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

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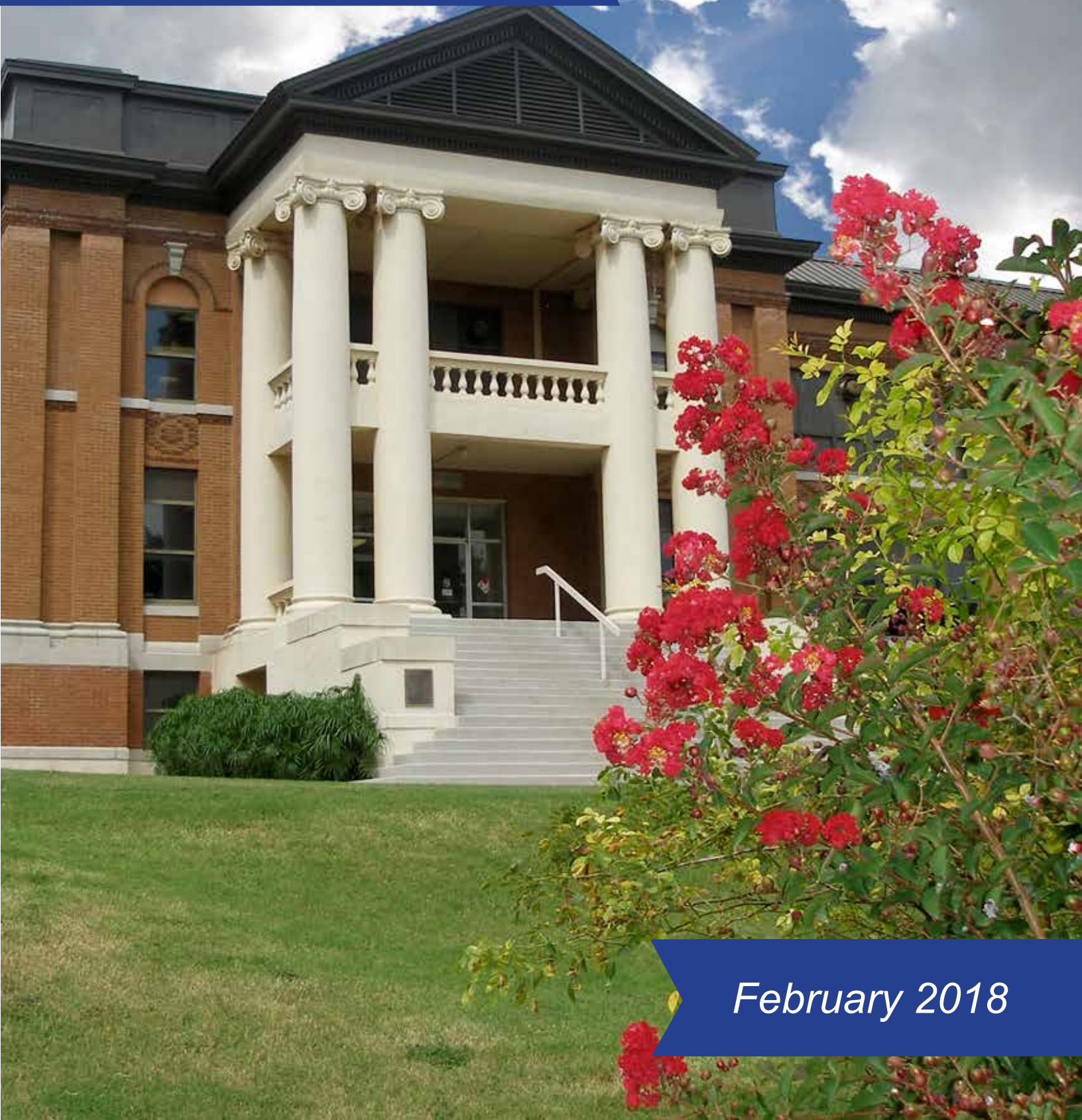
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aCAademicS

The Newsletter of the
SWOSU College of Arts & Sciences



February 2018



Interview with the Dean

One of the opportunities I have as Dean is to interview faculty candidates. The department search committees select their top candidates and invite them to campus for an interview which also includes a meeting with me.

The first part of the interview is pretty standard. I give a short history of SWOSU, explain the hierarchy of higher education in Oklahoma, and cover tenure and promotion details. After that, the focus turns to the candidate.

One question I ask all candidates is why do they want to work at SWOSU? The most common answer is that they attended a primarily undergraduate institution. They enjoyed the smaller class sizes and often had an opportunity to work with faculty on a research project. These candidates are looking for a university that offers the same opportunities to its students.

Since one of our goals is to increase student retention, I ask the candidates about successful strategies they have used to help students who are struggling academically. The successful candidates show a willingness to work with those students, sometimes individually, to see that they actually do succeed.

I also point out to the candidates that faculty, who have accepted a position at SWOSU, tend to stay here. The main reason, I think, is that the departments do a great job of selecting candidates who are a good fit for Southwestern – candidates who will thrive on a small campus and who will focus on the students.

Change is always occurring on campus. While we experience changes in the composition of the faculty, one thing that has not changed is hiring faculty who are dedicated to the mission of Southwestern.

Pete Grant, Dean
College of Arts & Sciences

CAS News

Dr. Marc DiPaolo (Language & Literature) was interviewed on the American Movie Classics documentary series “Robert Kirkman’s Secret History of Comics,” [episode 4](#), City of Heroes, about the effect of real world tragedy - specifically the 9/11 terrorist attacks - on the fictional worlds of superheroes found in comic books and movies. Dr. DiPaolo was also appointed as Assistant Director of the SWOSU Honors Program.

Justin Lippard (Biology major) was selected to attend the George and Donna Nigh Leadership Academy.

Dr. Richard Tirk (Music) has been awarded the Collegiate Educator of 2017 by the Oklahoma Jazz Educators. He was recognized at the All State Jazz Ensemble concert on January 20 in Tulsa as part of the Oklahoma Music Educators’ Association annual convention.

Ms. Tee Kesnan (Language & Literature) and her English as a Second Language students publish an [ESL newsletter](#) which can be accessed on Digital Commons.

Two Music majors were winners in the 5th Annual Joyce Adams Curtis Concerto/Aria Competition. Alyssa Garcia won the vocal division and Jia-Rou Zoe Lin won the instrumental division.

Taylor Brownlee (Biological Sciences) was accepted into the Medical Laboratory Sciences Program in Lawton.

Ms. Marsha Carman (Art, Communication & Theatre) was selected as a guest artist by the Chisholm Trail Arts Council for the Teacher & Faculty Art Show and Exhibit in Duncan, OK.

Drs. Muatasem Ubeidat and Eric Paul (Biological Sciences) served as panelists for a faculty development event sponsored by the College of Pharmacy. The topic of the meeting was cultural competency, with emphasis on Middle Eastern culture.

Erica Brunet (Mathematics Education major) was named by the Division II Conference Commissioners Association to the All-Central Region second soccer team.

Mr. Fred Alsberg (Language & Literature) recently had a poem [published](#) in *Polarity eMagazine*.

“The Missiles of Oklahoma: Southwest Oklahoma’s Role in the American Cold War Nuclear Arsenal, 1960-65,” a paper recently published by Mr. Landry Brewer (Social Sciences), is now available on the [SWOSU Digital Commons](#).

Dr. Trevor Ellis (Chemistry & Physics) received funding from the National Science Foundation through Oklahoma EPSCoR.

Dr. Jieun Chang (Social Sciences) recently presented her paper, “Government Grants and Nonprofit Organizations’ Exit,” at the Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting in Tampa, Florida. She also published her [article](#), “Privacy and Security Concerns in Online Health Services,” in the *Journal of Applied Economics Letters*.

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CAS News (cont.)

Dr. Denise Landrum-Geyer (Language & Literature) presented her paper, "Planners Unite! Organizing Women in/of the 21st Century," at the 11th Biennial Feminism(s) Rhetoric(s) Conference in Dayton, Ohio.

Dr. Howard Kurtz (Social Sciences) was interviewed by Fox News, being asked the question, "Why are so few police officers arrested in police shootings?"

Kyra Schmidt (History Education and Spanish), a student of Dr. Becky Bruce (Social Sciences), was accepted into Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society. She presented an original research paper at the society's annual conference, "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me 'round." Children Involvement in the Civil Rights Movement."

CAS faculty who have recently received travel assistance from the SWOSU Office of Sponsored Programs to present or perform at a conference include

Mr. Fred Alsberg (Language & Literature)

Dr. Shelley Martinson (Music) and 13 students in the Flute Choir

Dr. Robin Jones (Art, Communication & Theatre)

Drs. Matthew Tracy, Daniel Farris and Alex Lee (Music)

Drs. David Esjornson, Tim Hubin, Trevor Ellis, Lori Gwyn and Jon Henrikson (Chemistry & Physics) along with 11 students

Dr. Lisa Castle (Biological Sciences) and student.

Dr. John Hayden (Social Sciences) just had his fifteenth book review published in the *Sixteenth Century Journal*. He reviewed Jeremy Black's *British Politics and Foreign Policy, 1744-1757: Mid-Century Crisis*. The review appeared in the Summer, 2017 issue.

Ms. Taylor Verkler (Language & Literature) recently presented at the Prepare for a Conference: Abstract and Poster Workshops on campus. The goal was to assist faculty and students who plan to present at the National Conferences on Undergraduate Research in April.

Maybree Rittenhouse (Biology major) was accepted into the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Dr. Tugba Sevin (Language & Literature) published an article about the review of *A Companion to Early Modern Hispanic Theater* (Leiden Brill, The Renaissance Society of America Texts and Studies Series 2, 2014) in the *Hispania felix: Revista rumano-española de cultura y civilización de los Siglos de Oro*, vol. 7, 2016, pp. 1-300. Her article begins on page 288.

Four CAS students have been recently featured in the *Weatherford Daily News*' SWOSU Spotlight: Kyra Schmidt (History Education and Spanish), Cody Hanks (Biomedical Science and Chemistry), Hailey Tucker (Communication) and Lindsey Hendricks (Biology).

Alumni News

Dr. Tyler DeVaughn (SWOSU Biology alumnus) is now a board certified Orthodontist.

Mr. Timothy Stein (SWOSU Biology alumnus) is now a Physician Assistant.

Ms. Maggie Tran (SWOSU Art alumna) was hired as Associate Designer at V&A PR and Marketing in Oklahoma City.

Emeriti News

Four former SWOSU employees were recognized by the SWOSU Alumni Association during a reception in the Pioneer Cellular Events Center. Two of those employees were CAS Faculty: Drs. Henry Kirkland (Biological Sciences) and Jill Jones (Language & Literature).

Interactive Exhibit at Washita Battlefield Site Wins National Award

An interactive exhibit—Touch and See Your Park— at the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site (WBNHS), that was created by Southwestern Oklahoma State University faculty and staff in Weatherford, has won the 2017 National Park Service (NPS) Interpretive Design Project Achievement Accessibility Award. The collaborative project between WBNHS and SWOSU created an interactive exhibit designed to interpret the battle along the Washita River for all visitors—including visitors who have visual disabilities.

The national award is presented to an NPS park or unit to recognize “exemplary” design, construction or renovation of interpretive exhibits, waysides or program materials that incorporate creative uses of technology. The WBNHS and SWOSU project was the first audio-tactile interactive interpretive exhibit at any NPS site.

Dr. Siriporn Peters (Art, Communication, & Theatre) led the project. The research team consisted of Peters; Dr. Henrietta Mann, former president of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal College; Mr. Frederic Murray, instructional services librarian at the Al Harris Library; and Mr. Kevin Mohr, chief of interpretation at WBNHS.

Assisting Peters with the project’s graphic design elements was Angsuemalin Peters, an engineering student at SWOSU. Instructors Nathan Brooks and Brad Bryant of the SWOSU Engineering Technology Department designed and built the wooden stand to display the interactive exhibit, which meets the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.



Funding was provided by the SWOSU College of Arts and Sciences and the Western National Parks Association through the WBNHS and SWOSU Foundation.

“The moment we begin to fear the opinions of others and hesitate to tell the truth that is in us, and from motives of policy are silent when we should speak, the divine floods of light and life no longer flow into our souls. Every truth we see is ours to give the world, not to keep for ourselves alone, for in so doing we cheat humanity out of their rights and check our own development.”

Elizabeth Cady Stanton

<http://mentalfloss.com/article/71141/15-empowering-quotes-elizabeth-cady-stanton>

February 2018

Theatre Production Advances to Regional Event

The second theatre production of the semester, *Mary's Wedding*, by Stephen Massicotte, was presented recently on campus. The production was directed by Mr. Steve Strickler (Art, Communication & Theatre); Ms. Jessica Salmans served as Technical Director and coordinated scenic and sound design.

Mary's Wedding is the department's entry into the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) regional competition. After the first performance, judges from the Kennedy Center met with the actors, crew, Mr. Strickler and Ms. Salmans and provided feedback.

Recently, Mr. Strickler was informed by KCACTF that the organization

- commended the work of Micaelah Thompson and William Appel and submitted their names for the Regional Irene Ryan Acting competition
- awarded Meritorious Achievement to the following areas: Lighting Design, Graphic Design, House Management and Stage Management
- invited the company to present a selection from the show at the Regional KCACTF Evening of Scenes.



<https://www.bellarmine.edu/cas/theatre/>

The next campus presentation is the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival Showcase, which is scheduled for February 19th.

Math Students Honored

Seven math students were inducted into Kappa Mu Epsilon. KME is a national honor society for mathematics and related disciplines. SWOSU has been home to a chapter since 1973. Pictured in the back row are Corresponding Secretary Dr. Tom McNamara, Jaxon Taylor, Kevin Freeman and Smith Pease. Seated are Kendra Gift, Hien Tiam To, Terin Brownen, and Mariah Cook.

Also three SWOSU students recently participated in the William Lowell Putnam Mathematics Competition. This is the most prestigious math contest in North America. Each year roughly 4,000 students take the test across the United States and Canada. Prizes are awarded to the participants with the highest scores and to their departments. In addition, top scorers are considered for graduate fellowships at many schools. At SWOSU, our participants were Tyler Kehn, Jaxon Taylor, and Boubocar Wane.



Southwest Alliance for Girls' Enrichment

The Southwest Alliance for Girls' Enrichment (SAGE) hosted interactive tables at Governor Mary Fallin's recent STEM & Entrepreneurship Summit. Participants included (left to right): Dr. Jorie Edwards (Psychology), **Dr. Lori Gwyn (Chemistry & Physics)**, Ella Barnett (2017 Tech Trek Camper from Weatherford), Breleigh Hughes (Pre-nursing major), Kyla Risenhoover (2016 Tech Trek Camper from Hydro), Erin Ridgeway (SWOSU Libraries) and Dr. Lisa Appeddu (Pharmacy).



Introducing Ms. Rosie Flamingo

Ms. Rosie Flamingo is raffled off during monthly staff luncheons for display in the winning office. This past month she was displayed in the College of Arts & Sciences office. According to her SWOSU nametag, she is the Director of Featherweights.

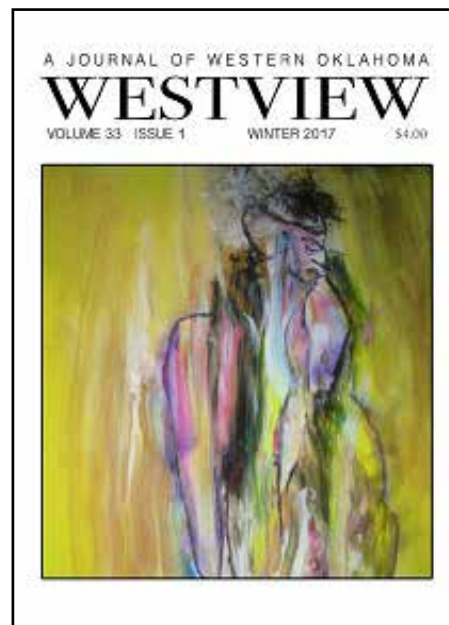


Westview

Westview is published semianually by the SWOSU Department of Language & Literature. Publications include previously unpublished short fiction, poetry, prose poems, creative nonfiction, and artwork. We accept electronic [submissions](#) year-round and support emerging writers and artists.

Subscriptions for two years (four issues) is \$15 in the United States; \$25 out of country. Single issues are \$6 including postage; \$5 if not mailed.

Checks are to be made payable to *Westview*. Contact the Editor, [Dr. Amanda Smith](#), for additional information.



GMS Project Workshops

The students involved in the Gender and Sexual Minority (GSM) Project will be offering several workshops on campus this semester. The goal is to present information from qualified guest speakers about certain issues in our communities. The workshops are always open to all students, faculty, and staff, as well as the general public.

The dates and titles of upcoming workshops are

- Safe Sex, Feb. 9th
- Parenting an LGBTQ+ Child, Feb. 23rd
- Know Your Rights, Mar. 9th

If a faculty member would like their classes to attend one of these sessions, the GSM members can document attendance. For more information, please contact Dr. Elaine Davies (Art, Communication & Theatre) at elaine.davies@swosu.edu or ext. 6824.

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Writing Center Spring 2018 Hours

Full hours run from Tuesday, Jan. 16, until Friday, Apr. 27. We will be closed spring break.

Monday: 3-7pm
 Tuesday: 3-7pm
 Wednesday: 3-7pm
 Thursday: 3-7pm
 Friday: closed
 Saturday: 12-3:30pm
 Sunday: 5:30-8pm

Hours are subject to change as needed. Check back for occasional extra hours on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday afternoon and evenings. Special hours will be posted for finals.

To schedule an appointment, please email writing-center@swosu.edu or call (580) 774-7083. Walk-ins welcome! Be sure to like us on Facebook (SWOSU Writing Center) and follow us on Twitter (@swosu-writes).

CAS Happenings

(Please refer to the University [Calendar](#) for details.)

February

- 8 Jazz Concert
- 9 Jazz Concert and Dinner
- 9-10 Speech Tournament
- 10 Vocal OSSAA Solo/Ensemble Contest
- 12 Darwin Day
- 15 Music Guest Artist, Choral Concert
- 16 Wind Symphony/Symphonic Band/Community Band Concert
- 18 SWOSU Theatre Production – showcase entries for KCACT Festival
- 22 Faculty Chamber Recital
- 24 James Breckenridge Memorial Piano Competition
- 25 Guest Artist Concert
- 26 Enrollment begins for summer and fall



Anniversaries to Celebrate in 2018



http://www.science.tamu.edu/news/story.php?story_ID=1685#.Wnoy9XxG1hE

- 75th anniversary of the Golden Globe Awards
- 75 years since the birth of George Harrison
- 90th anniversary of the discovery of penicillin
- 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in Oklahoma
- 130th anniversary of the American Mathematical Society
- 150 years since the birth of Henrietta Swan Leavitt, astronomer
- 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*

This publication, *aCAademicS*, 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.