aCAdemicS: The Newsletter of the SWOSU College of Arts and Sciences

Peter Grant

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**Protect Your Joy**

Several weeks ago the Department of Biological Sciences was informed by an alumnus that Dr. Henry Kirkland passed away. Henry was a member of the Biology faculty for 25 years. During the memorial service, friends and family reflected on his life and his accomplishments.

Many people commented on Henry’s ever present smile, no matter the circumstance. He wore that smile even during his last days in the hospital. His minister, Rev. Dr. Victor McCullough, had an explanation for this. He said that Henry “protected his joy.” Henry had good reasons not to be happy - he was suffering from a serious illness and only had a short time to live. However, rather than dwelling on his problems, he chose to focus on the positive aspects of his life, especially his family and his friends. Those made him happy.

It’s easy to get caught up in the busyness of life with family responsibilities, financial concerns, and health issues. Add to that the responsibilities of an academic with lectures to prepare, exams to grade, meetings to attend, reports to finish, and messages from the dean to read. With all that to do, one can easily be less than joyful.

I’ll bet, though, that somewhere in your office and at home is at least one item that will bring a smile to your face - pictures of family, diploma proudly hung on the wall, vacation memento, award, artwork, special gift, pet, flower garden, and so on. Any of these should be a smile-generator. Or maybe it’s a favorite song, time with a special person, activity, food or drink that gets that smile to develop.

Henry Kirkland protected his joy. Let’s try to do the same.

Joyfully yours,

Pete

Pete Grant
Dean of Arts and Sciences
New faces in the College of Arts and Sciences:

Full-time Faculty

Mr. Camilo Peralta – Language & Literature
Ms. Jessica Salmans – Art, Communication & Theatre
Dr. Matthew Tracy – Music

Adjunct Faculty

Ms. Callie Cash, Mr. Brian Harris and Ms. Lynne Thurman – Art, Communication & Theatre
Ms. Amy Conkling, Dr. Mark DiPaolo, Dr. Jill Jones, Ms. Rachel Long, Ms. Kym Ward – Language & Literature
Ms. Elaine Bates, Ms. Marti Bessinger, Mr. Vurl Bland, Ms. Suré Bland and Ms. JoAnne Rogers – Music

Staff

Ms. Teresa Grant - Administrative Assistant for both Art, Communication & Theatre and Education
Ms. Denise Willis - Administrative Assistant for Language & Literature
Ms. Shuo-Hui (Sophie) Hung - piano accompanist for Music students.

Student and Faculty News

Caylie Patton (Communication Arts major) was named Greek Woman of the Year 2016 at SWOSU. Caylie is Past President of Sigma Sigma Chi.


Dr. Howard Kurtz (Social Sciences) was interviewed by Fox Television on the use or robotics in the apprehension of the suspect in the Dallas Police Shootings. He also wrote an invited news piece for the May 19 issue of the Comanche Times on “Gangs in the Heartland, the Case of the Irish Mob.” He also performed for the Friends of the Mansion Foundation at the Governor’s Mansion to raise funds for the preservation of the facilities.

Dr. David Hertzel has received notification from Rowan Littlefield, who have agreed to publish his manuscript on genealogy.


Dr. Tim Hubin (Chemistry and Physics) has published four articles. Coauthors include colleagues (Dr. Doug Linder) and former students, who are identified with an asterisk.


Discovery of antischistosomal drug leads based on tetraazamacrocyclic derivatives and their metal complexes Khan, M. O. F.; Keiser, J.; Amoyaw, P. N. A.; Hossain, M. F.; Vargas, M.; *Le, J. G.; *Simpson,

**Course Development**

Four CAS faculty have received Teaching and Learning Scholarships to attend the Teaching Professor Conference in Athens, GA, later this semester. The goal is to develop a new online General Education course or a new “online program” course using the Three Pillars Course Transformation Method. The course will be taught either Spring or Fall 2017.

The recipients and the courses they will be developing are:

- Dr. Jerry Dunn – ECONO 2363 – Introduction to Microeconomics
- Dr. Shelley Martinson – MUSIC 1013 Intro to Music I
- Dr. Guy Biyogmam – MATH 1153 Math Applications and/or MATH 3413 Statistical Methods
- Dr. Wayne Trail – ASTRO 1904 Astronomy.

**CAS Faculty Receive Funding**

The following Faculty have received extramural funding:

- Dr. Rickey Cothran (Biological Sciences) – Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
- Dr. Tim Hubin (Chemistry and Physics) - National Institutes of Health through the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center
- Dr. Richard Tirk (Music) – Oklahoma Arts Council
- Dr. Denis Trubitsyn (Biological Sciences) – National Institutes of Health through the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

The following faculty received financial assistance from the Office of Sponsored Programs to attend and present at a professional meeting:

- Ms. Suré Bland (Music)
- Dr. Kevin Collins (Language and Literature)
- Dr. Shelley Martinson (Music)
- Dr. David Martyn (Chemistry and Physics)

**Happy 50th Birthday Star Trek!**
CAS Students Participate in OCAST-SWOSU Summer Internships

Several Southwestern Oklahoma State University students in Weatherford worked this summer as interns with Oklahoma industry and private sector partners with the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology (OCAST). Photo left: Forrest Witt (Biology major) of Ripley and Payton Wright (Chemistry major) of Elk City are shown with Analytical Research Labs Research and Development Supervisor Dr. Liu. Photo right: The Children’s Center Rehabilitation Hospital Music Therapist Rachel Nowels works with Didier Khoo (Music Therapy major) of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Communication Chair Claims Cooking Crown!

Dr. Robin Jones, Chair of Art, Communication & Theatre, won first place in the cook-off contest at the first home football game. The theme was “Show Us Your Dawg.” Dr. Jones received $500 for first place. Rumor is that Anthony Bourdain has asked for her recipe.
Faculty Volunteer to Assist New Students

GSTDY 1001 FRESHMAN ORIENTATION

This fall semester course is required for all freshmen without previous full-time college experience. The course is designed for beginning freshmen students to assist them in becoming familiar with the campus, college life, university regulations, and course offerings. CAS faculty teaching this course are:

Dr. Dorie Astle
Dr. Lisa Boggs
Dr. Becky Bruce
Dr. Brian Campbell
Dr. Elaine Davies
Dr. Andrea Holgado
Dr. Joel Kendall
Dr. Howard Kurtz
Dr. Zach Jones
Dr. Regina McGrane
Dr. Tom McNamara

GSTDY 1441 COLLEGE SUCCESS

College Success is designed to enhance students’ skills in becoming successful college students. The course will address topics including time management, learning styles, note taking, test taking, reading skills, etc. It is highly recommended for students desiring to improve skills needed for academic success. The following CAS faculty have volunteered to teach this course:

Dr. Michael Dougherty
Dr. John Hayden
Dr. Ken Hayes
Dr. Denise Landrum-Geyer

Writing Center Opens for Fall Semester

The Writing Center, (http://www.swosu.edu/academics/writingcenter/index.aspx) Room B3 in the Al Harris Library basement, is open to assist students from Tuesday, Sept. 6, until Friday, Dec. 9. It will be closed on Saturdays and during Fall and Thanksgiving breaks. Hours are:

Sunday: 3-5pm
Monday: 12:30-1:50pm & 2-8pm
Tuesday: 8-9:45am & 10am-6pm
Wednesday: 12:30-1:50pm & 2-8pm
Thursday: 10am-8pm
Friday: 2-4:30pm

Note that hours are subject to change as needed.

To schedule an appointment, please send an email to writingcenter@swosu.edu or call (580) 774-7083. Walk-ins are always welcome, too!

Be sure to like us on Facebook (SWOSU Writing Center) and follow us on Twitter (@swosuwrites).

Over 800 Students Attend Summer Camps

During the summer, CAS faculty participated in seven summer youth camps: Tech Trek, Marimba Camp, Summer Science and Math Academy, Choral Camp, Vocal Solo Clinic, Middle School Band Camp and Band Camp.

Over 800 middle and high school students participated in these camps. These camps offer students activities and instruction that are not available in their schools. Also, it gives them a glimpse of college life and introduces them to the SWOSU campus, faculty, staff, and programs. That makes these camps a great recruiting tool.
Gates Elected President of the Economic and Business History Society

Dr. Fred Gates (Social Sciences) became President of the Economic and Business History Society (EBHS) at the group’s 41st annual meeting in Montreal, Quebec, Canada this past May. As President of EBHS, Dr. Gates will be hosting the organization’s 42nd annual meeting at the Skirvin Hilton in downtown Oklahoma City in May 2017. The EBHS conference offers participants the opportunity for intellectual interchange with an international, interdisciplinary, and collegial group of scholars. Typically about half the participants are from economics departments and half are from history or economic history departments.

The OKC conference will be followed up by the 2018 Conference in Helsinki, Finland. Dr. Gates has also served on the EBHS Board of Trustees for the past six years and served as the Program Chair for the 2012 meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada.

For more information about the society and its journal, *Essays in Economic and Business History*, visit the EBHS website (http://ebhsoc.org/).

John T. Patterson Memorial Scholarship Awarded to Political Science Major

Mary Iliff, a Political Science major from Shattuck, is this year’s recipient of the John T. Patterson Memorial Scholarship for Social Sciences. The Patterson family established the fund to memorialize John, a SWOSU graduate. John was tragically murdered in 2009 in Oklahoma City, and sister-in-law Emily Patterson said the family wanted a way to memorialize him. They were having trouble finding the appropriate avenue but had the epiphany that it would be great to do something at SWOSU, where John spent some of his most memorable years. Emily said John loved history so nothing was more appropriate than starting the scholarship fund.

The scholarship strives to help exceptional students with additional funding. The Patterson family hopes the scholarship will aid students in reducing work hours, buying books, graduating earlier, and generally helping with undergraduate expenses.

Pictured are: Iliff (on the left), John’s brother and sister-in-law, Zach and Emily Patterson, (both SWOSU graduates) and their son Henry.

Important Dates

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Four Chemistry & Physics Students Participate in Summer Research Programs

Gwen Burgess and John Woods (center two students in the photo) were both accepted into the OK INBRE Summer Research program. This program is geared toward junior and senior students to provide them an opportunity to engage in a biomedical research experience. Their faculty mentors were Drs. Jon Henrikson and Trevor Ellis, respectively.

Abbagale Bond and David Tresp participated in the first OK INBRE Summer Mentoring and Research Training (SMaRT) program. This program was created for freshman and sophomores to give them an opportunity to experience research first hand at an early stage in their college education. Their faculty mentors were Drs. Lori Gwyn and Trevor Ellis, respectively.

Six CAS Students Selected for Honors Program

Seventeen freshmen were selected for the SWOSU Honors Program this year. Among them are seven CAS students:

Daniel J. Gassen, El Reno, Engineering Physics
Christina M. Kidd, Yukon, Biology
Sarah Moad, Erick, Biology
Maegan A. Norman, Saginaw, TX, Two Dimensional Studio Art
Taylor J. Oney, Yukon, Biology
Amber R. Powers, Loco, Biology
Emily A. Trail, Weatherford, Engineering Physics

Each of the class members takes Honors General Education courses, gets exposed to interdisciplinarity in academics via the Honors curriculum, selects an area of interest (research, study abroad, service learning) and a faculty mentor, who together develop a capstone experience that will culminate with an Honors thesis.

Honors scholars are encouraged to participate in the Oklahoma Scholar-Leadership Enrichment Program (OSLEP), a unique intercollegiate-interdisciplinary program designed to develop the scholarship and leadership abilities of Oklahoma’s outstanding college and university students.

For more information on the SWOSU Honors Program, visit http://www.swosu.edu/academics/honors/.

Study Abroad: Costa Rica, Summer 2016
Dr. Amanda Smith, Language and Literature

This summer, SWOSU students and faculty enjoyed another exciting and educational Study Abroad trip to Costa Rica. We spent two weeks traveling from across the country from Cahuita, on the Caribbean coast, to Manuel Antonio, on the Pacific coast. This trip packed in a wide variety of ecological, historical, and anthropological learning opportunities along with adventure and relaxation.

While in Cahuita, local guides Tito and Ludrick introduced us to the flora and fauna of the rain forest. We came face-to-face with sloths, monkeys, and pythons while learning about how to survive by drinking water from the red button ginger plant and finding our way using termite nests as sign posts. We also shared a traditional meal with members of the indigenous Bribri tribe, who taught about their history and how they sustain their way of life by using the resources around them. One of the grandmothers showed us how to make chocolate by crushing the cocoa beans under a large stone, a skill that marks a rite of passage for the women in the tribe. Another elder educated us about plants used for medicine, dyes, and shelter. The students gained an invaluable appreciation for this indigenous culture as well as sustainability and eco-tourism.

Our guides then took us to La Fortuna, where we experienced the more adventurous side of Costa Rica. The students enjoyed the thrills of white water rafting while learning about the Pacuare River from experienced river guides. We also took in breathtaking views of the landscape while ziplining high above the trees. Coupled with hikes and bike rides, these activities enabled our students to challenge their fears and leave Costa Rica feeling stronger and healthier. Before leaving La Fortuna, we relaxed in the hot springs of Baldi—another natural wonder.

Our last stop took us to Manuel Antonio, on the Pacific coast. Knowledgeable guides led us through the national park, pointing out coconut and mango trees in addition to the abundant capuchin monkeys. Having experienced the Caribbean, our students were able to compare and contrast the flora and fauna of both sides of Costa Rica. We soaked in the breathtaking sunsets as a perfect farewell to this magnificent country. Tito and Ludrick taught us the Costa Rica saying, “pura vida,” which loosely translates to “pure life.” Costa Ricans use it as a greeting and a farewell as well as a spontaneous exclamation when struck by something truly beautiful or an experience worth remembering. During this Study Abroad trip, our students learned the true meaning of “pura vida”—the pure joy experienced when living in harmony with the natural world and your fellow man.
Sevin Presents at the Cervantes Institute

Dr. Tugba Sevin (Language & Literature) was invited by the Cervantes Institute (http://atenas.cervantes.es/FichasCultura/Ficha108653_07_1.htm) in Athens, Greece, to give a lecture. The lecture was entitled, “Raíces mediterráneas en la litera-

SWOSU Flute Choir Attends National Convention

On August 11, 2016, the SWOSU Flute Choir performed at the National Flute Association Convention in San Diego, California. One of 24 flute choirs selected, the SWOSU flutes performed alongside university and professional flute choirs from Japan, Taiwan, Mexico, California, Texas, Utah, and Arizona, among others. The students also had the opportunity to attend workshops, recitals, and presentations throughout the four-day conference. The flute choir is directed by Dr. Shelley Martinson, who also performed and presented at the convention.

A local television station reported on the flute convention and the SWOSU students (wearing red scarves) were shown at the beginning and end of the video.

Faculty Service Awards

Eleven CAS faculty received service awards at the Fall Faculty Workshop at the beginning of the semester:

10 Years
Dr. Jimena Aracena (Biological Sciences)
Dr. Doug Linder (Chemistry & Physics)
Mr. Todd Parker (Art, Communication & Theatre)
Dr. Eric Paul (Biological Sciences)

15 Years
Dr. Dan Brown (Social Sciences)
Dr. Tony Stein (Chemistry & Physics)

20 Years
Dr. David Hertzel (Social Sciences)
Dr. Jason Johnson (Chemistry & Physics)

25 Years
Mr. Fred Alsberg (Language & Literature)
Ms. Sue Ball (Biological Sciences)

40 Years
Dr. Robert Chambers (Music)

There is chalk dust on the sleeve of my soul.

“Talk about Teachers”
John Barth
Southwestern Oklahoma State University Honors Program and Biology student Ashley Powers-Watson of Loco recently won the best poster presentation at the Oklahoma IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (OK-INBRE) summer research symposium held at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City.

Judges evaluated poster presentations from 57 summer undergraduates who were attending from many institutions throughout the United States such as Duke University, Cornell University, California Institute of Technology, plus many Oklahoma universities.

As one of two recipients of this award, Watson will represent SWOSU and OU-HSC during the 2017 Research Day at the State Capitol in Oklahoma City.

Watson performed research during the summer under the mentorship of Dr. Ding, associate professor at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center Department of Cell Biology. Their research focused on increasing the understanding of the role of calcium channels in pathologies that lead to cone photoreceptor dys-

Art in the Park

A Cheyenne art workshop, special lecture and exhibition took place at the Washita Visitor Center, Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, in Cheyenne, Oklahoma on August 27-28. These activities celebrated the centennial of the National Park Service. There were a series of workshops on ledger drawing, parfleche and beadwork. The guest artists were George Levi and Carrie Lehi who are members of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Nation in Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma Arts Council and SWOSU, in partnership with the National Park Service, funded this project.