



11-21-2016

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

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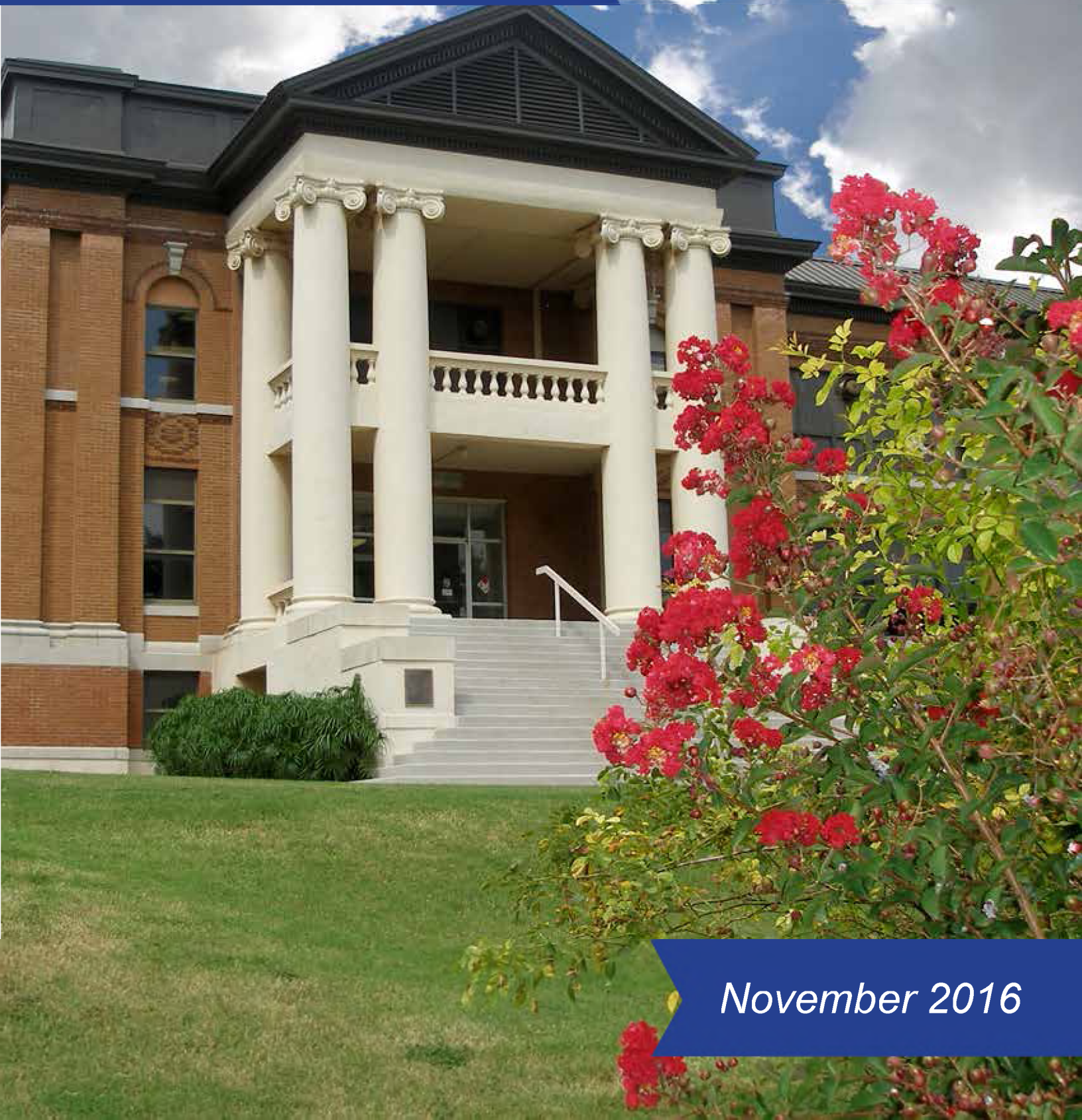
Recommended Citation

Grant, Peter (2016) "aCAademicS: The Newsletter of the SWOSU College of Arts and Sciences,"
aCAademicS: The Newsletter of the SWOSU College of Arts & Sciences
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/academics/vol2/iss7/1>

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aCAademicS

The Newsletter of the
SWOSU College of Arts & Sciences



November 2016

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Seeds of Learning

Last month I discussed summer internships and how valuable they are to students. These opportunities allow students to become immersed in real-life experiences and are important for exploring careers and developing professional skills.

Another extracurricular activity that is common in the College of Arts and Sciences are seminars. Presenters include a variety of people from education, industry, research, and government. Some speakers are stepping on campus for the first time and others are returning alumni who want to share how their SWOSU experience helped them prepare for a career.

The Department of Biological Sciences has a well-established seminar program. This was first organized by Dr. Joseph Maness, now Professor Emeritus, when he was chair of the department. Each semester, one of the faculty is responsible for inviting four to six guest speakers to present. These seminars cover topics such as how to apply to graduate or professional school, what it's like to be a graduate student, current research being conducted in the presenter's laboratory or recent events having a biological theme. The Biology faculty also take turns discussing their research interests. Biology students, who were involved in summer research internships, also give a short presentation to their colleagues.

Each year the Department of Language and Literature offers the Westview Writers' Festival where an author is invited on campus to give a public reading from their work and interact with students. Music often brings in guest performers who are asked to present a master class to their students in music education, performance or music therapy. The Art faculty, too, have special workshops where an artist shares a skill with students. Recent workshops have covered tapestry, masks and pottery.

A seminar is one of the many strategies that our faculty use to add another dimension of learning to the classroom and increase our students' chance of success. I encourage alumni to contact our department chairs (contact information at right) if you would like to present a seminar, master class or workshop.



Pete Grant
Dean of Arts and Sciences

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CAS News

The SWOSU Staff Council held a recognition reception earlier this month. Glenda Printz (Chemistry & Physics) and Jo Hill (Language & Literature) were honored as retirees. Debbie Flaming (Biological Sciences) received a scholarship for her son who is attending SWOSU. Debbie is also a member of the Staff Council. Two CAS administrative assistants won door prizes – Rhyesa Hamilton (Music) and Teresa Grant (Art, Communication & Theatre).

Two English majors received awards for their research papers at the biennial conference of the William Gilmore Simms Society held recently at Clayton State University in Atlanta. Jarrod Ford of Woodward received the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Paper award for “Mythic Archetypes in ‘Sharp Snaffles’”. Parker Montgomery Long of Marlow received Honorable Mention for the same award for “Scipio’s Spiritual Victory: Complications of the Christian Conversion of Slaves in Simms’s ‘The Lazy Crow’”. Both students received cash awards and were invited to submit revisions of their papers for publication.

Mr. Blaine Boyd (SWOSU alumnus, English Education) has been named the 29th member of the Presidential Order of Merit at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. Boyd was recognized during a surprise ceremony recently at the White House where he currently serves as Director of Correspondence for the First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama.

Dr. Ronald Koehn (Mathematics) has been named director of the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Academic Bridge Program. The Bridge Program is designed to help students improve college preparedness through innovative courses that advance learning in English, math, and reading.

Dr. Wayne Trail (Chemistry & Physics) is organizing an astronomy club. The club is open to all western Oklahoma residents. More information is available from Trail at (580) 819-1186 or wayne.trail@swosu.edu. The club does have a Facebook account (search for “Weatherford Astronomy”).

Dr. Tim Hubin (Chemistry & Physics) received a grant from the National Science Foundation through Oklahoma State University for the Oklahoma Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation in Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology Program.

Each month Southwestern Oklahoma State University is recognizing a student as “Dawg of the Month” and the October winner is William Barr of Elk City. Barr is majoring in Art Education at SWOSU and is president of the SWOSU Art Club and vice president of the SWOSU National Art Education Association.

Dr. Joel Kendall (Art, Communication & Theatre) is involved in an NSF-funded project - Statistical Consulting Help for Organizational Leaders and Academic Researchers (SCHOLAR). The principal investigator is Dr. Tracy Morris of the University of Central Oklahoma. Dr. Kendall helped with the formation of the grant and developed a method of external evaluation. This will be his 20th time in the past eight years to serve as an external evaluator for a state or national grant program. He has evaluated programs that range from literacy improvement grants to physical education grants.

CAS News (cont.)

The Southwestern Singers' Women's Chorus, under the direction of Dr. Daniel Farris, has been selected to perform as an honor choir at the 2017 Oklahoma Music Educators Association. The selection is based on a blind peer review of all university choirs that applied for the coming conference.

The 4th annual Joyce Adams Curtis Concerto and Aria Finals Competition was recently held on campus. Elizabeth Stewart won the vocal division. She sang "Quando me'n vo" from *La bohème*. Yi Ching Chen won the instrumental division with a performance of "Cello Concerto No. 1 in A minor."

Dr. Yu-Ling Chen (Music) received financial assistance to attend the Music Therapy National Conference in Sandusky, OH.

Dr. Dorie Astle (Social Sciences) recently chaired a panel on Domestic Violence at the Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma Sociological Association held at UCO in Edmond.

Two Biology majors, Amber Powers and Braye Riseley, were accepted into the Early Admission Program of the OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences. Amber and Braye are the first Biology majors to be accepted into this program.

Other Biology majors being accepted into professional programs includes Mackenzie Gillham (OSU Veterinary Medicine), Maddi Stuart (Physical Therapy at Hardin-Simmons University), and Tyler Mitchum (OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine).

Jesse Velasco (Biology major) performed summer research at the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center as part of the OK-INBRE program. Jesse presented his results at the 2016 SACNAS National Conference in Long Beach, California, and the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students (ABRCMS) in Tampa, Florida.

CAS Wins Homecoming Office Display

The College of Arts & Sciences dean's office won the staff/faculty homecoming display contest. Ms. Carla Sandy, CAS Administrative Assistant, poses next to the display that she designed. Students from the Art Club contributed the bulldog face.



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Two CAS Faculty Complete Outstanding Professors' Academy

Each year SWOSU selects several faculty to attend the Outstanding Professors' Academy at the University of Central Oklahoma. Two CAS Faculty attended the last academy – Dr. Tugba Sevin (Language & Literature) and Dr. Jerry Dunn (Social Sciences).

“Established in 1998, the academy is designed for professors recognized for making superior contributions to their institutions and their disciplines. The academy recognizes that higher education faculty assume leadership roles and responsibilities every day in their relationships with students, peers, administrators and the public, and is designed to develop those leadership abilities during the yearlong program.”

Each of these faculty provided a summary of their experiences.

Dr. Tugba Sevin

I was much honored to be part of the Outstanding Professors' Academy. Different colleagues from a variety of disciplines came together to share their ideas about teaching in this Academy. It was a great pleasure to be part of this experience. The academy met four times during the academic year (weekends). We were students again. In every meeting, an important researcher gave lectures about different topics like diversity in the classroom, new generation of students, best practices in the classroom to improve teaching, etc. We had to take notes, do group activities, brainstorm, share our opinions/experiences and discuss with the rest of the class. There was a great interaction between our colleagues and the presenters during the meetings. This Academy helped me to

- improve my public speaking skills
- express my ideas more effectively
- brainstorm in an efficient way

- see the other side of the coin when it comes to teaching and teacher/student interaction
- learn that every professor has a different and enriching experience to share
- include in my curriculum new teaching techniques and
- understand that learning does not end. Every day is a new day and every day we can learn something new and transmit this information to others.

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to be part of OPA. I wish I could attend again and learn more.

Dr. Jerry Dunn

The ELA Outstanding Professors' Academy (OPA) provided a wonderful opportunity to enhance my teaching abilities, learn new and innovative techniques, and grasp a better understanding of the new generation of students. The OPA consisted of four sessions throughout 2015-2016, each with a particular focus. The sessions presented research, perspectives, and information from various experts within their respective fields. The sessions were also full of group and peer activities to deepen the experience.

The first session dealt with being a leader in your classroom. A general discussion of the perception of Higher Education opened the session. Then the conversation moved to focusing on the student in your classroom. Several strategies to help students transition from high school to college were presented, such as using rubrics to clarify grading, posting examples of great assignments, and treating students as individuals. The science of learning was then examined to shore up teaching schemes.

The second session covered cultural diversity in the
(continued on next page)

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university classroom. Information, examples and case studies were presented concerning diversity on the university campus, and how it's changed through the years. The participants worked in groups to develop a university diversity program, and how to implement such a program. The issue of diversity within a classroom dynamic was also addressed.

The third session was about the new generation of student, Generation Z. The presenters discussed a large-scale survey and interviews regarding student transitions to college, the realities of college life, and learning preferences, including how students really feel about group work. The participants shared observations and case scenarios. We also reflected on our own syllabi and had group discussions of innovative teaching strategies for engaging this developing generation of students. This was an eye-opening session that led to a better understanding and appreciation for the student in the classroom, and how they are changing.

The final session of the OPA was on Academic Leadership. The session provided an opportunity to engage in a guided reflection on the options open to faculty for leadership. The participants were encouraged to critically think about our career paths and aspirations of leadership roles. This is not a topic typically discussed with faculty, and was a very enlightening seminar.

Online and On Course: Excelling in the Online Environment

This conference was held November 7th at SWOSU and was organized by Drs. Tugba Sevin and Kelley Logan from the Department of Language & Literature. The goal of this conference was to provide our students and faculty insight about online learning options that SWOSU offers and how these options can help to improve the success of our students.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Bucky Dodd, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Chair for Online Learning Excellence. He gave a detailed presentation about the increasing importance of E-learning throughout the US and gave tips for success to students and faculty.

Other presenters included Mrs. Marci Grant (Director of SWOSU Distance and E-Learning), Drs. Victoria Gaydosik and Denise Landrum-Geyer (Language & Literature), Mr. Jon Woltz (Library), and Dr. Stephen Burgess (Psychology).



Tran Wins Homecoming Design Contest

This year's homecoming logo was designed by Communication Arts major Maggie (Nhu) Tran of Vietnam. Maggie received a \$250 cash prize furnished by the SWOSU Alumni Association. In addition to her studies, Tran serves as a news editor for *The Southwestern* student newspaper.

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SWOSU Saturday

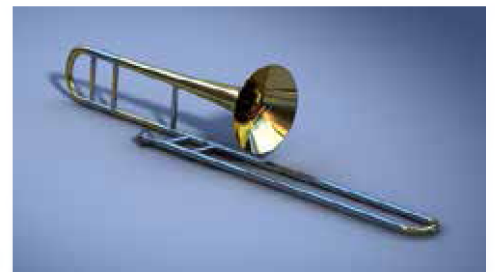


Faculty and students from all seven CAS departments participated in the annual SWOSU Saturday recruiting event in November. They shared information on degree requirements and career opportunities with high school students and their families.



Get Well Soon, Bob!

Shout-out to Dr. Robert Chambers (Music) who is recovering from surgery. We are looking forward to seeing you back in the band!



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Students and Faculty Attend Midwest Horror Shorts Festival

The Second Annual Midwest Horror Shorts Festival was held in Oklahoma City on October 28 and, for the second year, a SWOSU contingent attended. Faculty in Social Sciences have realized that too many students approach films passively. Over the years, the department has sponsored a variety of trips to film festivals as part of an effort to educate students on how “to read” films. Drs. Ted Brown and John Hayden have even introduced to students short horror films as a serious genre of material that can be studied and discussed.

For the second year in a row, 20 students joined Brown and Hayden for this event. In fact, the SWOSU group made up about 25% of the festival’s attendees.

Anyone interested in this material may consult Dr. Hayden’s Facebook page where he has posted links to two of the better horror shorts from the 2015 festival: *Sleight* and *The Smiling Man*.



Film festival attendees (left to right): Aaron Cornell, Ben Costea, Dr. John Hayden, Marisa Molnar, Dr. Ted Brown and John Seifreid

Students and Faculty Attend Criminal Justice Meeting

The SWOSU Criminal Justice Club attended the annual meeting of the Southwest Association of Criminal Justice in Oklahoma City. Students participated in various events, poster presentations, a panel, and a CSI competition. Students Armando Flores and Chase Maxwell won second place in the Association’s Quiz Bowl.

Dr. Howard Kurtz, club sponsor, chaired and participated in a panel discussion entitled “Police Officers and the Use of Deadly Force in Oklahoma.” Dr. Kurtz worked with the association to have the conference in Oklahoma City.

Dr. Dan Brown also participated in the same panel discussion and presented a paper entitled, “Private Prisons in Oklahoma: Administration of Justice or Cruel and Unusual Punishment.”



SWOSU students and Criminal Justice faculty: James Blood, Daniel Omoleye, Dr. Howard Kurtz, Julian Cole, Austin Browning, Dr. Dorie Astle, Blessing Abiodun, Dallas Lyles, Armando Flores, and Kevin Williams.

History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illumines reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life and brings us tidings of antiquity.

Cicero, *Pro Publico Sestio*

<http://www.quotes.net/authors/Cicero.%20Pro%20Publico%20Sestio>

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CAS Family Game Day

The faculty and staff of the College of Arts & Sciences and their families assembled for a football and volleyball watch party. While the football team was not victorious against Arkansas Tech, the women's volleyball team beat Southeastern Oklahoma State University in straight sets. Also victorious were Dr. Robin Jones (Art, Communication & Theatre) and her husband, Larry, who won first place in the Cook-off Challenge prior to the game.



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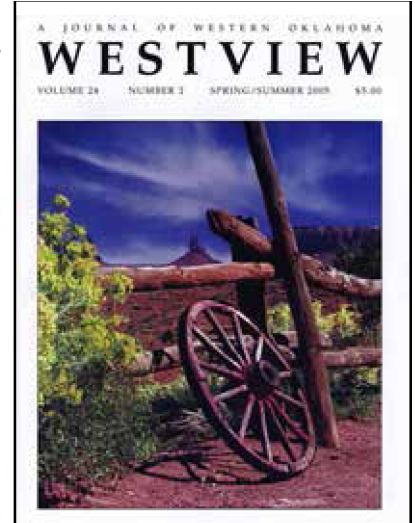
Westview is Online

Westview, a publication of the SWOSU Department of Language and Literature, is published twice a year. It contains a variety of works including short fiction, poetry, prose poems, drama, nonfiction, book reviews, literary criticism, and artwork.

Just recently, all 90 issues of *Westview* have been made available on the [SWOSU Digital Commons](#).

Print subscriptions for two years (four issues) are also available: \$15 in the United States; \$25 out of country. Single issues are \$6 including postage; \$5 if not mailed. Checks are to be made payable to *Westview* and sent to Westview, Department of Language and Literature, 100 Campus Drive, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Weatherford, OK 73096.

For more information, Contact the Editor, Dr. Amanda Smith at amanda.smith@swosu.



Important Dates

November

- 22 Thanksgiving Break Begins
- 28 Classes Resume

December

- 7 Last Day for Students to Drop with a WP/WF
- 7-9 Dead Days
- 12-16 Finals
- 16 Semester Break Begins
- 19 Grades Due
- 20 Semester Ends



<http://libguides.marquette.edu/NAHM2016>

2017 Study Abroad Opportunities at SWOSU

London & Oxford - Spring Break

March 10th - 19th

Dr. Jerry Dunn, jerry.dunn@swosu.edu

Dr. Amanda Smith, amanda.smith@swosu.edu

Spain

May 10th - 24th

Dr. Hector Garza, hector.garza@swosu.edu

Greece

May 22nd - June 3rd

Mr. Todd Parker,

todd.parker@swosu.edu

Belize

July 15th - 25th

Dr. Amanda Smith,

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