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Second in Forum Series Address Separation of Church and State

Miami, Okla. (Friday, February 5, 2010) -- The Humanities Forum hosted by Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, in conjunction with the Oklahoma Humanities Council and Chapters, will continue on Thursday, February 11 with a discussion on the Bill of Rights and the separation of church and state. Those who participate will examine the initial interpretation of the Bill of Rights established during the Jefferson Administration. Participants will then review the nine Supreme Court cases that have challenged it.

The forum will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Chapters, located at 31 N. Main in Miami. There is no cost to attend, and refreshments will be served.

Art Whaley, NEO mass communications instructor, will serve as the moderator.

Whaley was originally scheduled to lead another forum in late January regarding the effects of television and internet news on life and public policy. This forum was cancelled due to inclement weather, but has been rescheduled for Tuesday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Chapters. Emphasis will be placed on how the public's thirst for quick information in the internet age has impacted current events and news reporting. Whaley's discussion will also examine whether news agencies have become more political and less objective in their coverage.

All conversations will be conducted in a manner ensuring that all ideas and opinions are treated with respect and consideration.

The Humanities Forum began as a pilot project in Oklahoma City in the summer of 2009, said Ann Neal, Miami resident and vice chair of the OHC Board. These programs are funded in part by the Oklahoma Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed during them do not necessarily represent those of NEO, Chapters, OHC or NEH.

Donna Hale, first lady of the college and NEO nutrition instructor, led a forum discussion on Feb. 4. Participants examined the history of advertising and debated how the media shapes our society.

Those with questions regarding any of the forums may contact Christen Stark, NEO director of public relations and marketing, at (918) 540-6211.