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

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Southwestern Grit

When faculty are invited to campus to interview for a position, I like to meet with them along with the department chair for a while. I think it’s important for the candidates to have the opportunity to ask the dean some questions and I ask them some questions, too.

At the beginning of each interview, I share a bit of SWOSU’s early history: In 1901, the Oklahoma Territorial Legislature appropriated funds to establish a normal school in southwestern Oklahoma. Five cities were considered for the site of the school, with Weatherford being chosen in 1902. Classes were to begin in the fall of 1903, however the school’s first building would not be ready by the start of the new term. Then President James Campbell found some empty businesses on Main Street and converted them into classrooms to be used until the new building was completed.*

I like to share this story during the interviews because it shows how Southwestern, when faced with a challenge, chooses to find a solution to that challenge rather than avoiding it.

The recent History Day was a case in point. The historians in the Department of Social Sciences hold this event annually for area high schools. Students prepare displays and oral presentations and are judged on their work. Typically, several of these presentations are so good they are entered into regional and even national competitions.

This year’s History Day was scheduled for March 29th. Students and faculty had been planning for this event for a long while. When everyone showed up at the Old Science Building to set up that morning, they were greeted to an electrical failure which affected most of Weatherford. Rescheduling the event at that point in time was not possible, so the event continued. As reported by Dr. John Hayden, the chair of the department:

Yes, with the aplomb we usually reserve for days when there is power, students and social studies teachers from Canton, Burns Flat-Dill City, Hydro-Eakly, an independent entry, and our participating faculty pulled off History Day in the dark. Auxiliary Services (with juice, hot water, and muffins), René Mason (with the location of hot spots so we could review the web sites), the cafeteria (with a gas cooked lunch), and Peter Grant (with a great lantern) were also huge helps. And nobody batted an eyelash. All these people just did it.

Pick your favorite synonym for grit to describe this situation – fortitude, resolve, resolution, determination, tenacity, or perseverance. There’s a reason we have been “standing firmly on the hilltop” for over a century.

Pete Grant
Dean of Arts and Sciences

*For more on the history of Southwestern, download Southwestern Oklahoma State University: The First 100 Years.
The eleventh President’s Leadership Class was introduced during the annual banquet on April 10th. Among those introduced were Terin Brownen who is pursuing two majors, one of which is Mathematics, and Shayne Thornton who is majoring in History Education.

Dr. Yu-Ling Chen (Music) is one of the co-sponsors of the Southwestern International Student Association, which put on an incredible banquet on April 8th.

Recent seminar speakers in Biology included Dr. Mark Mandel of the Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University in Chicago and Mr. J. D. Strong, Weatherford native and director of the Oklahoma Division of Wildlife Conservation.

Art, Communication & Theatre hosted the Southwest 3A/4A regional speech tournament on March 24th and 25th.

The annual American Association of University Women luncheon was held on March 30th. Officers of the association include Dr. Lori Gwyn (Chemistry and Physics, President) and Ms. Kathy O’Neal (Mathematics, Treasurer).

Mary Iliff, junior Political Science major, accompanied President Randy Beutler to the State Capitol along with two other students. The group spoke with legislators about the importance of higher education in Oklahoma.

Jay Stinson (Biology major) was accepted into the Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine. Jesse Velasco (Biology major) was awarded a summer internship at the University of Pennsylvania.

Travel grants to attend a meeting and give a presentation were awarded to

- Dr. Regina McGrane - Biological Sciences (3 grants)
- Dr. Andrea Holgado - Biological Sciences
- Dr. Christopher Horton - Biological Sciences (3 grants)
- Dr. Ken Hayes - Language & Literature.
CAS Students and Faculty Shine at Research and Scholarly Activity Fair

The 24th annual Research and Scholarly Activity Fair was held on April 13th on the Weatherford campus. There were 169 presentations overall, including 22 presentations from high school students representing Western Technology Center, El Reno Public Schools, and Francis Tuttle Technology Center.

Of the 147 presentations by SWOSU students and faculty, 109 were presented by CAS folks! That’s 74%! Twenty-four of those presentations were by international students as an English as a Second Language project.

The list of faculty who mentored these students follows. The list of student presenters follows on the next page.

Faculty Mentors

Alsberg, Mr. Fred
Aracena, Dr. Jimena
Brown, Dr. Dan
Bruce, Dr. Becky
Castle, Dr. Lisa
Chang, Dr. Jieun
Chen, Dr. Yu-Ling
Collins, Dr. Kevin
Cothran, Dr. Rickey
Ellis, Dr. Trevor
Esjornson, Dr. David
Esjornson, Dr. Sylvia
Gwyn, Dr. Lori
Hayes, Dr. Ken
Henrikson, Dr. Jon
Horton, Dr. Christopher
Hubin, Dr. Tim
Kelly, Dr. William
Kesnan, Ms. Tee
Kodumthara, Dr. Sunu
Lee, Dr. Sophia
Linder, Dr. Doug
McGrane, Dr. Regina
Paul, Dr. Eric
Peters, Dr. Siriporn
Sevin, Dr. Tugba
Trubitsyn, Dr. Denis
Ubeidat, Dr. Muatasem
CAS Students Who Presented at the 2017 SWOSU Scholarly Activity Fair

Abame, Abel
Adeok, Jenna
Adney, Amanda
Afolabi, Ayomide Edward
Akinloye, Daniel Blessing
Albasry, Noor
Alghandi, Ahmed
Al-Johani, Rahaf
Albritton, Elisabeth
Almustafa, Mustafa
Almutairi, Alaa Munawir
Almutairi, Reem
Almutairi, Reem Saad
Aloai, Munira Muneer
Alyami, Abdullaah
Alyami, Ali
Ayodele, Taiwo Ademayowa
Baghlaif, Omar
Banjo, Omotoyosi Oyepero
Bazzini, Greg
Bellamy, Jacob
Benge, Nathan
Benson, Morgan Davies
Bertolozzi, Anthony
Bollinger, Kwyn
Bond, Abbagale
Bouziden, Gage
Brown, Sarah
Burgess, Gowendolyn
Burke, Bradly
Burns, Rachel
Can, Brittany
Carpenter, Luke
Castellanos, David
Catherine, Patron
Chai-yu, Chang
Chaloupek, Dillon
Chance, Brock
Chargualaf, Chelsea
Chartrand, Erika
Chester, Courtney
Choi, Gloria
Chonz, Gurung Shuphen
Cornell, Kathryn
Cravens, Zachary
Crispin, Garret
Crone, Sarah
Curtless, Courtney
Davis, Alexander
Davis, Will
Dhoommoon, Ashna
Erman, Madison
Esther, Okenye Chioma
Eze, John
Fletcher, Terin
Flinn, Michael
Ford, Jarrod
Gamer, Shaun
Garber, Jay
Garcia, Jocelyn
Garrett, Colleen
Gaunt, Garrett
Goodness, Samuel Ofure
Gore, Sarah
Green, Monica
Hamburger, Samantha
Harborth, Hailey
Hazazi, Shamaa
Hendricks, Lindsey
Hensley, Megan
Hernandez, Jessica Janet
Hernandez, Nhatanya
Herrera, Madison
Herring, John
Hicks, Elizabeth
Hines, Brendon
Hong-yu, Su
Hutchinson, Sara
Iliff, Mary
Ishbel, Peyton
Iturregui, Eduarado
Jackson, Christopher
Jackson, Jessica
Jackson, Jessica
Jacobsen, Caleb
Johnston, Laci
Kaiser, Calli
Kaml, Mohammed Ibah
Kasere, Sanga Rosaria
Kemp, Kenneth
Khoo, Didier
Kikuchi, Rempei
Kim, Hannah
Kim, Hannah
King, Taylor
Kleinmeyer, Lauren
Lamar, Rachel
Lancaster, Mason
Le, Brittney
Lehrman, Kaitlyn
L'Hommelieu, Joshua
Long, Parker
Lovett, Makenzie
Lu, Ji-Ji
Madden, Sarah
Martha, Besong Omuoh
Matter, Brandon
McBee, Taylor
McClure, Trevor
McKay, Bailey
McWilliams, Cara
Meeks, Matt
Menendez, Delmi
Miller, Chelsa
Morehart, Micah
Moreno, Stephanie
Morton, Abbey
Moyinoluwa, Adeniyi Ifeoluwa
Murley, Cooper
Musajlab, Wejdan
Nguyen, Philip
Nichols, Joshua
Normand, Ty
Ntonghanvwah, Nkengasong
Oertel, Megan
Okorocha, Faith
Olayemi, Ayomide
O'Neal-Johnson, Sequojah
Parenica, Lauren
Park, Dalhae
Parker, Dalynna
Pawl, Radhika
Patton, Bailey
Payton, Wright
Peetoom, Jaci
Pelzl, Connor
Pennington, Kaci
Pham, Christopher
Phiri, Memory
Piper, Tiffany
Pitts, Mason
Popejoy, Ashley
Quadri, Zanna Olamide
Quang, Nguyen Vu
Ramirez, Cecilia
Ramirez, Daniel
Rhymes, Robert
Riddle, Makenzie
Rife, Lydia
Riggs, Brianne
Rios, Kenia
Ruiz, Zane
Sanders, Trevor
Schmidt, Kyra
Seabourn, Austin
Seay, Isabell
Shresta, Ailina
Shresta, Sajjan
Silvera, Smeyder Steffani Ferreira
Smith, Cole
Spandley, Lana
Spangler, Collin
Statton, Allison
Stuart, Madalyn
Tabb, Brece
Takah, Jeremiah
Tamifun, J. Aaron
Taylor, Michelle
Thakali, Anishma
Thomas, Bailey
Thomas, Jenna
Tinco, Gustavo Enrique
Tippens, Mary
Titone, Samantha
Tran, Maggie
Tran, Maggie (Nhu)
Tran, Mia
Tresp, David
Tuck, Jayme
Ugwu, Deborah Ifeuchukwu
Ukeje, Gwen Chioma
Ures, Hafith
Vadchuna, Ndiesees
Vap, Mikka
Vega, Amy
Velasco, Jesse
Vidaauri, Lupa Nicholas
Vincent, Kara
Vo, Jessica Rose
Ward, Roy
Watson, Ashley
Watson, Tyler
Webb, M. Elizabeth
Wheeler, Nicholas
Whorton, Megan
Widick, Devinn
Witt, Forrest
Wolters, Bryce
Woods, John
Wright, Payton
Yi-syuan, Li
Zatarain, Geoffray
SWOSU Well-represented at Research Day at the Capitol

Each year, the faculty at Oklahoma universities select students to represent their institution at the Research Day at the Capitol event. At SWOSU, students gave presentations to the University Research and Scholarly Activity Committee. The committee chose Madison Duckwall to represent SWOSU. Madison worked with Dr. Lori Gwyn (Chemistry & Physics) on a research project involving synthetic biology.

During Research Day, Madison presented her poster along with 25 other students. Most institutions, including SWOSU, were permitted to send only one representative. OU, OSU and the University of Tulsa were permitted two to four representatives.

A group of judges evaluated each student’s poster and awarded a grand, overall champion, which turned out to be Madison!

SWOSU actually had a second student at Research Day. Ashley Watson (Biology major) had a summer research internship at the OU Health Sciences Center studying color blindness. At the end of the summer, all of the student interns presented their research and a group of judges chose two students to represent the OUHSC – one undergraduate and one graduate. Ashley was chosen as their undergraduate representative!

So, while the smaller institutions of higher education only had one student at Research Day at the Capitol, SWOSU had two – one representing SWOSU and the other representing the OUHSC!
Biology Students Receive Awards at Regional Meeting

Eleven Southwestern Oklahoma State University Biology students recently presented their research findings at the 2017 Beta Beta Beta (National Biological Honor Society) South Central Regional Convention held in Mt. Lebanon, Cedar Hills, TX. Sixteen universities from Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas sent students to the annual regional convention.

Six students received awards for their presentations. Laci Johnston and Lindsey Hendricks received Honorable Mention, Tyler Mitchum won third place, and Chelsea Miller, Sara Hutchinson, and Ashna Dhoonmoon won first place for Outstanding Poster Presentations. First place winners will receive financial support to attend the 2018 Beta Beta Beta National Convention held in Monterey, CA.

Faculty mentors for these students’ research include Drs. Regina McGrane, Rickey Cothran, Andrea Holgado and Christopher Horton.

In addition, SWOSU’s Delta Sigma Chapter was awarded Outstanding Chapter for District 1 of the South Central Region, which includes Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma.

Attending the 2017 regional Tri Beta Convention were (back from left) Dr. Regina McGrane, Tyler Mitchum, Laci Johnston, Lindsey Hendricks, Ashna Dhoonmoon, Bradly Burke, Alina Shrestha, Reem Almutairi, and Dr. Christopher Horton; (front from left) Chelsea Miller, Sara Hutchinson, Ashley Powers, Tosha Williams, and Allison Statton. Also in attendance but not shown in the photo was Dr. Andrea Holgado.
History Club/Phi Alpha Theta Visit Arkansas Historic Sites

Ten students joined Professors Becky Bruce, Laura Endicott, and John Hayden on a Southwestern History Club/Phi Alpha Theta trip over the weekend of March 24 to the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas. The museum features the works of such artists as John Singer Sargent, Andy Warhol, and Picasso. Admission is free since Wal-Mart supports the museum.

The group went on to visit the Wal-Mart Museum and the first Wal-Mart 5 & 10 Store. In addition, the group toured the Civil War Battlefield of Pea Ridge (a battle that was crucial to keeping Missouri on the Union side) and the Arkansas town of Eureka Springs where they toured several landmark hotels.

Oklahoma Scholar-Leadership Enrichment Program (OSLEP)


October 11-15, 2017

Guest scholar: Barbara King, College of William and Mary; seminar will be held at the University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

For more information, visit the OSLEP web site or contact the SWOSU Campus Coordinator, Dr. John Hayden.
Pre-vet Students Attend Open House at OSU

Biology students, along with Dr. Rickey Cothran, attended the 2017 OSU Veterinary Medicine Open House.

Important Dates
(Consult the University Calendar for details)

April
21 Chemistry Banquet, Biology Banquet, Theatre Production - Student Directed and Designed 10-Minute Plays, Wind Symphony Concert
23 Jazz Ensembles Concert
26 Last Day to Drop with Instructor’s Permission
26-28 Dead Days
27 Art, Communication & Theater Awards Banquet

May
1-5 Finals
4 Sayre Campus Commencement
6 SWOSU Convocation
8 Final Grades Due

Cook Chairs Session on Feminism

Dr. Christi Cook (Language & Literature) chaired the Gender and Media Studies: Gender and Feminism in Music panel at the Popular Culture/American Culture conference in San Diego. She presented a paper called “Flawless: Beyoncè and a Revolution in Feminism and Pop Culture.”
“They should have sent a poet.”
Spoken by Dr. Ellie Arroway in the movie *Contact* upon viewing a spectacular celestial event.

Two Present Papers at Criminal Justice Conference

Austin Browning (Criminal Justice major) presented a poster at the Oklahoma Criminal Justice Conference entitled “The Financial Irresponsibility of the Death Penalty.”

At the same conference, Dr. Dan Brown (Social Sciences) presented a paper on “Guns on College Campuses-Good Idea or Bad Idea.”

International Recruiting

Planning to travel to another country over summer? If so please share information about SWOSU with the people you meet, especially potential students. The International Student Affairs office has brochures available to assist with this recruiting.

The office is located in HAB102. If you have questions, give the director, Dr. Randy Beckloff (randy.beckloff@swosu.edu), a call.

This publication, *aCAdemicS*, is the newsletter of the SWOSU College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), and is published by the office of the Dean of the College. Subscriptions to the *Newsletter* are free. To place your name on the mailing list or to contribute information for the next issue, contact Dr. Peter Grant, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, 100 Campus Drive, Weatherford, Oklahoma 73096-3098, (580) 774-7152, peter.grant@swosu.edu.