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

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# aCAademicS

The newsletter of the SWOSU College of Arts & Sciences

August, 2015



## Important Dates

## August

19 - New Faculty Orientation  
 20 - New Faculty Orientation  
 (cont. )  
 20 - NSO  
 21 - Faculty Workshops  
 24 - Classes start  
 28 - Last day to add classes  
 31 - Spring 2016 schedules due  
 to Carolyn Barron

## September

3 - Organizational Fair (10am -  
 2pm)  
 4 - Last day to drop/total with-  
 drawl for refund  
 7 - Campus Closed (Labor Day)  
 12 - Parents Day  
 14 - Panorama Event - OKC  
 Philharmonic  
 17 - Council of Chairs Meeting  
 30 - Major's Fair

## Keeping Our Promise

The Provost, Dr. James South, held a meeting of the Academic Council on 21 July. Attending were chairs, associate deans, deans, and directors of academic support offices such as the library and distance learning.

One of the subjects discussed was our Quality Initiative Project (QIP) for the Higher Learning Commission, our accrediting agency. This project is entitled, "Three Pillars of Undergraduate Learning: Preparing Students for the 21st Century." The three pillars are

- deep learning of academic content
- demonstration of intellectual development and
- acquisition of professional skills.

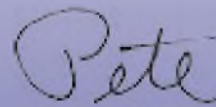
The goal will be to apply these pillars to the GE Core Curriculum with the hope that they will be used in other courses as well.

This is where the Center for [Excellence in Teaching and Learning](#) (formerly the Center for Distance and eLearning) comes in. The Center is in the process of hiring a Teaching and Learning Coordinator who will assist faculty in "exploring and evaluating new student-centered pedagogies, technologies, materials, and learning strategies for the advancement of student success and achievement."

There are many high-impact practices available for use in the classroom. The challenge for faculty sometimes is to find one that would work in a particular situation, learn how to incorporate it, and then assess its effectiveness. The coordinator will be able to assist with that.

Our advertising slogan is "The focus is you." It's more than a slogan - it's a promise. While we will be the ones integrating new strategies into our classes, the ultimate goal is to improve student learning, performance, and ultimately, retention.

Enjoy your break!



Pete Grant  
 Dean of Arts and Sciences

## CAS News

Kristin Wyckoff (Language and Literature alumna) was named campus teacher of the year at Mustang North Middle School.

John Hayden (Social Sciences) took a course entitled "Latin Paleography, 800-1500" in the Rare Books School at The University of Virginia.

SWOSU has formed a Wellness Committee to help employees lead a healthy lifestyle. We want to offer programs such as seminars and exercise classes that are of interest to you. This fall you will receive a short survey from the Committee so we can start offering activities. Please take a few moments to complete the survey when it arrives in your email.

Three biology majors presented their research at the OU Health Science Center Research symposium - Canisia Bi, Mason Howe and Forrest Clark.

Four degree programs will be preparing their five-year reviews this year: Art (BFA), Biology (BS), English (BA) and Natural Science Education (BSE).

Pete Grant (CAS Dean) served as a reviewer for the Oklahoma Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy: A Strategic Conservation Plan for Oklahoma's Rare and Declining Wildlife.

## Mathematics News

Tyler Gorshing recently had his undergraduate research published. The title of his paper is "[On the Center of Non Relativistic Lie Algebras.](#)" Guy Biyogmam was Tyler's mentor on this research project.

Michael Dougherty (Chair) participated in a meeting at the Oklahoma State Department of Education, along with other members of the Oklahoma Council of Teachers of Mathematics, to review and suggest changes to the second draft of the new Oklahoma Math Standards. Mike was invited to bring a higher education mathematics perspective.

Mike was also interviewed at that meeting by Levi Patrick, the SDE Director Secondary Mathematics Education, for his weekly [podcast](#).

Kathleen O'Neal was instrumental in handling much of the paperwork for the KESAM mathematics enhancement camp for teachers this summer.

Tom McNamara taught in the Summer Math and Science Academy and the Honors Bridge sessions for the new SWOSU Honors Program.

## Funding Success

Two faculty received funding to conduct undergraduate summer research programs: Andrea Holgado (Biological Sciences) and Tim Hubin (Chemistry and Physics). Funds were provided by the National Institutes of Health through the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center.

Three faculty received financial assistance from the Office of Sponsored Programs to attend professional meetings: Tugba Sevin (Language and Literature), Shelley Martinson (Music) and Andrea Holgado (Biological Sciences).

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### OTRS Seminars

The Oklahoma Teachers Retirement System will be hosting five pre-retirement [seminars](#) throughout Oklahoma this fall. These seminars are for anyone who wants to learn more about retirement benefits and procedures. Marci and I attended one in OKC a few years ago and found it to be very informative. One of the seminars will be held in Burns Flat on 12 September. This is the same day as Parents' Day but the seminar ends at noon, so there should be plenty of time to return to campus and meet the families of our student.

### Biologists Attend Gulf Coast Summer Institute

Andrea Holgado and Rickey Cothran (Biological Sciences) recently attended the National Academy's Gulf Coast Summer Institute (GCSI) at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. The GCSI is one of six regional Summer Institutes on Undergraduate Education funded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. The Summer Institutes are designed to transform undergraduate science education using a method of course design that provides students with conceptual knowledge that "sticks" while playing to the strengths of university science educators.

During the five-day workshop, presenters and participants worked together to develop innovative instructional materials that incorporate current research and active learning, employ continuous assessment of student performance and instruction, and embraces diversity to provide an inclusive learning environment. Using knowledge attained during the workshop, participants worked in small groups to produce teachable units. These teachable units are available to all participants for use in their classrooms and can be shared with colleagues. Each teachable unit is designed to engage students and enrich their learning experience.

This year's GCSI included 30 participants from 15 institutions in 8 states, 1 US territory, and 2 countries. Since 2004, the institute has reached over 1000 participants from colleges and university across the world. Andrea and Rickey are now recognized by the National Academies—which includes the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and Institute of Medicine—as National Academies Education Fellows in the Sciences.



Seventeen students, who have been admitted to the first Honors Program at SWOSU, participated in a Summer Bridge Program. This program introduced students to college life. The photo was taken at the Stafford Air and Space Museum in Weatherford.



## Summer Undergraduate Experiences for Biology Students

Nine biology students conducted research or professional shadowing experiences this summer thanks to scholarships received by the students.

The students are Aaron Bushong, Shawnee; Forrest Clark, Weatherford; Jake Gregston, Duncan; Angie Hoover, Edmond (Santa Fe); Mason Howe, Okeene; Nick Maddox, El Reno; Allison Statton, Oklahoma City (Putnam City North); Jay Stinson, Weatherford; and Canisia Tatak, Oklahoma City (Capitol Hill).

Bushong attended the Mission to Planet Earth summer institute hosted by the Oklahoma Space Grant Consortium. Bushong is seeking a natural science education degree and participation in this program enhanced his repertoire of hands-on science, technology, engineering and math curriculum.

Clark conducted research through the SWOSU Department of Biological Sciences and Oklahoma IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (OK-INBRE) under the mentorship of Dr. Andrea Holgado (SWOSU Biology). Clark worked on a project titled "Analysis of Autophagy in Neurons." His summer internship is awarded through a grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Gregston performed research at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation as part of the Fleming Scholar program. Gregston worked under the mentorship of Dr. Holly Van Remmen on a project titled "The Mitochondrial Unfolded Protein Response in an ALS Mouse Model." The Fleming Scholar Program was founded in 1956 as a way to give Oklahoma's high school and college students "hands-on" biomedical research experience.

Hoover completed her research at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) at the University of Southern Mississippi. Hoover performed her research under the mentorship of Dr. Richard Heard and studied marine invertebrates. Hoover has also been accepted at GCRL graduate program starting August 2015.

Howe conducted research through the Reynolds Oklahoma Center on Aging and Oklahoma IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (OK-INBRE) under the mentorship of Dr. Ferenc Deak. Howe worked on a project titled "Creation of a DNA Construct for the Study of VAMP Transcriptional Regulation." This internship was awarded through a grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Maddox was awarded a Carl Albert internship sponsored by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality. Maddox worked under the mentorship of Jayme Jones and his work on nitrate analysis of drinking water was performed at the State Environmental Laboratory Services.

Statton performed her research experience thanks to a program called Bridge to Research in Marine Science at Savannah State University. She worked at the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography at the University of Georgia under the mentorship of Dr. Aron Stubbin and co-mentors Drs. Leanne Powers and Clifton Buck. The title of her research was "Dissolved Organic Carbon and Iron Flocculation in Estuaries."

Stinson was involved in the Patient Care Assistant Program organized by St. Anthony Hospital. This program—led by Lisa Lewis, director of the Physician Development Unit at St. Anthony Hospital—allowed Stinson to rotate and shadow professionals in Radiation Oncology, Nephrology, Emergency Care, Surgery, Behavioral Medicine and other areas.

Tatak conducted research as a fellow at the Summer Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center. Tatak worked under the mentorship of Dr. Sanjay Bidichandani and investigated a novel therapeutic strategy in Friedreich Ataxia. The SURE program was established in 1989 through the support of the provost and the graduate school of the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.

### 2015 Promoting Undergraduate Research Workshop/Conference

The sixth annual [Promoting Undergraduate Research Conference](#) and Workshop will be held in September 2015 at the Presbyterian Health Foundation Conference Center, 655 Research Parkway, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

#### Workshop

Date and Time: Sept. 17, 2015, 1-4 p.m.

Fee: \$150

Topic: How to Develop Inquiry-Based Learning Activities. Professor Mick Healey, Higher Education Consultant and Emeritus Professor at the University of Gloucestershire, UK

#### Conference

Date and Time: Sept. 18, 2015, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. (Continental breakfast and lunch provided.)

Fee: \$50 for faculty, \$75 for administrators, and free for student panelists.

CAS will pay the registration fees for the workshop and conference attendance and provide transportation for one person from each department. If interested, please contact your chair, who will nominate faculty. This would be a great conference for the newer faculty to attend.



## Upcoming CAS Events

Biology Faculty Research Presentations  
 Wednesday, 2 September  
 4:00 PM, SCI 212

CAS Day at SWOSU Football Game  
 Saturday, 19 September  
 6:00 PM, PCEC  
 Food and drinks will be provided.  
 RSVP required. Keep watching for the official invitation.

## Oklahoma LSAMP

The Oklahoma Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (OK-LSAMP) “is a consortium of Oklahoma colleges and universities working together to develop programs aimed at increasing the number of students from under-represented populations who receive degrees in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines. Current goals and activities of OK-LSAMP focus on undergraduate research experiences, graduate school preparation, and international experiences.” (<http://www.ok-lsamp.okstate.edu/>). OK-LSAMP is funded by the National Science Foundation.

The recent issue of the OK-LSAMP newsletter reported on the accomplishments of current and former SWOSU students who were participants in this program: Alfa Abame, Megan Ayala, Dustin Davilla, Courtney Garcia, Michael-Joseph Gorbet, Ashley Rodriguez, Cammi Valdez and Ashlie Walker.

Tim Hubin (Chemistry and Physics) is our campus representative for OK-LSAMP.



## SWOSU Studies Abroad – Ireland

Southwestern Oklahoma State University teamed up with Oklahoma Study Abroad to provide students with the opportunity to spend two weeks immersed in Irish history and culture this summer. Amanda Smith, assistant professor in the Department of Language and Literature, and Christian Alyea, Oklahoma Study Abroad coordinator, ensured that the trip was educational, fun, and affordable for everyone who participated (July 16-29, \$2700 airfare and lodging included).

Professional tour guides led travelers on extensive walking tours through Dublin, Howth, Glendalough, Kilkenny, Cork, Killarney, Blarney, and Galway. The guides brought Irish history to life by pointing out key landmarks from Druid, Viking, and Norman ruins to medieval castles to 18th-19th century cathedrals and modern buildings that played key roles in the 1916 uprising and Ireland’s fight for independence. Students also toured Trinity College to get a sense of Ireland’s educational history and learned about the impact of literary figures such as James Joyce, William Butler Yeats, and Oscar Wilde on Ireland’s cultural revival.

In addition to the historical and cultural activities, travelers also experienced Ireland’s vast countryside and natural wonders such as the Wicklow Mountains, the Cliffs of Moher, and the Aran Islands while learning about the deeply-rooted mythology connected to these places. Our Study Abroad program includes some of the best-known sites in Ireland, but it also takes students off the beaten path and encourages them to truly interact with the locals and experience the culture.

In addition to instilling a deeper appreciation for the history, politics, art, and literature of the specific country, we provide students with the skills and confidence necessary to continue traveling and exploring other cultures. Study Abroad encourages students to think globally and to consider themselves citizens of the world. We look forward to upcoming trips to London (Spring Break) and Costa Rica (Summer 2016)!



*“I have never heard Dante rhymed quite like that with ricochet before. Bravo Professor Firenze, you have moved our hearts!”*

[https://christopherburkecolombia.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/idol\\_jan2015.png](https://christopherburkecolombia.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/idol_jan2015.png)