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

Peter Grant

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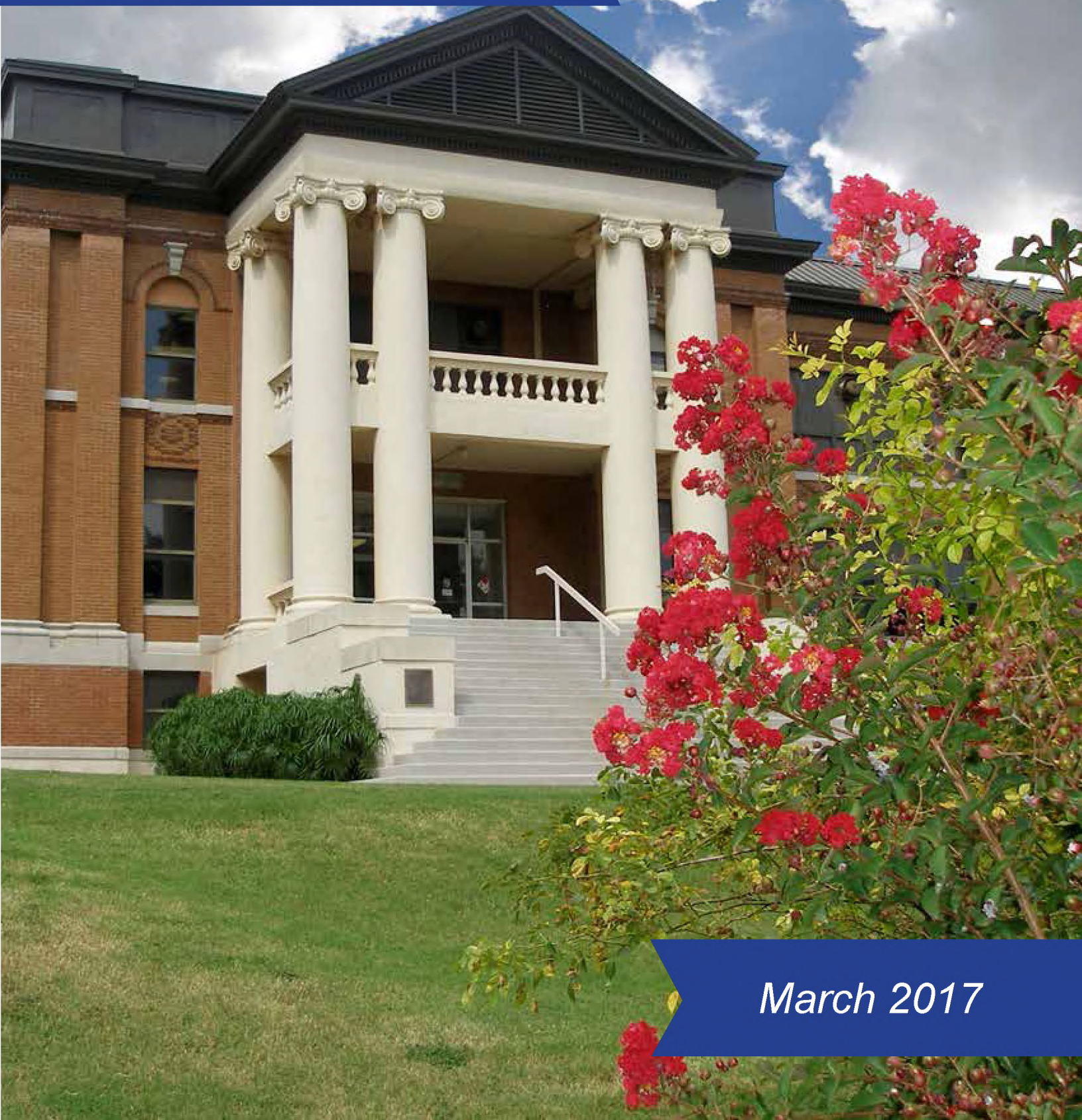
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aCAademicS

The Newsletter of the
SWOSU College of Arts & Sciences



March 2017

March 2017

Never a Dull Moment

One of the biggest challenges of being Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences (CAS), but an enjoyable one, is trying to keep up with all of the activities of 115 faculty, 7 administrative assistants and 806 students.

For example, just since Spring Break the following have occurred:

- The 104th Annual Southwestern Interscholastic Meet (SWIM) was held on campus involving 68 high schools. All 7 CAS departments were involved. In fact, of the 44 tests offered that day, 31 were offered by CAS departments.
- The Southwestern Regional Speech and Debate Tournament, hosted by the Department of Art, Communication & Theatre, was held last weekend. This event involved around 250 students, coaches and supporters. This department also has an ongoing Senior Art Exhibition.
- Music held a String Studio Concert.

And with that warmup, this week's activities include

- Madison Duckwall (Pharmacy major) represented SWOSU at the annual Research Day at the Capitol. Madison presented the research she conducted with mentor Dr. Lori Gwyn (Chemistry & Physics). Ashley Watson (Biology major) presented the results of her summer research at the OU Health Sciences Center at this event, too.
- Dr. Tom McNamara is the speaker at the Mathematics Faculty Seminar.
- Social Sciences will host its annual History Day which invites students from area high schools to give a presentation on some aspect of history.
- Biological Sciences continues the Dr. Joseph D. Maness Seminar Series with Dr. Mark Mandel, from the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University in Chicago, as the guest speaker.
- And Music presents the Women in Music Concert and the SWOSU Honor Orchestra.

Then, in just a few weeks, the Scholarly Activity Fair occurs, when students from all departments present the results of their scholarship in the Memorial Student Union. CAS is well represented at this event. That's followed by Language and Literature's annual *Westview* Writers' Festival.

The biggest event of the semester, of course, is commencement on Saturday, May 6th.

The expression, never a dull moment, was the name of a Rod Stewart album and a movie from the 50's. That expression also describes the College of Arts & Sciences with its multitudinous opportunities for our students and the community. Check out the university calendar on the [SWOSU web page](#) more information about these events and others



Pete Grant
Dean of Arts & Sciences

CAS News

Drs. Robert Chambers (Music) and Gerard East (Mathematics) and Ms. Judy Haight (Language & Literature) are retiring. We wish them the best. Check the next issue of the newsletter for their biographies.

Twenty-seven students and 11 faculty from 4 CAS departments presented 20 posters at the 2017 Oklahoma Research Day hosted by Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Enid. Two students, Abbagale Bond (Chemistry major) and Reem Almutairi (Medical Laboratory Science major), were featured in a story in *The Oklahoman*. Ashton Dickey (Interdisciplinary Studies) was interviewed by News 9. SWOSU will host this event in 2019.

Dr. Jason Cash (Language & Literature) presented a paper, “‘Sans Lingua Franca’: Language and Power in *Metal Gear Solid V: The Phantom Pain*”, at the 2017 Southwest Popular/American Culture Association conference on February 18 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Nicole Laitran (Art Education major) is SWOSU’s “Dawg of the Month.” The award is sponsored by the SWOSU Dean of Students office on the Weatherford campus.

Dr. David Esjornson (Chemistry & Physics), Tugba Seven (Language and Literature) and Peter Grant (Dean) attended a recruiting event at U.S. Grant High School in Oklahoma City. Another recruiting event, at Francis Tuttle Technology Center, was attended by Drs. Jason Johnson (Chemistry & Physics), John Hayden (Social Sciences), Siriporn Peters (Art, Communication & Theatre), Regina McGrane (Biological Sciences), Swarup Ghosh (Mathematics) and Peter Grant.

Chemistry & Physics News

Dr. Jon Henrikson (Chemistry & Physics) received a Proposal Development Award from SWOSU. The purpose of this award is to support the writing and submission of a larger proposal for external funding.

Drs. Brian Campbell and David Esjornson (Chemistry & Physics) received funding for the 2017 Summer Science and Mathematics Academy from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

CAS Contacts

Art, Communication & Theatre
Dr. Robin Jones, Chair
Art 222
(580) 774-3080
robin.jones@swosu.edu

Biological Sciences
Dr. Andrea Holgado, Chair
SCI 214-B
(580) 774-3230
andrea.holgado@swosu.edu

Chemistry & Physics
Dr. Jason Johnson, Chair
CPP 202-A
(580) 774-3110
jason.johnson@swosu.edu

Language & Literature
Dr. Kelley Logan, Chair
CAM 201-A
(580) 774-3074
kelly.logan@swosu.edu

Mathematics
Dr. Michael Dougherty, Chair
CAM 302-B
(580) 744-3057
michael.dougherty@swosu.edu

Music
Dr. David Bessinger, Chair
FAC 100
(580) 774-3217
david.bessinger@swosu.edu

Social Sciences
Dr. John Hayden, Chair
SCI 201-A
(580) 774-7072
john.hayden@swosu.edu

CAS News (cont.)

Biological Sciences News

Ashna Dhoonmoon, Brooke Rankin, Alina Shrestha Y. T. Lin, and Tosha Williams (Biology majors) were selected as Oklahoma IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence interns.

Benven D'souza (Biology major) was accepted into nursing school in Dallas, TX.

Jessica Lynn Huffman (Biology major) was accepted into the the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program at OSU.

Texas Instruments Names Thomas E. Weichel Vice President

Texas Instruments Incorporated (TI) announced that Thomas E. Weichel, Jr. has been elected vice president of the company's Wafer Fab Manufacturing Operations. In his role, Tom leads TI's global wafer fabrication manufacturing operations and is responsible for the company's strategic investments in 300-mm analog manufacturing as well as driving quality, safety and operational excellence across TI's wafer fabs and bump operations in the U.S., Europe and Japan.

"Tom brings a wealth of experience to TI's wafer fab operations. His passion for quality, safety and operational excellence was paramount to successfully ramping the industry's first 300-mm analog wafer fab, and we look forward to leveraging that passion as Tom leads our global fab operations," said Kevin Ritchie, senior vice president of Technology and Manufacturing Group.

Prior to this role, Tom led the opening and ramp of the world's first 300-mm analog wafer fab and managed TI's 300-mm wafer fab operations in Dallas and Richardson, Texas. Since joining TI in 1990, he has held a variety of engineering and management roles at several factories in Texas, as well as Quality Director for Worldwide Manufacturing.

Tom earned a bachelor's degree in Engineering Physics from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Oklahoma.

Article provided by Texas Instrument



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CAS Faculty Earn Some TLC

Twelve faculty and the dean from the College of Arts and Sciences each received a registration scholarship of \$299 to attend the Transformative Learning Conference (TLC) hosted by the University of Central Oklahoma earlier in March. As part of this scholarship, they have agreed to discuss the conference at a “lunchinar” organized by the SWOSU Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL).

Each participant will receive a copy of Dr. Saundra McGuire’s book, *Teach Students How to Learn: Strategies You Can Incorporate into Any Course to Improve Student Metacognition, Study Skills, and Motivation*. Dr. McGuire was the keynote speaker at the conference. CETL will be hosting a virtual book club in Canvas in the future to discuss this book.

CAS faculty who attended the conference were

Drs. Amanda Smith and Tugba Sevin and Ms. Taylor Verkler (Language & Literature)
Drs. Siriporn Peters and Elaine Davies (Art, Communication & Theatre)
Drs. Sylvia Esjornson and Wayne Trail (Chemistry & Physics)
Dr. Yu-Ling Chen (Music)
Dr. Jieun Chang and Mr. Ted Brown (Social Sciences)
Drs. Denis Trubitsyn and Regina McGrane (Biological Sciences)
Dr. Peter Grant (Dean).

Jazz Fest #47

The 47th Annual SWOSU Jazz Festival took place February 9-10th and featured world renown trombonist Bill Watrous (standing at left in the photo). Watrous has been a mainstay in jazz since the 60’s and has played with just about every great in recent history. Joining Watrous on stage for a fantastic Thursday evening performance was the Dallas based Stockton Helbing Trio. The trio and Mr. Watrous then were the featured performers with SWOSU Jazz ‘A’ on two riveting shows on Friday. Fifteen university and high school bands participated in the big band competition on Friday to round out an exciting festival.



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Angels Announce Birth with Trombones and Flutes

Drs. Philip and Shelley (Music) Martinson welcomed their first child, Mina, on February 23rd. She weighed 8 pounds 9 ounces and measured 20.5" long. Mom, Dad and Mina are all doing well.



Biologist Receives \$600,000 NSF Grant

Dr. Andrea Holgado (Chair of Biological Sciences) received a continuing 4-year award from the National Science Foundation for \$600,000. Her proposal is entitled, "RUI: Examining molecular players integrating autophagy and neuronal development and maintenance." This is a continuation of her research on neurobiology.



The RUI in the title of the proposal stands for Research in Undergraduate Institutions. This program supports faculty who are conducting research at predominantly undergraduate institutions like SWOSU. These funds not only allow Dr. Holgado to purchase supplies and equipment, they also give undergraduates the opportunity to participate in her research.

Dr. Holgado has mentored over 50 undergraduates in her research lab. She is shown in the photo with three of these students.



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Joyce Adams Curtis Concerto Winners Perform with SWOSU Symphony Orchestra

The SWOSU Music Department held another successful orchestra concert on Tuesday, Feb. 28, at the Fine Arts Center under the direction of Dr. Hsuan-Yu Alex Lee, Assistant Professor of Strings and Director of the SWOSU Symphony Orchestra.

This concert featured the two winners of the 2016 Joyce Adams Curtis Concerto Competition: the cellist Yu-Ching Anita Chen (Instrumental Division: Freshman, Music Therapy, Instrumental Emphasis) and soprano Elizabeth Stewart (Vocal Division: Freshman, Voice Performance), both of whom are pictured below. This competition was established in 2012 to commemorate the life-long dedication of the late SWOSU choral instructor Ms. Joyce Adams Curtis to performing arts and music education.

The winners were selected via two highly competitive rounds of solo performances in the fall semester for the prize of a monetary scholarship and a performing opportunity with the SWOSU Symphony Orchestra the following semester.

This concert also featured two other student sopranos, Alyssa Garcia and Kristen Williams, who sang arias from the opera *Die Fledermaus* by J. Strauss II. The concert was completed with Antonin Dvorak's exciting Slavonic Dance in g minor, op. 46, No.8. The audiences cheered for the program and the talents of the music department with standing ovations.



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ACTing Up!

The Department of Art, Communication & Theatre (ACT) had a busy February.



Students from twenty high schools (over 200 students) participated in a speech and debate tournament on campus. In this photo from the awards assembly, Dr. Robin Jones (in the Bulldog T-shirt), Chair of the department and the tournament director, extolls the benefits of attending SWOSU.



Ms. Jessica Salmans and Mr. Steve Strickler (ACT faculty) and two students, Micaelah Thompson who plays *Sally* and Carlos Ramirez who plays *Snoopy*, were invited to the Rotary Club to speak about the Theatre program and the upcoming production. The students performed songs from the show.



Students from the Weatherford High School drama and choir classes came out to see a technical rehearsal of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, the department's spring mainstage production.



- 6 New Student Orientation
- 7 EPSCoR Conference in OKC
- 11 Brown Bag Seminar
- 12 New Student Orientation
- 13 SWOSU Scholarly Activity Fair
- 17 Let's Talk about SWOSU
- 18 Faculty retirement reception
- 19-20 *Westview* Writers' Festival

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SWOSU Historians Host State Conference

On February 24th and 25th, the SWOSU historians hosted the 69th Annual Meeting of the state chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (the National History Honor Society) together with the Oklahoma Association of Professional Historians on the Southwestern campus. Over 50 statewide faculty members and students attended the Friday banquet, and more than 100 came together for the Saturday luncheon.



The guest speaker at both events was Dr. Sharony Green of the University of Alabama. Dr. Green discussed her research into the lives of emancipated female slaves who succeeded in reaching out to prominent slave owners for different kinds of help they might need.

On Saturday morning, both undergraduate and graduate students presented research papers at 19 different paper sessions. The historians then recognized the best papers with awards at the luncheon. Drs. Becky Bruce and Sunu Kodumthara (Social Sciences) organized the conference.



March 2017

STEM for Girl Scouts

On March 4th, the 3rd Annual STEM Meet for Girl Scouts was held at SWOSU. Over 60 Scouts, from 5 to 16 years old, attended from Weatherford, Clinton, Thomas, Burns Flat, Cordell and Elk City. They participated in multiple hands-on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) workshops hosted by SWOSU faculty and students.

CAS professors who participated included Drs. Tom McNamara (Mathematics), Regina McGrane (Biological Sciences) and Lori Gwyn (Chemistry & Physics). SWOSU students from each of these programs led the girls in fun and educational projects like logic puzzles, extracting DNA from strawberries, and bubble races using chemical reactions.



Students and Faculty View Academy Award®-Nominated Best Short Films

For the 12th year, Drs. David Hertz and John Hayden, the Southwestern International Student Association, and the Southwestern History Club arranged a trip to the OKC Museum of Art to take in both the animated short films and the live action short films that were nominated for Oscars this year. Forty-five faculty, students, spouses, and even alumni joined in on the trip on February 18th. During a break between screenings, the group enjoyed dinner at the Thai Kitchen.



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Biology Major Receives Award from OK Invasive Plants Council

Jayne Tuck (Biological Sciences major) recently received a \$150 award as part of the first-ever small grants program of the Oklahoma Invasive Plants Council (OkIPC). Her project involved studying the extent and spread of giant reed in and around Weatherford. Her research was also funded through the SWOSU Biology Guy Hagin Endowment.

At the Oklahoma Natural Resources Conference in Tulsa, Jayme presented her preliminary findings about how the grass, currently on the OkIPC's "Watchlist," has caused problems in other parts of the country, yet is underreported in Western Oklahoma. At the conference, OkIPC President Priscilla Crawford presented Jayme with the small grant award while emphasizing the importance of monitoring plants. Jayme was the only undergraduate who presented during the invasive species symposium as part of the three day conference.

Dr. Lisa Castle, Jayme's mentor, also presented, highlighting the work of SWOSU biology students in monitoring trees of heaven and johnsongrass, two other species known to cause environmental and economic damage outside of their native ranges.

Giant reed, which can grow over 12 feet tall along alleys in Weatherford, has been planted in the past as a privacy screen. When the wind-dispersed plant spreads along creeks and waterways, however, it can choke out native vegetation, is poor wildlife habitat, and can be extremely difficult to remove.

If you think you have seen giant reed near Weatherford, please contact Dr. Castle at SWOSU (lisa.castle@swosu.edu) to add your information to Jayme's on-going mapping effort.

Students Judge Young People's Art Exhibit

SWOSU Art Education students Cheyenne Floyd, Candice Dougherty, Nichole Laitran and E.J. Bacon learned about judging artworks as they participated in judging the Oklahoma Art Education Association's Young People's Art Exhibit at Oklahoma Contemporary Art Gallery. Artworks were submitted from grades K-12, competing in four different age groups. One prize was given to each grade level and a best of show was chosen. Prizes were furnished by Sargeant Art. The students were accompanied by the SWOSU student chapter of NAEA sponsor, Ms. Marsha Carman.



March 2017

Medieval Arts and Crafts Come Alive on Campus

The second annual Medieval Arts and Crafts Fair was held at SWOSU on Feb 18th. The objectives were to introduce the medieval arts and activities to SWOSU students and local residents and to recruit prospective students to study Arts and Sciences at SWOSU.

Thirty two volunteers from the Society of Creative Anachronism, along with 14 art and design students, helped over 70 people who took part in the hands-on learning workshops. In addition there were demonstrations inside and outside.

The SWOSU students were so fascinated with the medieval art activities that they formed the SWOSU Medieval Study Club.

This event was organized by the SWOSU Graphic Design Association, Canton of Haldtre, Society of Creative Anachronism and the Weatherford Art Council. Funding was provided by Dr. Ruth Boyd, SWOSU Vice President for Student Affairs.



March 2017

President and CEO of World Neighbors Visits SWOSU

Dr. Kate Schecter, President and CEO of World Neighbors, visited SWOSU on March 22nd. Accompanying her was Ms. Jenifer Davis, Accounting and Finance Manager.

Dr. Schecter visited two Social Sciences classes: Dr. Jieun Chang's Macroeconomics and Dr. Becky Bruce's World Cultural Geography. She explained the mission of World Neighbors and compared its operation to other nonprofits. According to its web site, "World Neighbors focuses on training and educating communities to find lasting solutions to the challenges they face – hunger, poverty and disease – rather than giving them food, money or constructing buildings."

Between classes both guests met with faculty and administrators from SWOSU and then gave a presentation to the Weatherford Rotary Club at noon.

Dr. Kate Schecter (far right corner) and Ms. Jenifer Davis (far left corner) meet with Dr. John Hayden, Ms. Laura Endicott, and President Randy Beutler during their visit to SWOSU.



"Ah, music," he said, wiping his eyes. "A magic beyond all we do here!"

J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

<http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/music>



<http://alasu.libguides.com/c.php?g=631887&p=4416931>

CAS Faculty Submit Seven Proposals for EPSCoR Funding

Dr. Jerry Malayer, State Program Director for the Oklahoma Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), visited SWOSU recently to discuss the EPSCoR Research Infrastructure Improvement Award, “Adapting Socio-Ecological Systems to Increased Climate Variability.” He suggested that faculty from SWOSU submit proposals to become involved in this improvement award.

Nine proposals were submitted totaling \$1.5 million. Seven of these proposals were from CAS faculty:

Chemistry and Physics

- Drs. Tim Hubin and William Kelly – Making Lasting Bonds through Synthetic Chemistry: A Path to More Oklahoma Chemists
- Drs. Tim Hubin and Ashish Ranjan (OSU) – Liposomal Delivery and Magnetic Retrieval of Advanced Oxidation Catalysts for Water Purification
- Dr. Tim Hubin – Polymer-Fixed Abundant-Earth Oxidation Catalyst for Waste Water Purification
- Dr. Lori Gwyn – Tech Trek - Math and Science Camp for Girls

Social Sciences

- Dr. Jieun Chang – Wind and Solar Energy System Adoption and Efficiency: A Case Study of Farm Operations in Custer County, Oklahoma

Biological Sciences

- Dr. Regina McGrane – Evaluating the Soil Microbiome at Oklahoma Drill Sites in Undergraduate Courses

Office of the Dean

- Dr. Peter Grant – Using Water as a Theme in Elementary School Courses.

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