

## IN MEMORY

*This past year, Northeastern State lost two of its influential and generous alumni, Francis Wheeler and Robert Roady. Both members of the NSU Foundation Board of Trustees, Wheeler was a longtime supporter of the university's athletic programs, and Roady had established a scholarship fund for students at NSU.*



### Francis Edward Wheeler

1934-2009

**Francis Edward Wheeler**, a longtime supporter of NSU and its athletic department, passed away on Sunday, Dec. 13, 2009, at age 75.

Wheeler was born in Pawnee on Oct. 24, 1934, to Antoine and Ruby Bell Burnett Wheeler. He graduated from Pawhuska High School in 1951 and attended Tonkawa Junior College, where he played football and basketball. In 1953, he enrolled at NSU and earned honors in basketball and football. He graduated with a secondary education degree in 1955.

Wheeler began his career as a teacher and coach, and he later moved to the collegiate level. At the time of his passing, he was a member of the executive council for the NSU Athletic Associa-

tion. Francis was instrumental in generating thousands of dollars for NSU's student-athletes to enjoy their college experience. He served on the Foundation Board of Trustees and in 2005 he was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame. In 2008 he chaired the Hall of Fame Committee.

*"People at Northeastern have always been helpful to me. They mentored me after I got here, and many of the people who have helped me through the years have been graduates of Northeastern. If I've done anything, it's been to bring people together and get them involved. One of the wisest things I've ever done was to join the NSU Foundation and the Alumni Association."*

Francis Wheeler, 2005



### Robert R. Roady

1927-2010

A distinguished alumnus of NSU, **Robert R. Roady**, 82, passed away on Jan. 4, 2010.

Roady was born in Paris, Ark. on August 7, 1927. After attending Northeastern from 1946-48, Roady graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science in Geological Engineering. He retired from the oil industry in 1985, where as a geological engineer he worked for several oil companies in Oklahoma and Texas.

Roady served in the U.S. Navy before marrying his wife, Norma, in 1953. He was involved in the Oklahoma City and Houston Geological Societies, as well as Boy Scouts, the Houston

Petroleum Club, and the VFW. Roady was a Life Member of the NSU Alumni Association and served on the NSU Foundation Board of Trustees. Roady and his wife were members of the NSU Foundation's Seminary Society, which includes donors who have contributed at least \$100,000 to the university. The NSU Alumni Association named him a Distinguished Alumnus in 2006.

*"I'm so grateful to Northeastern for getting me started on a good career. The Charitable Gift Annuity offered us the perfect way to establish a scholarship fund for deserving students."*

Bob Roady, 1999