conference Volleyball tournament to watch our Lady Demons play University of Central Arkansas match at Prather Coliseum.

Best wishes to everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, and as always, please let me know if you have any questions, comments or suggestions.

Fork 'em Demons,

Chris