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

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The newsletter of the SWOSU College of Arts & Sciences

August 2016



August, 2016

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Coming a Long Way

There's been some good news on gender equality lately. Theresa May is the new prime minister of the United Kingdom, Angela Merkel has been the Chancellor of Germany for 11 years, and Hillary Clinton is the presidential nominee of the Democratic Party. On top of those achievements, a recent article (1) by CNN.com listed several major advancements for women: they can now vote in all countries, there are more females in school than ever before, there are more female leaders and legislators, and pay for women has increased.

While all of these advancements are good news, the CNN article also mentioned that women still lag behind men in all of them.

This year the UN's Commission on the Status of Women (2) considered gender inequality and recommended several areas for action including empowerment of women and girls, fostering enabling environments, and strengthening women's leadership. What can we do at SWOSU to facilitate action in these areas?

For college students, SWOSU offers four courses on women: Women and Literature, Women in American History, Women in Politics, and Psychology of Women. The faculty who teach these courses are in the process of developing a minor on the topic of Women's Studies.

Also, an event just took place on campus involving younger females: Tech Trek (see photo). This STEM camp,



which involved faculty and students from three colleges, provided opportunities for 44 eighth grade girls from 29 Oklahoma cities. The focus was not just on the STEM fields, but also on writing and reflection, team building, etiquette, interviewing, and career planning.

Achieving gender equality will take more time and effort. I'm proud to see the faculty at SWOSU spending the time and making the effort.

Pete Grant
Dean of Arts and Sciences

(1) <http://www.cnn.com/2016/07/13/europe/thatcher-may-women-then-now-trnd/index.html>:

(2) http://www.un.org/en/search/news_story.asp?symbol=E/2016/27&lang=E

Important Dates

August

- 17 New Student Orientation
- 17, 18 New Faculty Orientation
- 19 Faculty Workshop
- 19 Enrollment for students who did not pre-enroll
- 22 Classes begin
- 30 National Toasted Marshmallow Day

CAS News**Mathematics**

Mike Dougherty presented a talk at the Joint Conference for the Oklahoma Council of Teachers of Mathematics (OCTM) and the Oklahoma Science Teachers Association (OSTA) in Tulsa. The title of the talk was "Function Diagrams: A Kinetic Approach in Teaching Functions."

Music

Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia will be attending The King's Singers residential summer school at DePauw University next June.

Richard Tirk participated in the 41st International Trumpet Guild Conference in Anaheim, California. He served as a conference reporter, adjudicator for the senior solo competition, and performed in three ensembles for the Festival of Trumpet.

David Bessinger, Professor of Music, assumed the department chair position 1 July. Keith Talley, former chair, has accepted a position at Missouri Southern State University in Joplin.

Yu-Ling Chen had two celebrations in one week: she successfully defended her doctoral dissertation and got married!

Biological Sciences

Tony Sanchez and Zach Godwin were accepted into Pharmacy School.

Ines Ramirez-Cibes was accepted into the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program at Midwestern University in Arizona.

Austin Cantrell was accepted into the OU-College of Medicine and also received a scholarship.

Fifteen students from the department have been awarded research internships this summer. This is a new record for the department!

Lisa Castle presented a talk, "Lessons Learned from Ranking Medicinal Plants," to the Society of Economic Botany and Open Science Network in Ethnobiology Meetings in Kentucky.

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August, 2016

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Other CAS News

“Now, for my younger viewers out there, a book is something we used to have before the internet. It’s sort of a blog for people with attention spans.”

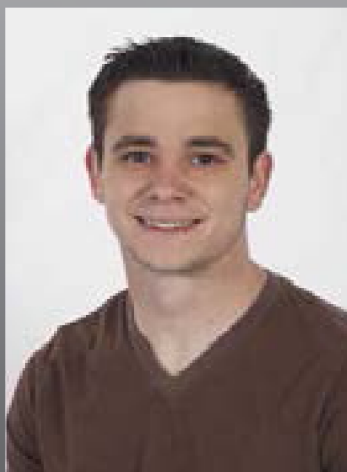
Stephen Colbert, Host
The Late Show

Tom McNamara (Mathematics) is the current Faculty Senate President; Jerry Dunn (Social Sciences) is the President-elect.

For the summer term, headcount was up 7.1%, credit hours up by 13% and FTEs by 12.9% compared to summer 2015! So far, all three measures are up about 5% for the fall!

Pete Grant (Dean) has served as editor of *The Mayfly Newsletter* for 26 years. The May issue was sent to 409 individuals in 51 countries. Pete also served as the naturalist at Cub Scout Day Camp in Arapaho.

SWOSU Represented at Nigh Academy



Southwestern Oklahoma State University student Mason Howe of Okeene represented SWOSU at this spring’s George and Donna Nigh Public Leadership Scholarship Academy in Oklahoma City. Howe participated in the 18th annual academy that allows students to visit and learn from various leaders across the state and nation. Howe, who graduated this past May with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences, received a \$1,000 scholarship for completing the Nigh Academy.

The Nigh Academy was established by the state legislature in 2000 to honor the Nighs for their contributions to public service. Universities in Oklahoma are allowed to send one representative from each campus to the academy.

CAS Alumni News

Caleb Koos of Yukon (Class of 2012, Political Science) was named to the Board of Directors of the SWOSU Alumni Association, Inc.

Thomas Leck (Chemistry) was inducted into the SWOSU Distinguished Hall of Fame at spring commencement.

2016-2017 OSLEP Classes

The next series of Oklahoma Scholar-Leadership Enrichment Program (OSLEP) classes has been released:

[The American Conservative Movement](#)

October 22-26, 2016

Rick Perlstein, Contributing Writer, *The Nation*

[Slavery Since Emancipation](#)

January 3-7, 2017

Kevin Bales, Professor of Contemporary Slavery, Wilberforce Institute for the Study of Slavery and Emancipation

[Guesstimation: Solving the World's Problems on the Back of a Cocktail Napkin](#)

January 25-29, 2017

Larry Weinstein, Professor of Physics, Old Dominion University

Science and Pseudoscience in Everyday Life: A User's Guide for Evaluating Extraordinary Claims

March 4-8, 2017

Scott Lilienfeld, Samuel Candler Dobbs Professor of Psychology, Emory University

SWOSU students can earn upper level credit for these classes. For more information, visit the OSLEP [web site](#) or contact our campus representative, John Hayden (Social Sciences).

Leadership Weatherford Award



Kyle Burrows (left, Biology alumnus) was the recent winner of the John Hays Leader-Servant Award presented by the Leadership Weatherford program. Making the presentation is SWOSU President Randy Beutler. The award is named after former SWOSU President John Hays and is voted on secretly throughout the year by the Leadership Weatherford class. It is designed to select the one member among them who is the best at both leading and serving. The Leadership Weatherford program just graduated Class 18.

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CAS Faculty Receive Funding

The following faculty have received extramural funding:

Rickey Cothran (Biological Sciences) – University of Pittsburgh Pymatuning Laboratory of Ecology; Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

Trevor Ellis (Chemistry and Physics) – Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; National Institutes of Health through the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Lori Gywn (Chemistry and Physics) – National Science Foundation through Oklahoma State University; National Institutes of Health through the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center; Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

Jon Henrikson (Chemistry and Physics) - National Institutes of Health through the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Andrea Holgado (Biological Sciences) - Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education; National Institutes of Health through the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Tim Hubin (Chemistry and Physics) – National Science Foundation through Oklahoma State University

Siriporn Peters (Art, Communication and Theatre) – Oklahoma Arts Council

“Students need an education that prepares them for success in professional and civic life. The world needs citizens who possess the creativity, civic learning, communication skills, and critical thinking that the arts and humanities provide, so they can take on the task of solving an increasingly complex set of challenges.”

John D. Simon, President
Lehigh University

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

Jimena Aracena - Biological Sciences

E. K. Jeong - Art, Communication and Theatre

Denis Trubitsyn - Biological Sciences



Marimba Camp

The 7th Annual SWOSU Marimba Camp was held recently on campus. It included faculty Jeremy Parr (Assistant Band Director from Moore High School) and David Bessinger (SWOSU Professor of Music) as well as guest artist Ivan Trevino from Austin, Texas. Seventeen high school marimbists from around the state participated.

Well Dogs

Our Bulldog Wellness Committee has a web page: <http://www.swosu.edu/bulldog-wellness/index.aspx>. At that site you can find tips on healthy lifestyles, eating well, faculty and staff services related to wellness, online resources, campus campaigns, stretching, and the new walking trails.

The Corn Patch



Barbara Nurnberg, Mayor of Corn, presented a \$500 check to Siriporn Peters, which will be given to Hafith Uresi, a SWOSU Graphic Design student, as a scholarship. Hafith created a 45 second video to promote the town's Corn Patch project. His video may be viewed at <http://www.townofcornok.com/#!whats-new/uibm>.

Those in the photo (left to right) are Chris Loewen, Clerk and Treasurer; Barbara Nurnberg, Mayor; Hafith Uresi, Graphic Design student; Siriporn Peters, Assistant Professor of Art; and Peter Grant, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.



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Cantiamo Solo Voice Camp



Ten students attended the very first solo voice camp at SWOSU. Robin Griffeath, who developed the camp, reported that he had the opportunity to utilize some of the transformative learning strategies from a conference he attended earlier this year. The students in the photo are giving their recital performance to family and friends.

August Is National Water Quality Month

<https://www.npca.org/articles/98-focus-on-water-celebrating-national-water-quality-month>



Scholarship Recipient

Southwestern Oklahoma State University student Gareth Glen Crispin (center) of Thomas has been awarded the first-ever Madge Lenz Jordan Scholarship by the SWOSU Foundation, Inc., in Weatherford. With Crispin are (left) SWOSU Department of Chemistry and Physics Chair Jason Johnson and SWOSU Foundation, Inc. Executive Director Garrett King.

