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

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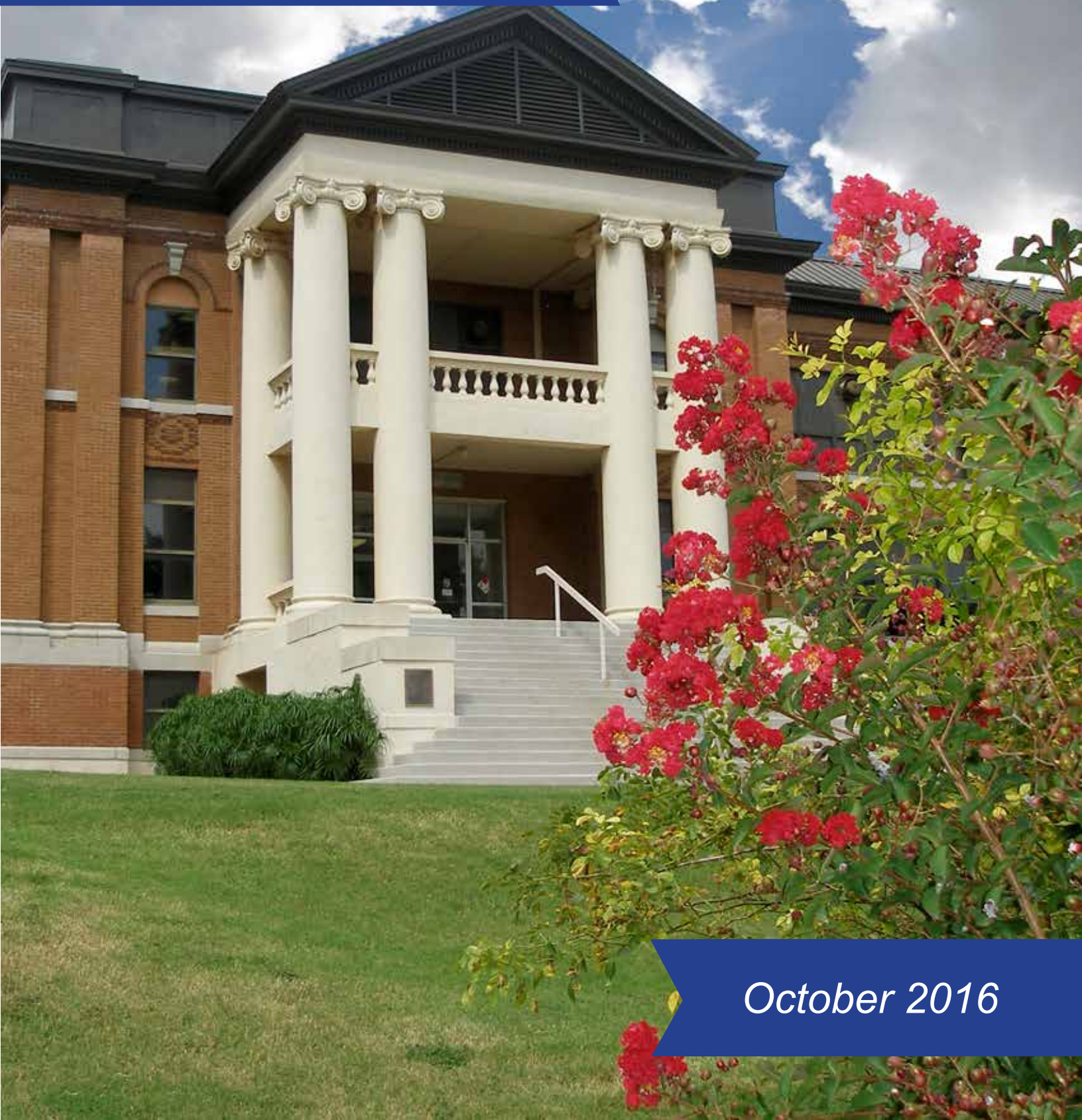
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aCAademicS

The Newsletter of the
SWOSU College of Arts & Sciences



October 2016

aCAcademics

The Newsletter of the
SWOSU College of Arts & Sciences

October 2016

A Summer Experience

Each month I receive many emails from faculty containing contributions for the next issue of this newsletter. The emails I enjoy the most, I must confess, are about student accomplishments – students who have been accepted into professional or graduate school, received special awards, or have been hired for their dream job.

Lately, many of the emails are celebrating students who have been awarded an internship. These opportunities, also called co-ops, summer opportunities, or undergraduate research, give the student a hands-on, real-life experience and are an excellent way to explore a career. Often the internships take place off campus, which allows the student to work in an environment that might not be available on campus. Besides that, students are often paid for these experiences, so not only do they gain experience, but also income.

Decades ago, when I arrived at SWOSU, internships were not very common. Now, in the last few issues of this newsletter, we have reported on 23 students who have received internships in just the last 5 months! This includes students not only from the sciences (Chemistry, Physics, and Biology) but also the fine arts (Music and Art).

Over the years, our students have had internships at Epcot Center at Walt Disney World, the FBI, Harvard University, the Mayo Clinic, Monsanto Corporation, NASA, the U. S. Departments of Agriculture and the Interior, and the White House. Several have even gone to Germany, Spain and France for their internship.

In recent years internship opportunities have increased tremendously. For example, the Department of Biological Sciences at the Rochester Institute of Technology has a website that lists literally thousands of summer internship opportunities, throughout the world, for Biology students. Other disciplines likely have similar listings.

We will continue to encourage our students to explore their career interests with an internship. Should any alumni know of such opportunities for our students, please contact the appropriate department chair listed on page 2 or feel free to send me the details. I'll be happy to pass the information along.



Pete Grant
Dean of Arts and Sciences

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CAS News

Dr. Rickey Cothran (Biological Sciences) has been selected to participate in the year's Leadership Weatherford class.

Fifteen CAS majors were elected as senators to serve on the SWOSU Student Government Association.

Dr. Lori Gwyn (Chemistry and Physics) is serving as President of the American Association of University Women Weatherford Branch and Ms. Kathy O'Neal (Mathematics) is serving as Treasurer.

Ten teacher candidates will be working with cooperating teachers this semester in the areas of art, English, natural science, mathematics, music and history education: Shae Brackett, Larry Cribbs, Alyssa Frisen, Mary Keen, Jordan Lager, Zachary Maynard, Kaitlin Nootbaar, Olivia Pannell, Jordan Satterlee and Katie Welty.

John Herring (Graphic Design major) is working as a graphic design intern at the Stafford Air and Space Museum.

Dr. Denis Trubitsyn (Biological Sciences) presented a paper at the 5th International Meeting on Magnetobacteria in Marseille, France. One of his coauthors is Jaci Peetoom, a Biology major.

Dr. Swarup Ghosh (Mathematics) has published the following article: Isolated Point Theorems for Uniform Algebras on Two- and Three-Manifolds, Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society, Volume 144, Number 9, Pages 3921 – 3933.

I have always imagined that paradise will be a kind of library.

Jorge Luis Borges

<http://library.wustl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/2006spring.pdf>

Faculty Development

CAS faculty continue to take advantage of learning opportunities by attending three workshops recently:

Legal Issues Workshop

Dr. David Bessinger
Dr. Jerry Dunn
Dr. Peter Grant
Dr. Jason Johnson
Dr. Joel Kendall
Dr. Tom McNamara

Promoting Undergraduate Research Conference

Dr. Peter Grant
Dr. Kristin Griffeth
Dr. Tim Hubin (also a keynote speaker!)
Ms. Jessica Salmans

How to Create Courses That Help People Learn Workshop

Dr. Sylvia Esjornson
Dr. Andrea Holgado
Dr. Robin Jones
Dr. Denise Landrum-Geyer
Dr. Kelley Logan
Dr. Tugba Sevin

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

<http://pinkforoctober.org/badges.html>



CAS Organized Research Awards

The Office of Sponsored Programs gave CAS \$20,000 to assist faculty with their scholarship. This year 18 faculty from 6 departments submitted proposals totaling \$35,126. Fourteen proposals were funded. The following list identifies the recipients, amount awarded, and title of their proposal.

- Dr. Jason Cash, \$790 – Sans lingua franca: language and power in *Metal Gear Solid V: The Phantom Pain*
- Dr. Yu-Ling Chen, \$1590 – Training beat synchronization to improve phonological processing: comparing playing musical rhythm video games and making music
- Dr. Rickey Cothran, \$1590 – Evolutionary ecology research in aquatic systems
- Dr. Elaine Davies, \$980 – Why males have difficulty with the “V-word label”: victim. A case study approach to studying intimate partner violence
- Dr. Swarup Ghosh, \$1140 – Point derivations and Gleason parts for uniform algebras
- Dr. Lori Gwyn, \$1590 – Construction of arsenic biosensors for a biochemistry lab module
- Dr. Jon Henrikson, \$1590 – Method development to monitor changes in microbial secondary metabolite production in the presence of small-molecule chemical signals
- Dr. Christopher Horton, \$1590 – Identifying novel mechanisms of helper T cell differentiation
- Dr. Zach Jones, \$1380 – Non-native vs. native grassland habitat influences on vertebrate populations
- Dr. Shelley Martinson, \$1290 – Music of today
- Dr. Regina McGrane, \$1590 – Exploring bacterial surface sensing mechanisms and their roles in pathogenicity
- Dr. Tugba Sevin, \$1290 – Identity enrichment through language and cultural interactions
- Dr. Matthew Tracy, \$2000 – Schuman on saxophone: selected works by Robert Schumann arranged for saxophone and piano
- Dr. Denis Trubitsyn, \$1590 – The expression of the recombinant bovine gamma interferon in *Escherichia coli*

Important Dates

October

- 14 Faculty Recommendation Form for Continuation Due to Committee Chair
- 17 2nd 8 Weeks Classes Begin
- 20-21 Fall Break!
- 24 Promotion/Tenure Candidates Submit Documents to Department Chair
- 24 Who's Who Due to Dean
- 24 Classes Resume

November

- 1 Fall Schedule Hardcopies Due to Associate Provost and Dean

- 1 Department Continuation Committee Report Due to Dean
- 4 Last Day to Drop with a Guaranteed “W” and Last Day to Add CAI Courses
- 5 SWOSU Saturday
- 5 CAS Day @ Football & Volleyball Games - PCEC
- 11 Dept. P/T Review Committee Forwards Documents and Recommendations to Chair
- 12 Homecoming
- 16 Post-Tenure Review Evaluations Due to Dean

October 2016

Biologists Attend BioBlitz

The SWOSU Department of Biological Sciences participated in the 15th annual Oklahoma BioBlitz at the University of Oklahoma Biological Station on the shores of Lake Texoma. Oklahoma BioBlitz is a rapid inventory of biodiversity in a particular area over a 24-hour period. The University of Oklahoma Biological Survey has been coordinating BioBlitz annually since 2001. The effort includes participants from several Oklahoma colleges and universities as well as citizen scientists. Anyone can volunteer in this effort to learn more about the biodiversity of our state.

Over 600 species were collected at this year's event. Students participated in a number of educational walks to learn about organisms including lichens, fungi, fish, birds, amphibians and reptiles.

Next year's Oklahoma BioBlitz will be held in the fall at Black Mesa State Park in the Oklahoma Panhandle. This is the highest point in Oklahoma at 4,973 feet above sea level! The area has awesome shortgrass prairie habitat, which is unique to the far northwestern corner of our state. We hope you can join us next year in our quest to survey Oklahoma's biodiversity!



Photo: SWOSU Biology students, faculty and friends at the 15th annual Oklahoma BioBlitz. Back row (left to right): Abbagale Bond, Renee Perkins, Dr. Rickey Cothran, Dr. Zach Jones, Tyler Watson, Dr. Lisa Castle, Jeff Walker (friend of SWOSU Biology). Middle row: Rachel Wallace, Amber Powers, Ashley Watson, Lindsey Hendricks, Jaci Peetoom, Theresa Stein, Ruchina Shakya, Sherlyne Ochieng. Front row: Sara Hutchinson, Stephanie Buehler, Stephanie Abshire, William Walker (friend of SWOSU Biology), Andrew Walker (friend of SWOSU Biology).

Social Sciences Students and Faculty Attend Film Festival in OKC

On Friday, September 30th, the Department of Social Sciences hosted 65 students, faculty members, graduates, and friends at the 19th Manhattan Shorts Film Festival presented by the OKC Museum of Art.

Each year the folks at the Manhattan Shorts Film Festival watch hundreds of international short films, and then select the 10 best of these to show at theaters all around the world. The OKC Museum of Art was one of two venues in Oklahoma this year. What makes this festival unique is that the audiences vote for the Best Short of the Year and the Best Performance.

The evening was a huge success!

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Students Celebrate Moon Festival



Students from Taiwan and the U.S. and Dr. Hung-Chieh Chang (front row, center, Mathematics) celebrate the Moon Festival on September 16. This festival is the second-largest Chinese holiday, next to Chinese New Year. They celebrated with moon cakes, Asian snacks and tea.

Paula Jeanne Horsburgh Memorial Scholarship

Alexis Schroeder (center, Biological Sciences major) of Hydro is the first recipient of the Paula Jeanne Horsburgh Memorial Scholarship at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. SWOSU Foundation Executive Director Garrett King and Katie (Horsburgh) Bartmann of Weatherford, daughter of the late Paula Jeanne Horsburgh, recently made the presentation to Schroeder.



Future Teachers Attend DaVinci Fall Forum

Dr. Christi Cook (Language and Literature) and several of her Teaching High School English students attended the DaVinci Fall Forum at Southern Nazarene University. They heard several interesting presentations on the importance of creativity in the classroom and participated in engaging, motivating conversations about the teaching vocation.

Shown in the photo (left to right) are Haleigh Klaus, Brittany Miller, Raegan Nowka, Jade Plaster, Dr. Cook, Tara Siebert and Shari Popejoy.



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SWOSU Physics Program Seeking Help with Pratt Project

Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Physics program is seeking information about graduates—with either a major or minor in Physics—from the years 1956-1964 who went to work in the space program and contributed to NASA's Lunar Program.

Dr. Terry Goforth, professor in the SWOSU Department of Chemistry & Physics, said the department is attempting to document the influence that Mr. J. R. Pratt had on the effort to land a man on the moon. Pratt served as chair of the Physics program until his retirement in 1964, and many SWOSU graduates during those years went on to work at NASA.

Graduates or relatives/friends of the graduates are encouraged to contact Goforth. She said the department wants information or stories on Pratt as well as information on job(s) held by the graduates. "We want to hear about the experiences in this great American triumph," Goforth said. "We are hoping to document these stories while we still can."

Goforth can be reached at terry.goforth@swosu.edu or physics@swosu.edu, 580.774.3109 or 100 Campus Drive, Weatherford OK 73096.



Mr J.R. Pratt

State Fair Booth Volunteers

Every year SWOSU sets up a booth at the State Fair. This has been a great way to reconnect with alumni and supporters and to recruit students. Drs. Jerry Dunn and Muatasem Ubeidat recruit the volunteers from CAS. This year the follow CAS faculty and students volunteered:

Art, Communication and Theatre – Dr. Robin Jones, Dr. Siriporn Peters and Alpha Psi Omega

Biological Sciences – Dr. Rickey Cothran and Dr. Denis Trubitsyn

Chemistry and Physics – Dr. Jason Johnson

Language and Literature – Dr. Tugba Sevin and Dr. Camilo Peralta

Mathematics – Dr. Michael Dougherty, Dr. Thomas McNamara, Dr. Ron Koehn and Dr. Swarup Ghosh

Music – Dr. Yu-Ling Chen

Social Sciences – Dr. Howard Kurtz, Dr. Dorie Astle, Dr. Dan Brown, Dr. Jieun Chang, Dr. Becky Bruce and Phi Alpha Theta



CAS faculty volunteers at the SWOSU State Fair booth (left to right): Dr. Robin Jones, Dr. Dorie Astle, Dr. Michael Dougherty, Dr. Ron Koehn and Dr. Thomas McNamara

SWOSU Foundation “Launches” New Physics Scholarship Campaign

SWOSU Physics is “go for LAUNCH!”

The Southwestern Oklahoma State University Physics program in Weatherford has begun a new scholarship campaign – “LAUNCH!” The campaign is sponsored by the SWOSU Physics faculty and the SWOSU Foundation to help raise money for more scholarships to be given to students pursuing a degree in Physics at SWOSU.

The SWOSU Physics program has many notable alumni that helped shaped America’s space exploration history.

In the early 1960s, SWOSU Physics Professor J.R. Pratt saw a newspaper clipping for employment opportunities at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. The newly formed space agency was looking for employees to run a communications office on the ground called “Mission Control.” Several SWOSU Physics graduates followed their professor’s suggestion of applying and joined NASA to become some of the first employees in Mission Control. Some of these graduates include John Aaron, Tommy Weichel, James Bates and Gilbert Carman. Each of these men made history as it was unfolding around them.

James Bates, Class of 1962, was one of the very first Mission Control analysts to assist in the flights of the first space mission, Mercury, and the Gemini and Apollo missions. Bates was inducted into the SWOSU Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame in 1993.

John Aaron, Class of 1964, was a flight controller during the Gemini and Apollo programs. He is credited with saving Apollo 12 when shortly after launch it was struck by lightning. He was also a crucial part in the efforts of saving Apollo 13, which earned him the highly regarded nickname of “steely-eyed missile man.” Aaron was inducted into the SWOSU Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame in 2006.

Tommy Weichel, Class of 1964, was a flight controller during the Apollo missions and was part of the team that reconstructed the equipment to be used on board Apollo 13, saving the astronauts while using the Lunar Module as a lifeboat.

Gilbert Carman, Class of 1967, joined NASA shortly after graduating and became a NASA mission planner during the Apollo and Space Shuttle programs. He was trained in the specialized field of mechanics and quickly became an expert in the maneuvers that would get the Lunar Module to the surface of the moon and back. He then worked with the Space Shuttle and became the acknowledged expert in Shuttle entry guidance and trained many controllers who were responsible for the landing of the Shuttle. Carman was awarded the SWOSU President’s Award of Merit in 2015. (continued on next page)



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Now, there's a new generation of SWOSU Physics students who hold the same promise. The SWOSU Physics program is one of the most comprehensive in the state and region. The "LAUNCH!" campaign will help fund scholarships to help encourage more Physics students and help "launch" a new generation of SWOSU scientists and engineers.

To make a gift or pledge to the "LAUNCH!" SWOSU Physics scholarship campaign, go online and choose "LAUNCH!" on the dropdown menu (www.GiveToSWOSU.com) or mail a check made payable to "SWOSU Foundation" with "Launch! Physics" in the memo line to SWOSU Foundation, Burton House, 100 Campus Drive, Weatherford, OK 73096.

For more information, visit www.SWOSUFoundation.com or call Brandi Rizzi at 580-774-3156.

Writing Center Hours Updated

The Writing Center Fall 2016 Hours run from Tuesday, Sept. 6, until Friday, Dec. 9. We will be closed Fall & Thanksgiving breaks.

Sunday: 3-5pm

Monday: 2-8pm

Tuesday: 10am-6pm

Wednesday: 12:30-1:50pm & 2-8pm

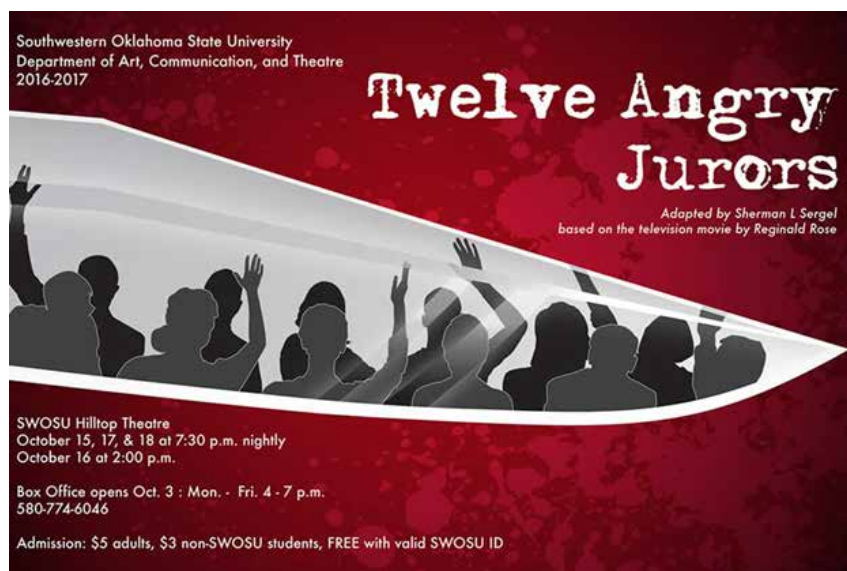
Thursday: 10am-8pm

Friday: 2-4:20pm

Hours are subject to change as needed.

To schedule an appointment, please email writing-center@swosu.edu or call (580) 774-7083. Walk-ins are also welcome!

Be sure to like us on Facebook (SWOSU Writing Center) and follow us on Twitter (@swosuwrites).



Find out what's happening on campus by checking the University Calendar. <http://www.swosu.edu>