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

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aCAademicS

The Newsletter of the
SWOSU College of Arts & Sciences



April 2018

aCAcademics

The Newsletter of the

SWOSU College of Arts & Sciences

April 2018

Looking for a Few (More) Good Students!

Most of my letters in this newsletter are directed to faculty and staff on campus. In this letter I would like to share information about our recruiting efforts with alumni.

We do a lot of recruiting on this campus. Todd, Taler and Brennan in the Office of Admissions and Recruitment visit an incredible number of high schools in the fall and provide lots of campus tours to prospective students and their families.

That office also arranges events so that students and their families can learn more about SWOSU. These events include SWOSU Saturday, Parent's Day, SWOSU College Expo, Homecoming, high school visitations, and the Southwestern Interscholastic Meet. In addition to working directly with the students, Admissions and Recruitment also organizes two information events for high school counselors - one on campus for those in western Oklahoma and one for counselors in the Metro area.

The College of Arts & Sciences has been involved in all of these recruiting events (see photos). In fact, CAS has even coordinated a few additional recruiting events at U.S. Grant High School, Francis Tuttle Technology Center, DOVE Science Academy and ASTEC High School. We also set up information tables at the robotics competition held on campus a few weeks ago.

And then there are you, the alumni, who are also recommending SWOSU to your family, friends, neighbors and coworkers, who want a quality and an affordable education for their sons and daughters.

With all of this recruiting, it's no surprise that SWOSU has had an increase in enrollment for each of the previous 8 semesters! That increase occurred during a time when most other colleges and universities were experiencing a loss of students!

Everyone has done an incredible job of reaching out to potential students. The faculty, staff and even the students in the College of Arts & Sciences have contributed a lot of time and effort into recruiting activities.

Our New Student Orientation sessions begin soon, but it's not too late for a student to sign up. If you know of a student who would like information about SWOSU or would like to visit campus, simply have them contact our Admissions and Recruitment Office (580-774-3784, admissions@swosu.edu), contact a department of interest to them (see the next page), or contact me (580-774-7152, peter.grant@swosu.edu). Any of us would be glad to provide information, arrange for a tour of campus, or schedule a meeting with faculty.

We are always looking for a few more good students.

Pete

Pete Grant, Dean
College of Arts & Sciences



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CAS News

Hailey Tucker (Communication major) continues to receive accolades for her academic and athletics skills. She has recently been selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America for the Academic All-America® Team (2nd team) and the Academic All-District™ Women's Basketball Team (District 7, 1st team). In addition, Hailey was named the 2017-18 Central Region Women's Basketball Player of the Year by the Division II Conference Commissioners' Association.

Dr. Howard Kurtz (Social Sciences) was a co-host on the show "Crimes and Times" with Mike Tabman, former FBI special agent in charge, to discuss the causes of crime with former federal inmates. He also gave a presentation on hate groups and the attempted bombing of Oklahoma City at the national meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in New Orleans. Dr. Kurtz also performed a benefit sponsored by the United Women Dairy Farmers of New Mexico to raise money to provide milk for under-served school children.

Ashna Dhoonmoon (Biology major) was accepted into the Biomedical Sciences graduate program at Pennsylvania State University.

Dr. Tugba Sevin (Language & Literature) published an article, "El orden y la contradicción en el mundo descrito por Luis Vélez de Guevara" in *Furman 217 Vanderbilt* (February 2018). She also gave presentations on languages recently at the local AAUW and Rotary Club meetings.

Five CAS faculty attended the 2018 Transformative Learning Conference in Oklahoma City: Drs. Elaine Davies, Siriporn Peters (both in Art, Communication & Theatre), Kelley Logan, Tugba Sevin and Ms. Taylor Verkler (all three in Language & Literature). Logan, Verkler and Peters gave presentations; Peters and Davies judged posters.

Dr. Shelley Martinson (Music) was featured in the March issue of the SWOSU Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning Newsletter.

At the SWOSU Bulldog Blitz Talent Show, Neenu Kakkanatt (Mathematics major) and Julio Esquivel (Biology major) tied for second place. Each performed a dance from their country.

Dr. Siriporn Peters (Art, Communication & Theatre) and her students held a Graphic Design Conference and Exhibition on campus as part of the Professional Practices of Graphic Design class activities.

Brad Burke (Biology major) was accepted into the Colorado State University Microbiology, Immunology, and Pathology PhD Program.

Dr. Richard Tirk (Music) and the SWOSU Trumpet Ensemble performed at the first ever regional International Trumpet Guild Conference. Dr. Tirk performed the world premiere of Jackson Anderson's (SWOSU Music alumnus) piece, *The Bells*, and the trumpet ensemble performed *The Storm's Path* by Brian Balmages on a recital with other trumpet ensembles from around the Southwest. In addition, Dr. Tirk presented a lecture entitled, *The Aria Project*, about using music originally written for voice to improve students' grasp of musicality and phrasing.

Mr. Fred Alsberg (Language & Literature) published a poem, "Cheers," recently in *Polarity*. He also read his poems at the 40th Annual Southwest Popular Culture Association Conference in Albuquerque.

(continued)

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CAS News (cont.)

Twelve teacher candidates will be working on their practice teaching assignments this semester. The students and their teaching areas are

Art Education - Addy Dirks

English Education - Ashley Kelley

History Education - Kyra Schmidt, Cole Smith and Cameron Cowan

Mathematics Education - Hunter Khan

Music Education - Kyle Hernasy, Thomas Partin, Cherokee Riddle and Victoria Poole

Natural Science Education - Cassady Hayes and Isabella Seay

Congratulations to Jesse Velasco (Biology major) on his acceptance in to the Cancer Metabolism Graduate Program at the University of Utah.

Alumni News

Mr. Zack Burkhalter (SWOSU History alumnus) has been teaching at Yukon High School for the past few years and recently won the News 9 [Teacher Appreciation Award!](#) Click the link for more information and a video.

Dr. Rick Badley (SWOSU Chemistry alumnus) was named the 2018 recipient of Trevecca University's Teaching Excellence Award. Badley, a professor of chemistry, has been a member of the Trevecca faculty since 2011. He previously taught at MidAmerica Nazarene University for 17 years, serving as the chair of the Department of Science and Mathematics for 11 years. He earned a bachelor's degree from Southwestern Oklahoma State University and a Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University and holds six U.S. patents.

Mr. Tim Wigley (Political Science alumnus) was selected to the Oklahoma Public School Resource Center Board. He currently serves as the president of the Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association.

7 Things Students Think About When Choosing a College

1. Affordability
2. Availability of a desired program
3. Reputation/academic quality
4. Career outcomes/job opportunities
5. Value of education for cost
6. Feeling of fit
7. Proximity to home.

Source: *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, February 23, 2018, p. A19



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Landry Brewer Wins Bernhardt Academic Excellence Award

Landry Brewer (photo, center), history instructor on the Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) campus in Sayre, is the winner of the Bernhardt Academic Excellence Award for 2018 at SWOSU. Brewer was presented the prestigious award at the annual Bernhardt banquet held on the Weatherford campus. For winning the award, Brewer received a \$5,000 cash award, clock, pen and medallion.

SWOSU alumni Dr. William and Theta Juan Bernhardt (see photo) of Midwest City are sponsors of the annual award that goes to an outstanding faculty member who exhibits exceptional achievement in teaching, scholarship and service.

Landry Brewer grew up in Elk City and graduated from Elk City High School in 1994. He is the first SWOSU-Sayre faculty member to win the Bernhardt Award.

Brewer has earned five college degrees—all from SWOSU. He received an Associate in Science degree in General Studies, Bachelor of Science in Education degree in Elementary Education, Master of Education degree in Social Sciences, Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, and Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science

After teaching part time at the Sayre campus for several years, Brewer joined the SWOSU faculty at the Sayre campus full time in August 2005. Brewer teaches United States History to 1877, United States History Since 1877, World History, and American Government and Politics. Each fall and spring semester, Brewer teaches interactive video courses from the Sayre campus that are broadcast to several western Oklahoma high schools, and he also teaches online classes.

In addition to teaching, Brewer is busy with scholarly activity, most notably his research and the recent publication of his paper in *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* about the Atlas missile sites in southwest Oklahoma in the early 1960s.



He served as SWOSU-Sayre Faculty Association President, Student Government Association faculty advisor, and various roles in the annual SWOSU-Sayre Literacy Festival. He has announced the graduates during the annual SWOSU-Sayre graduation ceremony since 2006. In 2015, Brewer worked with Sayre campus Dean Sherron Manning and Great Plains Regional Medical Center in Elk City CEO Corey Lively to offer general education classes taught by Sayre campus faculty members each fall and spring at the Elk City hospital.

Brewer is also involved in his community. He has coached children's soccer and softball teams and acted as fill-in basketball coach. He has also volunteered as a soccer coach for Heart of Western Oklahoma Homeschoolers in Elk City. Brewer has co-hosted the morning talk show "The Early Morning Show" on KECO Radio in Elk City with his twin brother Nathan.

From *The Chronicle of Higher Education*

(March 2, 2018, p. A48)

"For millions of others [students who are not accepted into highly selective universities] — especially those attending the community colleges and less-selective public institutions that serve the vast majority of American students — college is the place that hones skills and knowledge, builds professional networks, and clarifies life goals. It's the place where you learn to devote close attention to a hard task, to work alongside others on complex problems, to stick with a long-range challenge. Those "signaled" virtues are well-earned. Data from the Collegiate Learning Assessment show that some of the sharpest student gains happen at **regional public universities** [my emphasis] — institutions that prize opportunity above exclusivity."

President Margaret Spellings
University of North Carolina
Former U.S. Secretary of Education

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CAS Faculty Receive Tenure and Promotion

Congratulations to the CAS faculty who were recently promoted or received tenure:

Promotion to Professor

Dr. E. K. Jeong (Art, Communication & Theatre)
Dr. Howard Kurtz (Social Sciences)
Dr. Eric Paul (Biological Sciences)

Tenure

Dr. Becky Bruce (Social Sciences)
Dr. Shelley Martinson (Music)
Dr. Jieun Chang (Social Sciences)

Promotion to Associate Professor

Dr. Becky Bruce (Social Sciences)
Dr. Robin Griffeath (Music)
Dr. Shelley Martinson (Music)

SWOSU Students Join 300 Others at Higher Ed Day

More than 300 students from Oklahoma's public colleges and universities gathered at the state Capitol on February 13 to promote the value and importance of higher education in the state. Among the Southwestern Oklahoma State University students in Weatherford who attended were (from left): SWOSU Student Government Association President Austin Loomis, Edmond (Deer Creek); Conner Patton, Tecumseh; **Jayden Mills (Political Science major)**, Chickasha; and Jacie Brown, Chickasha. The students met with legislators to underscore the importance of restoring funding for higher education.



2017 Academic Recognition Ceremony

Among the annual events on campus is the Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges Ceremony. Students, who have been chosen by their departments for their academic accomplishments and service activities, are awarded a Who's Who certificate to honor "the nation's most noteworthy students of higher learning."

Several months ago, we learned that the national Who's Who organization was not going to sponsor the ceremony this year. That was unfortunate as this event is greatly anticipated. The most recent recipient of the Bernhardt Academic Excellence Award gives a presentation to the students and many parents, family members, friends and instructors of the recipients attend the ceremony and the following reception.

True to SWOSU fashion, Dr. Ruth Boyd, Vice President for Student Affairs, decided that SWOSU would put on its own event and print its own certificates. The event, which we called our Academic Recognition Ceremony, was held on March 11th.

Students from all three colleges were recognized. Among them were the following 36 students from the College of Arts & Sciences:

Adcock, Jenna	Music
Barr, Paul	Art, Comm. & Theatre
Beebe, Matthew	Music
Corona, Morgan	Music
Curless, Courtney	Biological Sciences
Dhoonmoon, Ashna	Biological Sciences
Evinger, Amanda	Music
Fehring, Bailee	Biological Sciences
Ferguson, Nina	Music
Flores, Jose	Social Sciences
Gore, Sarah	Biological Sciences
Gregston, Jake	Biological Sciences
Hensley, Meagan	Art, Comm. & Theatre
Hicks, Elizabeth	Chemistry and Physics
Iloff, Mary	Social Sciences
Kaiser, Calli	Art, Comm. & Theatre
Marshall, Brooks	Social Sciences
Martinez, Gustavo	Biological Sciences
McBee, Taylor	Biological Sciences
McGill, Perri	Biological Sciences
McKay, Bailey	Social Sciences
Molnar, Marisa	Social Sciences
Nino, Albaro	Chemistry and Physics
Posas, Monica	Art, Comm. & Theatre
Randle, Chante	Art, Comm. & Theatre
Rankin, Brooke	Biological Sciences
Rittenhouse, Maybree	Biological Sciences
Rulon, Zane	Chemistry and Physics
Shoff, Kody	Chemistry and Physics
Statton, Allison	Biological Sciences
Taylor, Jaxon	Chemistry and Physics
Thompson, Amber	Art, Comm. & Theatre
Thompson, Micaelah	Art, Comm. & Theatre
Tran, Nhu	Art, Comm. & Theatre
Tresp, David	Chemistry and Physics
Williams, Tosha	Biological Sciences

Faculty Funding Successes

In the program for this year's Bernhardt Banquet, the Office of Sponsored Programs reported on the amount of extramural funding the university received during the previous academic year. For CAS, 16 faculty representing 5 departments received funding for 31 grants totaling \$1,170,393!

Recent funding successes include the following:

Extramural Funding

Dr. Joel Kendall, Mr. Steve Strickler and Ms. Jessica Salmans (Art, Communication & Theatre) – City of Weatherford Hotel/Motel Advisory Committee

Dr. Regina McGrane (Biological Sciences) – Tri Beta Biology Honor Society

Dr. Richard Tirk (Music) - City of Weatherford Hotel/Motel Advisory Committee

Dr. Tim Hubin (Chemistry & Physics) – National Science Foundation through Oklahoma State University

Dr. Muatasem Ubeidat (Biological Sciences) – National Institutes of Health through the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

Proposal Development Award

Dr. Vijay Somalinga (Biological Sciences) received one of two Proposal Development Awards from the Office of Sponsored Programs. Dr. Somalinga will use this money to develop a proposal for external funding.

Travel Assistance

The Office of Sponsored Programs provided financial assistance to Dr. Rickey Cothran (Biological Sciences) and two students to attend and present at a professional conference.

Stephanie Warner Receives AAUW Scholarship

The Weatherford Branch of the American Association of University Women held their spring luncheon on campus on March 15th. The organization awards the Nancy McClain Honorary Scholarship to a female undergraduate at this luncheon. The scholarship is given in honor of Dr. McClain, a former SWOSU faculty member and administrator, who established a foundation fund to finance this scholarship. This year the recipient was Ms. Stephanie Warner (Interdisciplinary Studies major). Besides being a student, Stephanie serves as the Community Liaison at the Corn Heritage Village and Rehab in Corn and Weatherford.



SWOSU Celebrates Anniversaries

Southwestern Oklahoma State University
Sayre Campus



Sayre Junior College merged with
Southwestern Oklahoma State University
in July 1987.

Medical Laboratory Technician
&
Radiologic Technology



The Medical Laboratory Technician and Radiologic
Technology programs began accepting students
in August 1968.

Higher Education
in Sayre



Higher education was first established
in Sayre when grades 13 and 14 were
added to the high school.

The SWOSU-Sayre campus has a large celebration in store for 2018, and the English Composition I students are having a big share in it. The celebration is being called the “30/50/80,” as it commemorates 30 years since the merger with Weatherford, the 50th anniversary of the Med Tech and Rad Tech programs, and 80 years of higher education in the city of Sayre. Two events are planned.

A gala event is planned for the evening of Friday, March 30th. Guests (by invitation only) will arrive at Patterson Field house for cocktails at 6 to be followed by dinner at 7. The agenda includes recognition of past deans by current Dean Sherron Manning, and a summary of the college’s history by Mr. Landry Brewer. The research by the English Comp students (see photo) will be presented in the form of tri-fold displays containing their research paper, photos, and memorabilia, beginning with the Thirties and moving forward in time until now, and is called “A Walk Down Memory Lane.”



The public will be invited to the second event on Saturday, March 31st. The doors will be open from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. in the Patterson Fieldhouse, where the public is invited to enjoy coffee and donuts, while taking “A Walk Down Memory Lane” and observing the displays, essays, and memorabilia covering SJC, Chris Christian, Rad Tech Program, Medical Lab Tech Program, Yellow Jacket sports, the merger with Weatherford, the history of SWOSU, the McMahan Library, Paul Conner, Arch Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. McMahan, PBL, Harry Patterson, the gymnasium, former deans, faculty and staff, and much more. Yearbooks will be on display, including one, *The Oracle*, dating back to 1917 and featuring Weatherford’s Normal College.

“The English Comp I students have completed the ‘Walk Down Memory Lane’ by doing research, conducting interviews, using the digital repository, as well as looking at primary sources,” stated Terry Ford, instructor of Comp I. “They seem to have enjoyed learning about the men whose names are found on our buildings, along with history and events that have made the last 80 years special to the Sayre community.

“Grades 13 and 14 were added to Sayre Public Schools in 1938, so Sayre School’s Alumni Weekend is a perfect time for holding this commemoration,” stated Asst. Professor April Miller, one of the campus committee members.

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Building Anniversaries

Two buildings on campus, well used by CAS students, faculty and staff, are the Black Box Theatre and the Art Building. Both celebrate anniversaries this year. The Black Box Theatre turns 10 and the Art Building turns 90!



Black Box Theatre, built in 2008.



Art Building, built in 1928.



Salmans Receives Outstanding Young Teacher Award

Ms. Jessica Salmans (Art, Communication & Theatre Technical Director) recently received the C.W. Mangrum Outstanding Young Teacher Award from the Oklahoma Speech Theatre Communication Association (OSTCA). OSTCA is an association of college and university faculty promoting speech, theatre, and communications arts education in the state of Oklahoma.

Retiring CAS Faculty

Mr. Scott Froneberger - Language & Literature, 29 years

Scott Froneberger began teaching on the Sayre campus in 1989. He attended SWOSU at Weatherford and received his Bachelor's in Political Science in 1977. In 1994 he taught the first Interactive Video Course originating from the Sayre Campus. He has taught quite a variety of courses including Introduction to Philosophy, General Psychology, Speech, Introduction to Sociology, English Composition I, Fundamentals of English, Developmental Psychology, Introduction to Literature, American Government and Politics, Fundamentals of History, Social Problems, English Composition II, Improvement of Reading, World Relations and Politics, and Freshman Orientation. He was granted tenure in 2000.



Ms. Dayna Coker – Mathematics, 19 years

Dayna Coker has been a mathematics instructor on the Sayre campus for the past 19 years. She graduated from Sayre Jr. College in the spring of 1987 with an AS in General Education and from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in the spring of 1989 with a BS in Math Education. While teaching secondary mathematics at Erick Public School, she completed her master's degree in education, with a specialization in mathematics, at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. In August of 1999, she was hired to teach mathematics and computer applications at the SWOSU/Sayre campus. In addition to teaching both traditional and interactive courses, she has ventured into developing and teaching several online courses. She has served on numerous committees, including serving as a faculty senator for 10 years. Her passion is to help students become more interested in mathematics as they master mathematical and problem solving skills.



Ms. Janis South – Music, 13 years

Janis South has been an instructor at Southwestern Oklahoma State University since 2005. She teaches applied horn, brass methods class, Introduction to Music, Music and Culture and conducts the SWOSU Brass Ensemble. She received the Bachelor of Music in Horn Performance and the Master of Music in Music Education degrees from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Janice taught music 6 years in the public school systems of Arapaho and Weatherford. She was Principal Horn in the Enid Symphony until retiring from ESO in 2015 and still performs regularly with the Kenton Brass in Wichita, KS. She is also an accomplished pianist and accompanist having recently studied with professionals in the AIMS program in Eastbourne, UK. She is married to Dr. James South and has three children and 7 grandchildren.



April 2018

SWOSU Group Aids Washita Battlefield Site with Kiosk

A team of Southwestern Oklahoma State University faculty and alumni, in cooperation with the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, developed a portable touch screen kiosk with tactile graphics, braille, audio and visual images to engage audiences in the story of the tragedy at Washita. Lead by Dr. Siriporn Peters (Art, Communication & Theatre) and Dr. Henrietta Mann, the Touch and See Your Park project won the National Interpretive Design Accessibility Achievement Award of the U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service in 2017.

SWOSU faculty members Messrs. Frederic Murray, Brad Bryant and Nathan Brooks assisted in the project as did Mr. Kevin Bowles Mohr, chief of interpretation at the historic site.

Pictured with the kiosk and award are (from left) supporting administrators Drs. Peter Grant, Joel Kendall and Yolanda Carr and project team members Mann, Peters and Murray. Future SWOSU projects include an upcoming symposium to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Washita battle (1868- 2018).



CAS Happenings

(Please consult the [university calendar](#) for details.)

April

- 4 New Student Orientation
- 4-7 National Council on Undergraduate Research
- 7 Girl Scout STEAM on Campus
- 8 Music Guest Artist Masterclass and Concert
- 12 Percussion Concert
- 13 New Student Orientation
- 14-17 SWOSU Theatre Production
- 16 Community Chorus Concert
- 17 Scholarly Activity Fair, Orchestra Concert
- 18 Symphonic and Community Bands Concerts
- 19 New Student Orientation, Choral Concert
- 20 Wind Symphony Concert

Oklahoma Research Day 2018

CAS was well represented at Oklahoma Research Day in Enid on March 9th. Northwestern hosted this annual event for the second year in a row. CAS presented 16 posters involving 10 faculty and 27 students. SWOSU will host this event in 2019 and 2020.

Students Perform Mozart and Puccini Operas



SWOSU's Department of Music Opera Workshop collaboration on March 2nd and 3rd featured solo singers (directed by Drs. Kristin and Robin Griffeth), the SWOSU Symphony Orchestra (conducted by Dr. Alex Lee), and the SWOSU Community Chorus (prepared by Dr. Daniel Farris). Ms. Jessica Salmans from the SWOSU Department of Art, Communication & Theatre supervised set design and construction, with Kendra Place (Communication /Theatre major) heading up costume design and make-up.

The Fine Arts Auditorium staff provided

lighting under the supervision of Mr. Bryce Wood and lighting design by Ms. Shannon Sanders.

Students performed a short duet from Mozart's *Magic Flute* and a full presentation of the one-act opera, *Suor Angelica*, by Puccini. Several audience members noted that they were moved to tears by the first opera they had ever attended.

For further information, pictures, and video clips of the performance, please visit the new [SWOSU Opera Workshop Facebook page](#).

Hennessey Senior Wins Digital Graphic Art Contest at SWOSU

Hennessey High School senior Mirian Ortega (front far right) recently won a digital graphic art contest for high school seniors at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. Ortega won a \$1,000 scholarship and Wacom tablet. Ortega is with judges (front from left) John Herring and Dr. Siriporn Peters and (back from left) Dr. Joel Kendall, Ms. Marsha Carman, Mr. Jason Dupree and Mr. Kyle Wright.



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.



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