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

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aCAcademicS

The newsletter of the SWOSU College of Arts & Sciences

February 2016



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Important Dates

February

- 21 - Who's Who Ceremony
- 22 - Enrollment for Sophmores
- 26 - Council of Chairs Meeting
- 29 - Enrollment for Freshman

March

- 1 - SWOSU Foundation Scholarship Applications Due
- 3 - Brown Bag Seminar
- 4 - End of 1st 8 weeks
- 7 - Beginning of 2nd 8 weeks
- 10 - Bernhardt Awards Banquet
- 11 - Oklahoma Research Day
- 14- Campus Closed (Spring Break)
- 15 Campus Closed (Spring Break)
- 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- 21 - Classes Resume
- 24 - SWIM (Noon to 4:00pm)
- 25 - Council of Chairs
- 27 - Easter

Our Visit to Dove Science Academy

A few weeks ago, nine intrepid faculty and I visited Dove Science Academy in Oklahoma City to share information about our programs. Dove is a tuition-free college preparatory school in the OKC public school system. The curriculum focuses on math, science, engineering and computer technology. This school has been the recipient of many awards, has an A+ rating in the state school grading system, and boasts a 100% graduation rate. These results are even more amazing when one considers that 80.5% of their students participate in a free or reduced lunch program (compare with the state average of 62.5%).

I knew nothing about Dove until I read a recent article about the accomplishments of their students in The Oklahoman. I contacted Todd Boyd, SWOSU Director of Admissions and Recruitment, to learn more. It turns out that he regularly visits Dove on his recruiting trips. Todd gave me contact information and I called the school.

Mr. Muhammet Sezer, College Guidance Counselor, was extremely helpful in making arrangements for us and he answered our many questions as this was our first time to visit Dove.

Upon our arrival, we were welcomed by staff and teachers, given a room to settle in with refreshments, provided lunch, and were frequently visited between class sessions by administrators. Dove's public relations person even interviewed us for a [press release](#).

The event was particularly amazing because most of the sophomore, junior and senior instructors cancelled their classes that day just so we could talk to their students! For each lecture faculty gave an interactive presentation on their area of expertise and then finished with information about their department's degree programs.

Dove is now planning to bring some of their students to campus for a tour and to meet with potential advisors. This will be a great opportunity to further showcase our programs and opportunities.

As the times change so do our responsibilities and we are now finding that we must devote more time to recruiting. I will continue to organize recruiting events for the College of Arts and Sciences and I encourage departments to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. Alumni are welcome to become involved, too – if you know of a student, class or school that has an interest in SWOSU, please direct them to Mr. Boyd (580-774-3782, todd.boyd@swosu.edu).

There are many reasons for students to major in our programs. Recruiting events allow us to share those reasons.



Pete Grant
Dean of Arts and Sciences

CAS News

Great work on recruiting and retention! On the Weatherford campus headcount increased 5% and credit hours increased 5.3% compared to spring 2015.

We welcome Kaye Abramson to CAS. Kaye is the new Administrative Assistant for Chemistry and Physics.

Two Biology students won cash prizes in a contest honoring Dr. Martin Luther King: Ashley Powers, first place and Tosha Williams, third place.

Héctor Garza, along with Cynthia Peña and Tugba Sevin (all in Language and Literature), are translating SWOSU recruiting documents into Spanish to help Hispanic families learn about our programs.

Tim Hubin (Chemistry and Physics) received research funding from the National Institutes of Health through the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center. Tim was also honored at Oklahoma Mentor day at the State Capitol for his work with the Oklahoma Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation.

Victoria Gaydosik (Language and Literature) received the Outstanding Sponsor Award from Sigma Tau Delta. The award includes a plaque and a check for \$500 and will be announced at the Regents and Sponsors Luncheon at the 2016 Sigma Tau Delta Convention, March 2-5 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Trevor Ellis (Chemistry and Physics) received research funding from the National Science Foundation through OK-EPSCoR.

Nathalia Cocenza (History major) has been admitted to the graduate program in History at the University of South Carolina. She has been awarded an assistantship and a full tuition waiver. She plans to study Latin American history. Nathalia is from Brazil.

Howard Kurtz (Social Sciences) attended the meeting of the Online Task Force of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. He also served on an outside university curriculum review board for the American Council on Education.

Nick Whalen (Biology alumnus) was accepted into the Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

David Martyn (Chemistry and Physics) received the District Award of Merit at the Western Plains District (BSA) annual banquet. His wife, Tami, received the Scouter of the Year Award.

Austin Cantrell (Biology major) was accepted into the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine and the University of Oklahoma School of Community Medicine in Tulsa.

Continued on the following page.....

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CAS News (Continued)

Brian Campbell (Chemistry and Physics) received three more years of funding for the SWOSU Summer Science and Math Academy.

Sophia Lee (Music), Andrea Holgado (Biology) along with Brad Bryant (Engineering Technology) received funding from OCAST to provide internships for SWOSU students. This is an interdisciplinary endeavor involving three departments from two colleges.

Yesenia Hernandez (Chemistry major) was one of the recipients of the Nancy McClain Honorary Scholarship awarded by the Weatherford Branch of the AAUW.

Pamela Moreno Soto (Biology alumna) was accepted into the University of Texas El Paso and Regis University Physical Therapy programs.

Ashna Dhoonmoon (Biology major) and faculty mentor Rickey Cothran attended the Annual Meeting of the Society of Comparative and Integrative Biology in Portland, Oregon. Ashna presented her research as part of the Best Student Poster Competition.

Congratulations to the following faculty and students who received travel assistance to present or perform their scholarship at a professional meeting:

Students of Shelley Martinson (Music) - Iue-Nin Chu, Tiffany Piper, Hayden Stephenson

Siriporn Peters (Art, Communication and Theatre)

Richard Tirk (Music)

Elaine Davies (Art, Communication and Theatre)

The following faculty and students from Chemistry and Physics:

Jon Henrikson and his student, Gwen Burgess

William Kelley and his student, Daniel Ramirez

Lori Gwyn and her students, Sequojah O'Neal-Johnson, Megan Oertel and Madison Duckwall

Tim Hubin and his students Donnie Jones, Michael-Joseph Gorbet and Dustin Davilla

Trevor Ellis and his student, John Woods.



We welcome a new future musician to our flock: Malia Marie Tirk was born December 16, 9:48PM weighing in at 7lb 9oz and 20.5 inches. Congratulations to the parents!

Please Keep Us “Standing Firmly on the Hilltop”

All seven departments in the College of Arts and Sciences maintain accounts with the SWOSU Foundation. The funds in these accounts are used to provide scholarships and awards to students, assist faculty with research involving undergraduates, pay for travel expenses for guest speakers, and assist with other departmental expenses. These funds are becoming ever more important as state funding to SWOSU continues to decrease.

Our faculty and staff contribute generously to these funds: over 22% of monthly payroll gifts to the Foundation are allocated to Arts and Sciences Funds. The vast majority of the donors of those gifts are Arts & Sciences faculty and staff.

Faculty and staff, who would like to contribute to these accounts, can simply contact the Foundation office and arrange to have an amount deducted monthly from their salary.

Alumni and other supporters can make donations [online](#) or by calling the Foundation Office at (580) 774-3267.

Most departments have multiple foundation accounts. If you have questions about which account would be best for your contribution, please contact the department chair for assistance. (See p. 2 for contact information).



Oklahoma Scholar-Leadership Enrichment Program

The 2015-2016 Oklahoma Scholar-Leadership Enrichment Program has been released. For more information, visit the OSLEP web site or contact our campus representative, John Hayden (Social Sciences).

Anti-Americanism: Impact and Policy Implications (3 credits)
March 5-9, 2016

Galileo, Renaissance Science, and the Arts (3 credits)
March 14-18, 2016 at the University of Oklahoma

Landscape and Memory in the American Southwest (3 credits)
May 16-21, 2016 in Santa Fe



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Raku Fire Used in Clay Studio Class

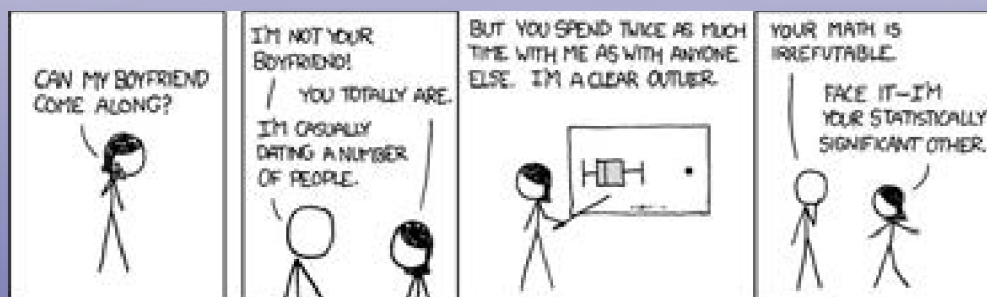
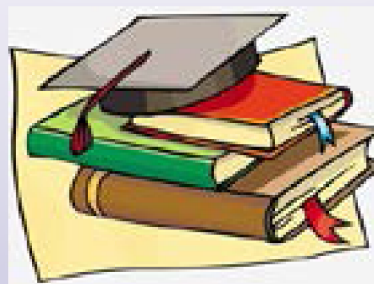


Ed Helm, visiting artist, demonstrates the ancient technique of Raku firing to Marsha Carman's clay studio class. To Raku fire, clay pots are put into a container with combustible material such as sawdust, newspaper or leaves, and allowed to smoke for a pre-determined length of time. The carbonaceous atmosphere reacts and affects the glazes and clay and imparts unique effects and surfaces to the pottery. Raku was first developed by Korean potters under Japanese rule in the 17th century and popularized in the United States by Paul Soldner in the 1950's.

Honors Program Library

The Southwestern Oklahoma State University Honors Program is working to make a library for the students. If you have any books or resources in areas such as math, science, literature, etc., that you would be willing to donate to the program, please contact the Co-director of the Honors Program, Brian Campbell, by phone (774-3118) or email (brian.campbell@swosu.edu). Or, just send the books to his office 101-D CPP.

For more information about the SWOSU Honors Program please visit www.swosu.edu/academics/honors. Thank you for all your support.



<https://xkcd.com/539/>

Recruiting Visit to Dove Science and Math Academy



Nine CAS faculty and I visited the Dove Science and Math Academy in OKC to recruit students. All seven CAS departments participated. In the left photo, Sophia Lee leads a music therapy session. At right, Jason Johnson discusses career opportunities in chemistry and physics.

February is Black History Month

How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these.

George Washington Carver

<http://www.africanamerican-quotes.org/george-washington-carver.html>

Portfolio Day at OKMOA



The Oklahoma Art Education Association recently sponsored Portfolio Day at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art. Oklahoma schools brought prospective junior and senior students to visit with representatives. Todd Parker and Marsha Carman, representing Southwestern Oklahoma State University, visited with many of the over 230 students while viewing their portfolios.

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Top 10 Higher Education State Policy Issues for 2016

American Association of State Colleges and Universities

These are issues “that are likely to generate the most attention in state capitals.”

1. Keeping college affordable through state investment in public higher education
2. Improving institutional outcomes and degree production
3. Combatting campus sexual assault
4. Meeting state economic needs through higher education
5. Aligning secondary-postsecondary educational standards
6. College access for undocumented and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival students
7. Guns on campus
8. College access and success for veterans
9. Free community college
10. Student loan refinancing and debt assistance

<http://www.aascu.org/policy/publications/policy-matters/TopTen2016.pdf>



2016: United Nations International Year of Pulses (legumes)



http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/plses-2016/news-pic/large_Pulses-cropped.jpg