Earlier this summer I had the opportunity to conduct field work with Dr. Rickey Cothran (Biological Sciences) and three of his students. Dr. Cothran was awarded a grant from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation to conduct a survey for possibly rare aquatic insects in southeastern Oklahoma. As one who studies mayflies, which are aquatic insects, I was delighted to accompany them.

The work was successful. We collected quite a few aquatic insects and are now in the process of sorting and identifying them. While Dr. Cothran’s group remained at the University of Oklahoma Biological Station to continue their field work, I returned to campus to continue my paperwork. Once back on campus I discovered that, besides collecting aquatic insects, I also picked up a few chiggers. Chiggers are tiny beasts, only 1/100 inch in diameter, but they induce a significant response from my tender epidermis.

Smallness is often associated with insignificance, but chiggers show that is not always the case.

Sometimes, when students and parents are comparing universities, they have this same mind-set about small institutions. They eventually discover that, while Southwestern may be one-fifth the size of Oklahoma’s largest universities, our students have done big things.

For example, Kylee Cahoy, a Biology major and a student in the Medical Laboratory Technician program, was named the winner of the Outstanding Student Award in the Medical Laboratory Technician category from the American Medical Technologists. This is the second year in a row that a SWOSU student received this national award.

In an earlier issue of the CAS Newsletter, I reported that Madison Duckwall, a student working with Dr. Lori Gwyn (Chemistry & Physics), won first place with her research presentation at this year’s Research Day at the Capitol. Madison competed with 25 other students representing 19 Oklahoma institutions, including OU, OSU and the University of Tulsa.

Blaine Boyd (English alumnus) served as Director of Correspondence for First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama.

These accomplishments by recent SWOSU students shouldn’t be surprising. After all, some of the mission control analysts, flight controllers, and mission planners for NASA’s Mercury, Gemini, Apollo and Space Shuttle programs were SWOSU Physics alumni.

In fact, as reported in Southwestern Oklahoma State University: the First 100 Years, the first Rhodes Scholar from Oklahoma was Walter S. Campbell, a Southwestern graduate!

As Claude Raines says in Lawrence of Arabia, “Big things often have small beginnings.” Southwestern can help students make big things happen in their lives.

Pete Grant, Dean
College of Arts and Sciences
CAS News

The following CAS faculty received funding for their scholarship:

Dr. Trevor Ellis (Chemistry & Physics) - Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
Dr. Lori Gwyn (Chemistry & Physics) – National Science Foundation through OK-EPSCoR, National Institutes of Health through OK INBRE, City of Weatherford Hotel/Motel Tax Advisory Committee
Dr. Jon Henrikson (Chemistry & Physics) - Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
Dr. Andrea Holgado (Biological Sciences) - National Science Foundation, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
Dr. Christopher Horton (Biological Sciences) - American Association of Immunologists, National Institutes of Health through OK INBRE
Dr. Tim Hubin (Chemistry & Physics) – National Science Foundation, National Science Foundation through Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
Dr. Regina McGrane (Biological Sciences) - Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
Dr. Eric Paul (Biological Sciences) - Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
Dr. Siriporn Peters (Art, Communication & Theatre) – National Endowment for the Arts
Dr. Amanda Smith (Language & Literature) – SWOSU Office of Sponsored Programs
Dr. Richard Tirk (Music) – City of Weatherford Hotel/Motel Tax Advisory Committee
Dr. John Woods (Mathematics) – U.S. Department of Education through the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

One hundred ninety-four CAS students were listed in the May 2017 convocation program!

Ms. Jessica Salmans (Art, Communication & Theatre) has been accepted into the Ph.D. program at Swansea University (Wales, UK). Ms. Salmans will work on her doctorate while also working full-time as an instructor at SWOSU.

Four CAS faculty retired during the previous academic year: Dr. Keith Hale (Language & Literature, 3 years), Dr. Gerard East (Mathematics, 20 years), Ms. Judy (cont.)
CAS News (cont.)

Haught (Language & Literature, 28 years) and Dr. Robert Chambers (Music, 41 years).

Victoria Stambaugh (History alumna) will start graduate school in history at Texas Tech where she received this year’s Phi Alpha Theta A. F. Zimmerman Scholarship Award.

Dr. Fred Gates, (Social Sciences) served as President and Program Chair of the Economic and Business Historians Society and organized the group’s annual meeting at the Skirvin Hotel in OKC.

Mr. Fred Alsberg (Language & Literature) read poetry at the Pop Culture National Conference in San Diego held in April.

Click this link to see the many Biology majors who received awards during the spring Biology Banquet.

Madison Duckwall received a grant from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for her undergraduate research with Dr. Lori Gwyn (Chemistry & Physics).

Dr. Christi Cook (Language & Literature) presented a paper titled “Bite Me: The Allure of Vampires and Dark Magic in Chicana Young Adult Literature” at the annual Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States MELUS in Cambridge, MA. She was also the chair of the “Safety, Danger, and Coming of Age” panel.

Dr. Rickey Cothran (Biological Sciences) is a member of the 2017 Leadership Weatherford graduating class.

Dr. Kristin Griffeath (Music) was interviewed on a public radio program called BackStory about her research on WWI music. The title of the program is “Over There: America enters WWI.” Go to this link to listen to the program. You can skip ahead to 16:30 in the program to start listening to her interview.

Alumni News

Five alumni were inducted into the SWOSU Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame during the spring 2017 commencement ceremonies. Of those five, three have connections with the College of Arts and Sciences:

- Mr. Jack Bonny - Master of Teaching and Social Studies
- Mr. Patrick Riley Griffin - Bachelor of History
- Mr. Joey M. Martin - Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music.

We congratulate all five Distinguished Alumni for this honor, especially our three CAS alumni.
Dr. Robert Lee Chambers, 1951-2017

Memorial services for Dr. Robert L. Chambers, Professor of Music at SWOSU since 1976, were held Saturday, June 24, at the First United Methodist Church of Weatherford. Bob passed away on June 18. He had retired in May after teaching 41 years at SWOSU and serving as director of the orchestra for 38 of those years. A detailed obituary is available at this link.

Donations may be made in Bob’s honor to the First United Methodist Church of Weatherford General Fund or the SWOSU Foundation Instrumental, String (for the SWOSU Symphony Orchestra) or Music Therapy Scholarships.

Dr. Roger Bromert Memorial Fund Established at SWOSU Foundation

In early 2010 Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford bade a sad farewell to one of its faculty.

Dr. Roger Bromert was a joyful, boisterous presence “on the Hilltop” who, from 1981 until his death, influenced thousands of students during his nearly three decades of service as professor of history, according to SWOSU Foundation Executive Director Garrett King, and now a memorial fund is being established at the university in his name.

King said Bromert’s unique perspective on Oklahoma and Native American history, his open mind and tolerant demeanor, and his unfailing smile made him beloved during his life and have continued to make him sorely missed since his death.

Friends and former students of Bromert have partnered with the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. and established the Professor Roger Bromert Memorial Fund to honor his memory and legacy. The Fund will provide resources to further the cause Bromert championed: that of an honest, continually-examined analysis of history. Historical research and programming will be supported by the fund, and annually a history student will be named a “Bromert Scholar” to help Bromert’s name and legacy live on in the work of the next generation of historians.

The co-chairs of the Professor Roger Bromert Memorial Fund include

Dr. Henrietta Mann, SWOSU Class of 1954, President Emeritus of the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribal College
Dr. Bob Blackburn, SWOSU Class of 1973, President of the Oklahoma Historical Society (cont.)
Dr. Randy L. Beutler, SWOSU Class of 1983 & 2003, sitting President of SWOSU
Dr. John Hayden, Chair, SWOSU Department of Social Sciences.

Gifts may be made to the Professor Roger Bromert Memorial Fund by visiting www.GivetoSWOSU.com and designating the gift accordingly, or by calling the SWOSU Foundation at 580-774-3267 to arrange a gift via telephone. Contributions may be made via mail at SWOSU Foundation, Burton House, 100 Campus Drive, Weatherford, OK 73096; checks should be made payable to “SWOSU Foundation” with “Bromert Memorial Fund” noted in the memorandum line.

Changing Chairs

Three CAS departments will be under the leadership of new chairs this coming academic year.

Dr. Andrea Holgado has served as chair of the Department of Biological Sciences since 2014. Dr. Zach Jones will now lead the department.

Dr. Michael Dougherty served as the chair of the Department of Mathematics since 2009. Dr. Thomas McNamara is the new chair of that department.

Dr. Robin Jones was the chair of the Department of Communication & Theatre when it was created in 2007 and then as chair of the Department of Art, Communication & Theatre when those two departments were combined in 2014. Dr. Joel Kendall will be the new chair.

Outgoing chairs: Drs. Andrea Holgado (Biological Sciences), Michael Dougherty (Mathematics) and Robin Jones (Art, Communication & Theatre).

Incoming chairs: Drs. Joel Kendall (Art, Communication & Theatre), Zach Jones (Biological Sciences) and Thomas McNamara (Mathematics).
SWOSU Student Named Outstanding Student by American Medical Technologists

For the second year in a row, a Southwestern Oklahoma State University-Sayre Medical Laboratory Technician student has won a national award. SWOSU-Sayre student Kylee Cahoy was recently named the winner of the Outstanding Student Award in the Medical Laboratory Technician category from the American Medical Technologists.

Originally from Wyoming, Cahoy attended SWOSU in Weatherford on a rodeo scholarship. She transferred to the Sayre campus in fall 2016 and was able to complete the Medical Laboratory Technician coursework in only two semesters. “Kylee was a committed student,” said SWOSU-Sayre Medical Laboratory Technician Program Director Roxann Clifton. “She was dedicated to the program and only missed class when she had to leave for a rodeo.”

During the fall semester, Cahoy was simultaneously completing her BS degree from SWOSU while taking the MLT professional courses and attending rodeos, many of which were far from western Oklahoma. Cahoy is completing the clinical portion of the program at Uintah Basin Healthcare in Roosevelt, Utah.

Cahoy was a member of the National Honor Society, Who’s Who, and the SWOSU Biology Club. She has also been named to the President’s Honor Roll, AMT Student Member and SWOSU Student Athlete of the Month. She has also been involved in a highway beautification project and reading to children, and she helped with a rodeo for special needs children.

“We are very proud of Kylee for her contributions in the classroom and to the community and believe she will be as successful professionally as she has been educationally,” Clifton said.

Cahoy will receive a plaque and a monetary award in addition to registration to the American Medical Technologists National Convention in Kansas City where she has been invited to accept her award in person.

SWOSU-Sayre student Rachel Randall won this award in 2016.

New Grandbaby!

Ms. Carla Sandy (CAS Administrative Assistant) is a grandmother again! Kalen Olivia was born June 28, weighed 6 lbs. 5 oz. and was 20 inches in length.
Biology Students Preparing for Their Careers

The Department of Biological Sciences recently reported on the success of their students.

The following Biology graduates have been accepted into professional schools or began employment in their major field:

Jacob Bellamy - NSU Optometry School
Elizabeth Jansing - Nursing School, TX
Laci Johnston – Medical Laboratory Science at Saint Francis Hospital
Brandon Le - SWOSU Pharmacy
Matt Meeks - Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine, FT. Smith
Tyler Mitchum - OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine
Cameron Nix - OU College of Medicine
Alexis Schroeder - SWOSU M Ed Biomedical Sciences and Microbiology
Jay Stinson - Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine, FT. Smith
Maddi Stuart - Physical Therapy Program at Hardin-Simmons, Abilene
Forrest Witt - OU College of Medicine
Rachel Wallace - Oklahoma City Zoo
Ashley Watson - OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine
Reine Sinthia Youmbi - Oklahoma City Analytic Research Laboratories.

The following Biology students have been awarded summer research internships:

Jay Garber - OK-INBRE SMaRT Program
Justin Lippard - OK-INBRE SMaRT Program
Brittney Le - OK-INBRE SMaRT Program
Jayme Tuck – Student Conservation Association.

Students and Faculty Attend National Microbiology Conference

Dr. Regina McGrane (Biological Sciences) and three students recently attended the annual meeting of the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) in New Orleans. Jay Garber and Sarah Gore co-authored a poster titled “The Induction of Resistance to *Pseudomonas syringae* infection by *Pseudomonas putida* in the Model Organism *Arabidopsis thaliana* and the Crops *Solanum lycopersicum* and *Phaseolus vulgaris*.” Sara Hutchinson received a Student Travel Award from the American Society for Microbiology to present a poster titled “Analysis of Surface Motility Regulation in the Phytopathogen *Pseudomonas syringae*.”

Dr. McGrane was selected for the America Society for Microbiology Undergraduate Faculty Research Initiative (ASM-UFRI) and participated in a Research Mentor Training Workshop. Travel to this conference was supported by ASM, ASM-UFRI, OK-EPSCOR, the SWOSU College of Arts and Sciences Organized Research, the SWOSU Office of Sponsored Programs, and the Department of Biological Sciences.

Jay Garber, Sarah Gore and Sara Hutchinson presented their undergraduate research at the annual meeting of the American Society for Microbiology.
SWOSU-Sayre Instructor Raising Money for Willow Missile Site Historical Marker

Southwestern Oklahoma State University-Sayre History Instructor Mr. Landry Brewer wants the public to know that the little town of Willow in Greer County was integral to national security during the Cold War.

Last fall Brewer began researching 12 sites near Altus Air Force Base that housed Atlas F Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles as part of the nation’s Cold War nuclear arsenal in the early 1960s.

Brewer was so impressed by what he learned that he applied to the Oklahoma Historical Society for a historical marker to be placed at the Willow missile site. The OHS granted his request and is now raising the approximate $2,500 cost of the historical marker, and he has partnered with the Old Greer County Museum in Mangum to receive contributions.

“As a history instructor for SWOSU in Sayre, I’m interested in preserving local, state and national history,” Brewer said. “The missile sites in southwest Oklahoma fall into all three categories.”

The nuclear missiles stored at Willow and 11 other locations were attached to the 577th Strategic Missile Squadron at Altus Air Force Base and were designed to be fired at the Soviet Union during a nuclear war. Other locations were at: Lone Wolf, Snyder, Cache, Frederick, Creta, Hollis, Russell, Willow, Hobart, Manitou and Granite.

“Learning the enormity of the missile-site project and its importance to both the state and the nation during the Cold War has been fascinating,” Brewer said. “This marker will help preserve this part of Western Oklahoma’s history and educate individuals about the site’s importance in protecting the nation during what was arguably the most dangerous period in world history.”

Individuals and groups that would like to support this endeavor may send their tax-deductible contributions to the Old Greer County Museum at P.O. Box 2, Mangum, OK 73554. Checks should be made out to Old Greer County Museum but Willow Missile Site Historical Marker should be specified on the memo line.

(Left) Mr. Landry Brewer. (Right) This photo was taken at the Willow site sometime between 1962 and 1965.
Voice Students Compete at District Event

On Saturday, April 8, the voice area of the SWOSU Department of Music took nine students to the Oklahoma District National Association of Teachers Singing Conference and Competition, held this spring at Mid-America Christian University.

These students competed with the finest singers from across the state of Oklahoma, and five of the nine competitors made the finals round, including Kristen Williams, Alyssa Garcia, Brianna Boyce, Elizabeth Stewart (all students of Dr. Robin Griffeath), and Whitney Kleinpeter (student of Dr. Kristin Griffeath). Senior soprano Kristen Williams won first place in the Senior Women category, and first-year soprano Elizabeth Stewart took third place in the Freshmen Women category.

Pictured (left to right) are Madeline Kimball, Kristen Williams, Alyssa Garcia, Brianna Boyce, Elizabeth Stewart (all students of Dr. Robin Griffeath), and Whitney Kleinpeter (student of Dr. Kristin Griffeath).

Service Learning Project Benefits Abused and Abandoned Animals

SWOSU students in Dr. Lisa Schroeder’s (Art, Communication & Theatre) Principles of Advertising course engaged in a service learning project. Students hosted a charity Puppy Kissing Booth to raise funds for Friends for Life Animal Society. The students raised $102.54 that was used to purchase a new dorm size refrigerator to cool medicines for abused and abandoned animals. The students also created a television ad, an updated brochure and a video for Friends for Life’s web site to encourage volunteers.

Biologists March for Science

Six faculty in the Department of Biological Sciences attended the March for Science on Earth Day, April 22, in Oklahoma City. Attending were (left to right) Drs. Jimena Aracena, Lisa Castle, Christopher Horton (with Alyssa), Steven O’Neal, Regina McGrane and Denis Trubitsyn.

May not music be described as mathematics of the sense, mathematics as music of the reason?

James Joseph Sylvester

http://www.math.utep.edu/Faculty/lesser/M&Mquotes.html
2017 Teddy Awards

The 2017 Teddy Awards were presented at the Communication & Theatre banquet. Recipients are selected by a panel who judge each actor’s performance in the productions during the year.

Recipients of the Teddy Awards this year are

Cameo Actress – Kendra Place in CHARLIE BROWN
Cameo Actor – William Appel in CHARLIE BROWN
Supporting Actress – Micaelah Thompson in 12 ANGRY JURORS
Supporting Actor – (tie) Grant Crews and William Appel, both from 12 ANGRY JURORS
Leading Actress – Micaelah Thompson in CHARLIE BROWN
Leading Actor – Carlos Ramirez in CHARLIE BROWN.

Summer Science and Math Academy a Success

Over 30 students participated in this year’s SWOSU Summer Science and Math Academy. Instructors included Drs. Brian Campbell, Director and Planetary Science; David Esjornson, Recruitment Director and Chemistry; Thomas McNamara, Mathematics; Joel Kendall, Communications and Computers; and Christopher Horton, Biology. Staff support was provided by Alyssa Friesen, Tristan Devon, Benjamin Pham, Lana Spandley, Aditi Shrestha and Abner Nimsey.

SWOSU Choral Camp 2017

Dr. Daniel Farris (Music), Eagle Mountain-Saginaw choir director Mr. Jason Sneed, and music educator/conductors from across Oklahoma taught junior high and high school students during Choral Camp, held on the SWOSU campus during June. Students came from Oklahoma and surrounding states to learn the Oklahoma OkMEA and OkCDA music for their 2017-2018 auditions, with the goal of winning a seat in a state ensemble. Guest faculty also taught 1-hour electives on a variety of topics including keyboarding, music theory, musical theater and vocal pedagogy.

Participants gave two public performances: a camp talent show and a concert of the junior high and high school choirs performing the music they learned during camp.
SWOSU Digital Commons

“The SWOSU Digital Commons publishes scholarly and creative works by SWOSU faculty and students. The Digital Commons also provides a wide array of materials celebrating the history of the University and the diverse peoples and cultures of western Oklahoma.”

You can read the latest and past issues of the ESL [English as a second language] Club Newsletter and the CAS Newsletter. You can even catch up on the latest in mayfly research by reading The Mayfly Newsletter – an international publication started by Dr. Peter Grant (CAS Dean) 27 years ago.

In addition, you can peruse faculty and student research publications, Echoes from the Hill (alumni magazine), Westview (original works of fiction, nonfiction, prose poems, and artwork), plus photos and articles about the university’s history.

Upcoming Events

July
17 – New Student Orientation

August
16 – New Student Orientation
16-17 – New Faculty Orientation
18 – Faculty Workshop, Enrollment
19 – University Picnic
20 – Classes Begin

Writing Center Summer 2017 Hours

Hours run from Monday, June 5, until Tuesday, July 25. We will be closed on July 3 & 4 due to the campus holiday.

Monday & Tuesday: 4:45-7:45pm
Wednesday & Thursday: 9am-12pm

These hours are subject to change as the semester progresses.

Walk-ins are welcome, or to schedule an appointment, please email writingcenter@swosu.edu or call (580) 774-7083. Online consultations are also available. Email us for more information.

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