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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

November 2015



Important Dates

November

19 - Council of Chairs Meeting
 25 - Campus Closed
 26 - Campus Closed
 27 - Campus Closed
 30 - Classes Resume

December

4 - Spring Load Due (changes only)
 9 - Last Day to Drop WP/WF
 9 - Dead Day
 10 - Dead Day
 10 - Coucil of Chairs Meeting (Tentative)
 11 - Dead Day
 14 thru 18 - Finals
 18 - Requests for Sabbaticals Due to Dean.
 21 - Grades Due
 22 - Semester Ends

December 24 thru January 1
 - CAMPUS CLOSED

January

4 - Campus Reopens
 11 - Classes Begin

Assessment? Over My Dead body!

One thing that makes our language interesting is the variety of words that all have the same meaning - synonyms, of course. Even a simple word like yes has many synonyms. For example, most assuredly, okay, and you bet. Rocky Balboa's positive response to Adrian was usually "Absolutely." And who can forget Curly Howard's (one of the original Three Stooges) favorite affirmative - "certainly"? (Usually pronounced, soitanly!)

And yes' antonym likewise has a bunch of synonyms. We often hear nix, negative, when pigs fly or when hell freezes over.

Recently, a colleague shared a conversation that he had with another academic who used an interesting idiom that means no. Both individuals were attending a meeting during which the topic of assessment was being discussed. The academic leaned over to my colleague and whispered, "Assessment? Over my dead body!"

So, I doubt if this academic has plans to incorporate any kind of assessment into his courses. It would be interesting to ask why he was so against assessment. True, this means additional work for the instructor. Plus the academic probably would say that the exams, quizzes and term paper he already assigns are all the assessment he needs.

The University of Connecticut assessment [web site](#) provides several explanations of assessment including the following:

Assessment is the process of gathering and discussing information from multiple and diverse sources in order to develop a deep understanding of what students know, understand, and can do with their knowledge as a result of their educational experiences; the process culminates when assessment results are used to improve subsequent learning.

Exams, quizzes and writing assignments can certainly be used to meet the first part of this explanation, but are the students' performances on these assignments being used to "improve subsequent learning"?

Goal One of our Academic Strategic Plan deals with student retention. We hope to increase retention rates by 5% in fall 2016, 10% in fall 2017 and 15% in fall 2018. We can achieve these goals by using assessment tools. Just like there are many ways to say yes or no, there are also many ways to assess student performance. The UConn [web site](#) lists 18. Instructors will select the assessment tools to determine the most effective methods to use in in the classroom.

I encourage you to discuss assessment in your department meetings. In the near future, when someone asks "Assessment?" I hope the answer will be "Absolutely!"

Have an absolutely wonderful November.



Pete Grant
 Dean of Arts and Sciences

CAS News

Several of the CAS staff were honored at the recent Staff Reception:

Service Awards

10 Years – Teresa Ritter, Mathematics
 25 Years – Debbie Flaming, Biological Sciences and Social Sciences
 35 Years – Jo Hill, Language and Literature

Debbie and Jessica Smith (Chemistry and Physics) serve on the Staff Council.

And congratulations to Carla Sandy (Art, Communication and Theatre) and Glenda Printz (Chemistry and Physics) who won door prizes!

Guy Biyogmam recently published an article in Communications in Algebra: [On the Harmonic Oscillator Algebra](#).

Howard Kurtz (Social Sciences) was interviewed by Channel 9 News about an 18 year old child abduction cold case. He served as Session Chair for the section on International Policing and Corrections at the Southwestern Association of Criminal Justice Meetings in South Padre Texas. Howard also presented a paper at the same conference on "A Comparison of Modern Problems in Corrections in the United States and Great Britain."

Six CAS departments participated in the Career Days event on the Sayre Campus: Art, Communication and Theatre; Biological Sciences; Chemistry and Physics; Mathematics; Music; and Social Sciences.

Dan Brown (Social Sciences) attended the Oklahoma Political Science Association annual conference at the University of Central Oklahoma and presented a paper entitled "Political Corruption in Oklahoma." One of his students, Caylie Patton, presented a paper entitled "The Forfeiture Process, Government Taking Private Property without Due Process."

At the Southwest Criminal Justice conference, Dan presented a paper entitled "The Insecurity of Oklahoma Prison Security," which was an analysis of the increasing number of prison escapes and riots in the Oklahoma Prison system.

The new Miss Southwestern, Maybree Rittenhouse, is a Biology major!

Biological Sciences and Chemistry and Physics participated in the Canadian Valley Technology Center EXPO.

Five CAS faculty received financial assistance from the Office of Sponsored Programs to present at professional meetings:

Sophia Lee (Music)
 E. K. Jeong (Art, Communication and Theatre)
 Fred Alsberg, Jason Cash and Christi Cook (Language and Literature).

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Bernhardt Academic Excellence Award

“A great number of SWOSU educators have gained distinction through their achievements in their profession, service to the University, and contributions to their community. The Bernhardt Academic Excellence Award was established by Dr. Bill and Theta Juan Bernhardt in 1994, to recognize faculty who have exhibited exceptional achievement in teaching, scholarship, and service.”

If this describes one of your colleagues, please nominate him or her. Nominations must be submitted to the SWOSU Foundation Office by 25 January. [Nomination form.](#)

Proposal Development Awards

Southwestern Oklahoma State University is providing up to a total of \$12,000 for Proposal Development Awards (PDAs) for 2016 to enhance scholarly activity. The intent of the University award is to provide faculty with financial resources to draft proposals for external funding which would minimally be greater than the monies provided by the University award but potentially be in excess of the award. Each award provides funds up to \$6,000.

It is expected as a condition of the award that at the end of the funding cycle (January 22, 2017), a proposal in a form ready for submission to an external agency will be submitted to the Office of Sponsored Programs.

A Proposal Development Awards Workshop has been scheduled for Thursday, November 19, at 3:00 p.m. in the President's Conference Room. Applications for the Proposal Development Awards are due in the Office of Sponsored Programs by January 26, 2016.

Additional information is available on the Sponsored Program's [web site](#).

SWOSU Faculty Attend STEM Summit



Brian Campbell and David Esjornson (far right, Chemistry and Physics) recently represented Oklahoma Summer Science and Mathematics Academies at the Governor's 3rd annual Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Summit in Oklahoma City. The day-long summit brought together over 400 participants—Oklahoma business leaders, educators, students and other key stakeholders—with the focus being the critical importance of STEM for future economic growth in the state. With Campbell and Esjornson are (from left) Oklahoma Regents for Higher Education representatives Mr. Matt Higdon, Dr. Cynthia Brown and Ms. Lisa Nelson; and Governor Mary Fallin.

What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night. It is the breath of a buffalo in the wintertime. It is the little shadow which runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset.

Crowfoot
Blackfoot Warrior and Orator

November is National Native American Indian Heritage Month

Carman Serves on National Board



Marsha Carman (Art, Communication and Theatre) recently spent three days in Chicago serving on the National Board of Professional Teachers Art Content Advisory Committee. Marsha is a ten year National Board Certified teacher as well as a two year NBCT.

Teacher licensure systems set the basic requirements to teach in K-12 schools in each state, and completion of National Board Certification signifies that teachers have voluntarily gone much further. NBCTs have developed and demonstrated the advanced knowledge, skills and practices required of an outstanding educator.

The National Board has sought to review and revise its standards and certification process to reflect best practices in teaching. The standards for each content area and developmental levels are created by teachers, for teachers. They represent a consensus among educators about what accomplished, effective teachers should know and be able to do to improve student learning and achievement.



Brian Campbell (Chemistry and Physics) receives the 2015 Outstanding Alumni Distinguished Educator Award during the University of Wisconsin-Platteville Homecoming activities. The award recognizes alumni who have achieved success in education, in artistic endeavors, and/or in their chosen profession as the success of graduates reflects favorably on the value of a degree from UW-Platteville.



“Now in its 17th year, [Oklahoma Research Day](#) is a premier annual event celebrating student and faculty research, creative, and scholarly activities. The event has grown in numbers and in stature with contributions from all of Oklahoma's institutions of higher education, including many collaborative contributions from national and international academic and research institutions. The 2014 Oklahoma Research Day event had over 1,200 registered students, faculty, and guests and featured over 700 unique poster presentations.”

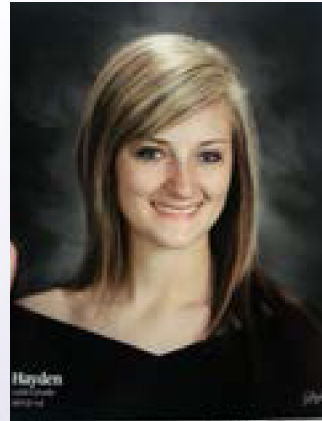
Abstract submission: 29 January

Registration deadline: 10 February

Third Annual Joyce Adams Curtis Concerto/Aria Competition Winners



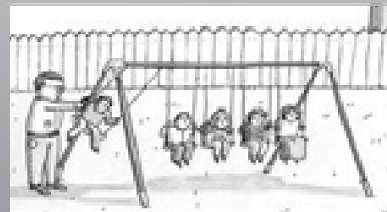
Howard Kurtz (Social Sciences) was interviewed by Fox 25 News on the new advances in DNA and the Kristen Hatfield abduction case.



The Music Department recently held the third annual Joyce Adams Curtis Concerto/Aria Competition. The Instrumental Division Winner was Hayden Stephenson (left photo). Hayden is a student of Shelley Martinson and a sophomore majoring in instrumental education and flute performance.

The Vocal Division Winner was Kaylee Mayfield. Kaylee is a student of Kristin Griffeth and a senior majoring in vocal performance.

The Joyce Adams Curtis Concerto/Aria Competition is named after a beloved colleague who taught in the music department for more than 10 years and who suddenly passed away in the summer of 2012. Ms. Curtis conducted the Women's Chorus and Chamber Choir and taught fundamentals of music, organ, class piano, and class voice, as well as applied voice. Her smile and spirit have been greatly missed, and we believe this competition will highlight the kind of excellent musicianship and hard work she so gracefully inspired in her tenure here as SWOSU.

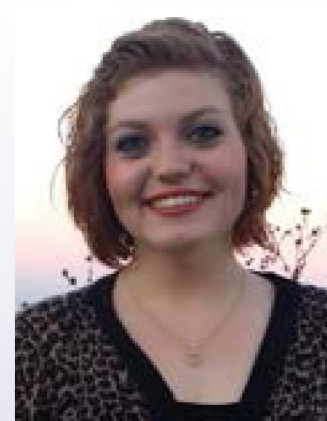


Why science teachers should not be given playground duty.

<https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/236x/a4/14/c5/a414c52c875f8cca-9e4a92db94b3baaa.jpg>



Congratulations to Alex (Music) and Sophie Lee who welcomed Joanna Grace, 8 pounds, 18 inches, to their home on 2 November.

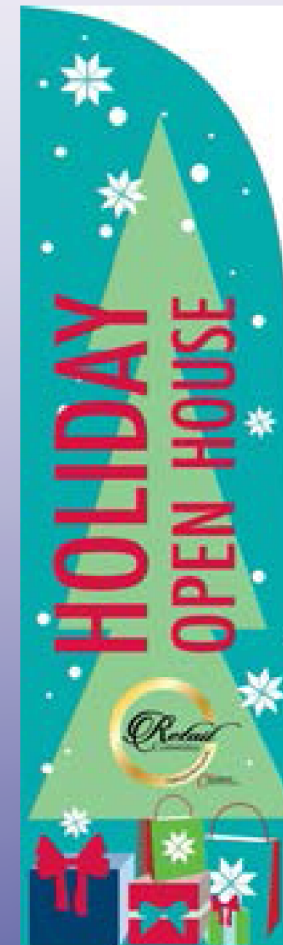


Graphic Design Students Work with Clinton Chamber of Commerce Retail Committee

Graphic design students in Intermediate Graphic Design II worked on a project for the Clinton Chamber of Commerce Retail Committee along with Lisa Theissen from the SWOSU Small Business Development Center.

The scope of the project was to design 8-foot feather flags and a map for the "Holiday Open House" and "Chocolate Stop" events in November.

For this work, the President of the Retail Committee will pay for the entry of this design in the National Student Show Competition and Conference 12 in Dallas, April 2016.

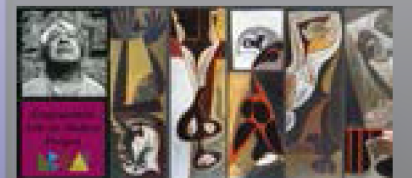


Art in Motion: Guayasamín's Ecuador Unframed

A nationally-known art exhibit, that will appear at only four places in the United States, will be at Southwestern Oklahoma State University starting November 11 and continuing through December 21.

"Art in Motion: Guayasamín's Ecuador Unframed" will be located on the main floor of the Al Harris Library on the Weatherford campus. Admission is free.

The exhibit is a collaborative effort among a faculty group headed by Dr. Tugba Sevin (Language and Literature), the SWOSU Libraries, SWOSU College of Arts & Sciences and Weatherford Arts Council. It was designed for the University of Notre Dame and Latino communities, and now travels to institution host sites.



<http://artsandculture.nd.edu/crossroads-gallery/guayasamin-art-in-motion/>

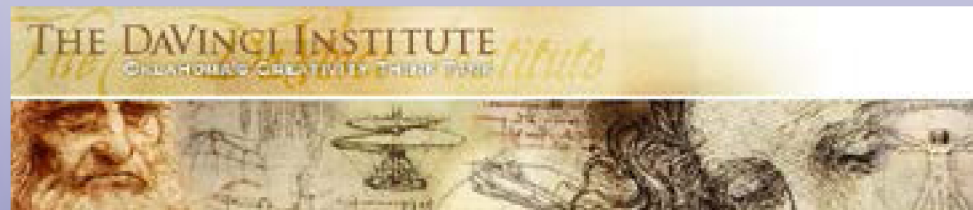
Dean's Challenge!

The Weatherford Great Plains Family YMCA will hold a 5k fun run/walk on Saturday, 5 December, at 9:30 AM. Free childcare will be available for participants. A chili lunch will be served after the race.

The Dean will be participating. Any CAS faculty or staff who beats the Dean to the finish line gets a free lunch at Duke's Diner or the University Grill! Your choice.

Need an application? Contact peter.grant@swosu.edu. Register before 30 November to get a T-shirt.

So, you've got to ask yourself one question: "Do I feel lucky?" Well, do ya?



"The DaVinci Fellowship funds creative projects, broadly defined, among Oklahoma's higher education faculty. Acting on the premise that creative thought and insight are fundamental components of extraordinary scholarship, invention, teaching, and performance across academic disciplines, those chosen as DaVinci Fellows receive \$1000 awards to support creative endeavors in the coming year. Follow this link to download [2016 DaVinci Fellow Application Materials](#)."

Sophia Lee (Music) and Tim Hubin (Chemistry and Physics) are DaVinci Fellows.

Application deadline is 4 January 2016

ENGL 3653 Writing in Disciplines

Denise Landrum-Geyer

Spring 2016

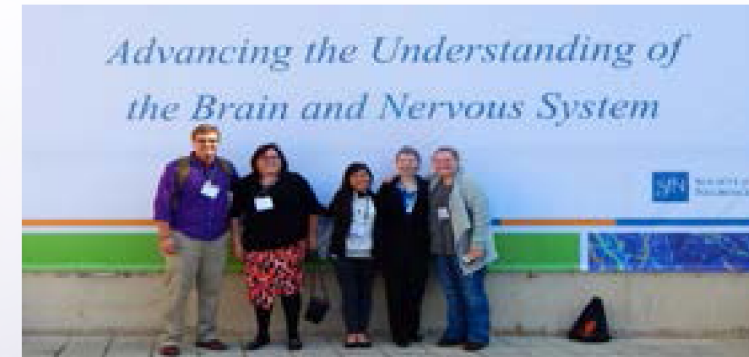
This course will focus on allowing students to investigate the writing and citation practices of their field with most of the semester devoted to students developing a research-based writing project (we'll go through the steps of writing a proposal, an annotated bibliography, an abstract, a literature review, and the final paper/project). In addition, the end of the semester will focus on developing professional documents, such as a resume, CV, cover letters, application letters, and formal emails.

If you know of students who are at the write-up stage of a research project or students who might need a little more practice with writing, this course could be quite useful to them. The course will meet Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:45 PM in CAM 205, and I am happy to answer any questions you or your students might have.

The last time I taught the course, half of the students were from science majors, and they seemed to find the approach I took useful. Under the new GE plan, this course can count as an elective under the "Communications and Symbols" category, too.

[Dean's Note: This would be a great course for your students who plan to present at Oklahoma Research Day, SWOSU Scholarly Activity Fair or are working on a final research report or manuscript.]

Biology Students and Faculty Present at Neuroscience Meeting



Four SWOSU Biology students and mentor Andrea Holgado presented their research at the 45th Annual International Neuroscience meeting in Chicago. The SWOSU contingent included (from left) Jake Gregston, Andrea Holgado, Lyly Van, Ashley Powers and Elizabeth Jansing.

2016 Oklahoma Medal for Excellence – Nominations

"The Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence is a privately-funded statewide nonprofit organization created to recognize and encourage academic excellence in Oklahoma's public schools. Each year an independent committee selects winners of the Oklahoma Medal for Excellence in Teaching and Administration in the following categories: public elementary teaching; public secondary teaching; public regional university and community college teaching; public research university teaching; and public school administration. Each of the five educators selected receives a \$5,000 cash award and a glass sculpture designed specifically for this award. Honorees will be recognized at the Academic Awards Banquet on May 21, 2016." Last Year Tim Hubin (Chemistry and Physics) received this award.

Nominations are due 1 December. The [Nominee Information Form](#) is available online.



Everyone came out to assist with SWOSU Saturday on 31 October. Here Pete Grant (Dean) shows off an arachnid that he recently captured in President Beutler's office. This was one of the smaller specimens collected.