



3-1-2016

# 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/iss2/1>

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# aCAcademicS

The newsletter of the SWOSU College of Arts & Sciences

March 2016



March, 2016

## aCAcademics

The newsletter of the SWOSU College of Arts &amp; Sciences

**Make Some Connections!**

The seven departments in Arts and Sciences have had an interesting semester recruiting. First, we were invited to visit Dove Science and Math Academy in Oklahoma City. Next, we were invited to attend College Days at ASTEC High School, also in OKC.

After spring break the semester tends to be unusually busy with the SWIM Contest, Transformative Learning Conference, three New Student Orientations, Scholarly Activity Fair, department performances and banquets, and so on. So, I won't be planning any more large recruiting trips for the College as a whole. However, there are always opportunities for departments to recruit on their own. For example,

**Important Dates****March**

- 23 - Let's Talk about SWOSU at Sayre
- 23 - Education Career and Resource Fair
- 24 - SWIM (Noon to 4:00pm)
- 27 - Easter
- 29 - Brown Bag Seminar on Women's Studies
- 30 - Career Fair
- 31 - Transformative Learning Conference, OKC

**April**

- 1 - NSO
- 1 - Transformative Learning Conference, OKC
- 7 - NSO
- 13 - NSO

- The Admissions Office maintains a list of students who have expressed interest in SWOSU. Department Chairs have access to that information, which also includes the student's choice of a major. Likewise, contact information for students who have signed up for New Student Orientation sessions is available to chairs.
- Take advantage of events occurring in your building. For example, History Day is 30 March in the Old Science Building. That's a great opportunity for Social Sciences and Biological Sciences to set up their recruiting displays.
- The annual Southwestern Interscholastic Meet is 24 March. That's another good time for departments to set up recruiting tables in their buildings. Also, consider showing a PowerPoint slide presentation about your program prior to exams like Dorie Astle (Social Sciences) does. Be sure to have some brochures available.
- Newspapers articles can provide some ideas, too. That's where I learned about Dove Science and Math Academy. Articles also identify students who are National Merit Scholars, scholar-athletes, Academic All-State Scholars, Students of the Month, winners of various academic competitions, and involved in youth leadership programs.
- Finally, think about an aspect of your life that could connect you with certain high school students. I often see articles in the paper about young men earning their Eagle Scout Award. I'm involved in Scouting as an adult leader, my son is an Eagle Scout, and so am I. So, I'll be sending a letter to those Scouts, c/o their high school counselor, explaining the many benefits of attending SWOSU.

One of the many great aspects of this College is the tremendous diversity among the faculty. That gives us lots of opportunities to make connections with potential students.

Enjoy your spring.



Pete Grant  
Dean of Arts and Sciences

## CAS News

Guy Biyogmam (Mathematics) reviewed a paper for *Mathematical Reviews* a publication of the American Mathematical Society.

Four individuals received financial assistance to present their scholarship at professional meetings: Héctor Garza and Cynthia Peña (Language and Literature), and Lisa Castle and her student, Melani Knisley (Biological Sciences).

Muatasem Ubeidat received funding from the National Institutes of Health through the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center. This funding will be used to support biomedical research in Chemistry and Physics and Biological Sciences.

Eleven faculty are participating in the Online Course Development Workshop. Six of those faculty are from CAS: Keith Talley, Daniel Farris and Shelley Martinson (Music); Jerry Dunn (Social Sciences); Christi Cook (Language and Literature); and Catherine DeVaughan (Mathematics).

Richard Tirk (Music) received funding from the City of Weatherford Hotel/Motel Tax Advisory Committee in support of the 46th Annual Jazz Festival.

Six proposals for Proposal Development Awards were submitted to the Office of Sponsored Programs. All six were from CAS faculty! Four faculty were funded: Lori Gwyn and Doug Linder (Chemistry and Physics), Chris Horton and Regina McGrane (Biological Sciences).

Thirty-seven CAS students were honored at the 2016 Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges ceremony. Among them was Carla Salcido (Criminal Justice Major) who is our student assistant in the Dean's office.

In the February 2016 issue of the Office of Sponsored Program's newsletter, 22 of the 39 (56%) individuals recognized for grantsmanship and professional presentations were CAS faculty!

### Social Sciences

This department will be involved with hosting three meetings in the near future:

- the 2016 Annual State Meeting for Criminal Justice in OKC organized by Howard Kurtz
- the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (the National History Honor Society) and the Oklahoma Association of Professional Historians, February 2017, on the Southwestern campus.
- the May 2017 Meeting of the Economic and Business Historians in OKC organized by Fred Gates.

Dozens of students, faculty, alumni, and families joined David Hertzels annual trip to the OKC Museum of Art to view the five Oscar nominated live action short films. Then they discussed the films during dinner at the Thai Kitchen. This year was the 10th Anniversary for the department to organize this event.

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## CAS News (continued)

### Biological Sciences

Three students were accepted into professional programs:

- Mason Howe - OU Medical School
- Colby May - MLS clinical program at St Francis Hospital in Tulsa
- Abby McKisson - OSU Center for Veterinary Health Sciences.

Ashna Dhoonmoon, Alina Shrestha, Ashley Powers, Brad Burke, Jesse Velasco, and Tyler Mitchum were selected as OK-INBRE summer research fellows.

Alfa Abame was selected for the 2016 Colby College Summer REU Site "Undergraduate Research into the Cultural, Economic, and Ecological Roles of Church Forests in South Gondar, Ethiopia."

Susan Fanning, Nile McCullough, Melani Knisley and Keegan Coon presented posters at the first Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference. Lisa Castle (faculty) also attended and gave an oral presentation

Rickey Cothran, Zach Jones (Biological Sciences) and Pete Grant (Dean) attended the first annual Oklahoma Biodiversity Network Forum in Norman. Pete presented a poster entitled, "The Mayflies of Oklahoma."

### March Is Women's History Month

"Without courage we cannot practice any other virtue with consistency."

Maya Angelou

<https://www.nwhm.org/education-resources/history/quotes>

## Alumni News

I am an alumnus from the class of '91. I just got accepted into the American Glass Guild ART GLASS NOW 2016 Exhibit that will be touring to both the Logan Center for the Arts and the Washington National Cathedral in DC and will be judged by Judith Schaechter. Some of us still do use our degrees. I have been an art conservator for the last 20 years in the Dallas area and have worked for years with galleries, private collections and museums such as Museum of Biblical Art, Ann and Gabriel Barbier Mueller Samurai Museum and others. I have several alumni on Facebook and they seem to be doing well also: Paul Stone, Jay Hollopeter, and Sossee Eskidjian.

M. V. Sheets



## HOPE Club Powwow



There were over 100 participants at the 1st Annual Powwow at SWOSU on 5 March. Michael Meeks, the President of the Native American Student Association (which is also known as the HOPE Club) and his team worked diligently to make this event happen. The event was partially supported by the Department of Art, Communication and Theatre, Ruth Boyd, Allen Boyd, Melanie Miller, Gail Wilcox and Henrietta Mann. Additional assistance was provided by graphic design students and CAB.

## A Bloody Good Chapter!



<https://www.sensepublishers.com/catalogs/bookseries/teaching-race-and-ethnicity/race-in-the-vampire-narrative/>

This book contains a chapter written by Christi Cook (Language and Literature) entitled, "There's No Place Like Home: the Corresponding Constructs of Hybridity and 'Home' in Chicana and Vampyre Teenaged Bodies."



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## Improvising



Theatre students had the opportunity to work with The Second City performers prior to the Panorama event.

## Social Sciences Students and Faculty Attend State Meeting



Social Sciences students and faculty attended the annual meeting of the Oklahoma Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the History Honor Society, and the Oklahoma Association of Professional Historians. Three history majors presented papers:

Victoria Stambaugh - "The Beat Movement and the Generation Gap of the 1950s"

Kyra Schmidt - "A New Kind of Playground: Youth Involvement in the Civil Rights Movement"

Jordan Lager Newton - "The U.S. Government and Propaganda: Shaping the American Youth, 1944-1945." Jordan's paper won 3rd prize in the category of undergraduate paper on an American History Topic.

These students wrote the original versions of these papers in Becky Bruce's class, "America in the 1950s and 1960s" during fall 2015.

Students were accompanied by four Social Sciences faculty: Becky, Sunu Kodumthara, Laura Endicott and John Hayden.

## English as a Second Language Club Formed on Campus

A new English as a Second Language (ESL) Club has formed on campus. Tee Kesnan and Fred Alsberg (Language and Literature), co-sponsors of the club, said any interested students are welcome to join. International students whose first language is not English are especially welcome.

For more information, contact ESL President Rukayat Idris at (713) 419-8909 or Vice President Ahmed Albagshi at (580) 819-2450.

## Presentation on Knitted Tapestry



The Department of Art, Communication and Theatre invited artist Romy Owens to campus for a presentation. She recently finished a 90' x 36' knitted tapestry in Tulsa. This project involved over 350 knitters and seamers. Visit her [website](#) to see photos of this work adorning a building in Tulsa.

## Onward and Upward...

I saved the most important announcement for last. Tamera Kisinger has been the Administrative Assistant for the College of Arts and Sciences for almost 4.5 years. During that time she has worked with 5 different individuals serving in the position as dean. Tamera has recently accepted a position as Executive Assistant in the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. We wish Tamera the very best in her new position.

