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

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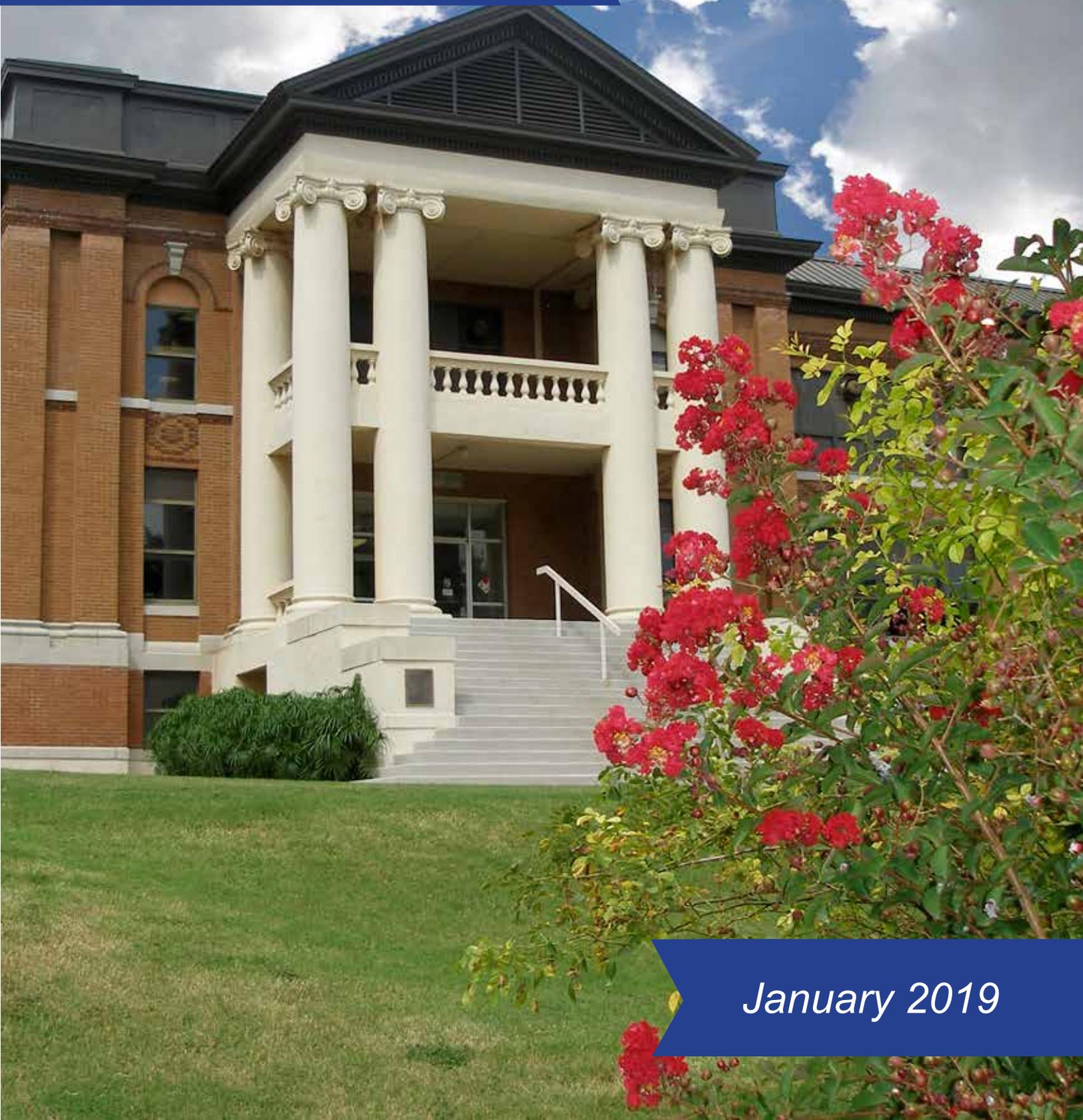
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aCAademicS

The Newsletter of the
SWOSU College of Arts & Sciences



January 2019

History of Arts & Sciences at SWOSU

Last year, Dr. Chad Kinder, Dean of the College of Professional and Graduate Studies, presented me with two banners - one for the School of Arts and Sciences and one for the College of Arts and Sciences. These banners were carried in commencement processions years ago. Dr. Kinder had discovered them in a storage area. The banners were cleaned up and are now displayed in the Arts and Sciences office. I was on the Biology faculty when we changed from a school to a college, but not when we became a school, so I got curious about our history and did some investigating.

Prior to 1978, each academic department reported directly to the dean of instruction. The departments were not organized into schools or colleges.



In 1978, the departments were grouped into five schools: Arts and Sciences; Business; Education; Pharmacy, Nursing and Allied Health; and the Graduate School. Dr. Donald Hamm (pictured left) was appointed the dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. At the time of his appointment, Dr. Hamm was professor and chair of the Department of Chemistry.

Twelve departments were in the school: Art; Biological Sciences; Chemistry; Health, Physical Education and Recreation; Home Economics; Industrial Education; Language Arts; Mathematics and Computer Science; Military Science (ROTC); Music; Physics; and Social Sciences. The General Education program was also placed in the school. Dr. Hamm remained dean until his retirement in 1989.

Dr. Dan Dill (pictured right) became the next dean of the school in 1989. Like Dr. Hamm, he was also a chemist and became the chair of that department after Dr. Hamm was appointed dean. Over the next 25 years, there were many changes in the school. Industrial Education changed its name to Industrial Education and Technology and eventually to just Technology, General Education was removed from the school and stood on its own, Psychology was moved into the school, Mathematics and Computer Science was split into two departments, Chemistry and Physics were combined into one department, and Home Economics and Military Sciences were closed.



In 1995, Dr. Nancy McClain was appointed as assistant dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. Dr. McClain was formerly the chair of the Department of Home Economics which was closed about that time because of low enrollment. While assistant dean she served as interim chair of the Social Sciences and Chemistry departments and coordinated the Interdisciplinary Studies major which was established in 2002. Dr. McClain served in this position until her retirement in 2003.

Dr. Dill served as dean until 1998, when he accepted the position of dean of the Graduate School and associate vice president for academic affairs.



In 1998, Dr. Vilas Prabhu (pictured left) followed Dr. Dill as dean of the school. Dr. Prabhu had been serving as chair of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences in the School of Pharmacy. He later accepted a position as the associate provost for academic and student affairs at SWOSU in 2002.

After Dr. Prabhu, the next dean to serve was Dr. Ken Rose (pictured right) beginning in 2002. Dr. Rose was previously the chair of the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation for 11 years.



In 2003, the schools underwent a major reorganization. The departments in the five schools were now divided among three colleges – Arts and Sciences, Professional and Graduate Studies, and Pharmacy. The Sayre campus programs were now in the College of Associate and Applied Programs. According to then President John Hays, this reorganization would save approximately \$300,000 per year in administrative costs. This arrangement of colleges continues to the present.

Four departments were moved from Arts and Sciences to Professional and Graduate Studies: Health, Physical Education and Recreation; Technology; Computer Science; and Psychology.

According to an article in the September 3, 2003 issue of *The Southwestern*, the College of Arts and Sciences was to be divided into two schools – Arts and Humanities (Art, Language Arts, Music, Social Sciences) and Mathematics and Sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics, Mathematics). However, department chairs voted against this division and against establishing associate deans and opted to report directly to the dean.



Shortly after this reorganization, Dr. Rose was appointed dean of the College of Professional & Graduate Studies. He also temporarily continued to serve as the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences until his replacement was found. Dr. Radwan Al-Jarrah (pictured left) was appointed the new dean of the college. He was a mathematician and had served as chair of that department for eight years.

Dr. Al-Jarrah retired in 2012 and was replaced by Dr. James South (pictured right), who was previously chair of the Department of Music for four years. In 2013, Dr. South was named vice president of academic affairs and provost.



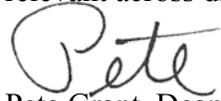
Dr. Peter Grant (pictured left) was named dean in 2014 and currently serves in this position. He is a biologist and had served as chair of that department for over seven years.



Since the college was established in 2003, a few changes to departments occurred. Language Arts was divided into the Language and Literature and Communication and Theatre departments. Later the Communication and Theatre and Art departments merged.

There are now seven departments in the college: Art, Communication and Theatre; Biological Sciences; Chemistry and Physics; Language and Literature; Mathematics; Music; and Social Sciences.

The Arts and Sciences at SWOSU have seen a lot of changes since 1978 and they will see more changes in the future. Regardless of how the disciplines in the college are organized, we will continue to champion the arts and sciences. As Dr. Peter Salovey, president of Yale University, wrote in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, “None of us can be sure how technology will reshape the 21st-century economy, but a liberal-arts education – teaching students critical-thinking skills relevant across disciplines and professions – remains the best preparation for an uncertain future.”


Pete Grant, Dean

College of Arts and Sciences

References: *The Southwestern*, *Southwestern Oklahoma State University: The First 100 Years*, many undergraduate catalogs in the library and several in the Registrar’s office, minutes of the Arts and Sciences chairs meetings, and Ms. Marci Grant who served as administrative assistant in the School and College of Arts and Sciences.



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CAS News

We welcome Ms. Mindy Carroll, the new Administrative Assistant for Chemistry & Physics, to the College of Arts & Sciences!

Mr. Fred Alsberg (Language & Literature) just published a [poem](#), “Screenwriter,” in *Poetrybay* (Winter 2018-2019).

Dr. Richard Tirk (Music) was one of the presenters at the first “5Cs and R Luncheon Series.” The five Cs and R represent creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, community, communication and relevance. This series provides an opportunity for faculty to learn how to incorporate these aspects into their courses. Dr. Tirk also received funding from the City of Weatherford Hotel Motel Tax Commission to support the upcoming 49th Annual SWOSU Jazz Festival.

Dr. Jieun Chang (Social Sciences) reviewed three proposals for the 2019 Transformative Learning Conference which will be held at the University of Central Oklahoma in March.

Congratulations to Zach Craven (Biology major) on his acceptance into the University of Oklahoma Physician Assistant Program.

The CAS office has two student art works on display from the “Wings” exhibit last semester. Stop by and take a look.

Ms. Terry Ford (Language & Literature) was featured in the “Focus on SWOSU Faculty” [article](#) in the January issue of the *SWOSU Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning Newsletter*.

Three CAS chairs attended Governor Mary Fallin’s STEM & Entrepreneurship Summit at the Cox Convention Center last semester – Drs. Zach Jones (Biological Sciences), Jason Johnson (Chemistry & Physics) and Tom McNamara (Mathematics).

Dr. Steven O’Neal (Biological Sciences) and Angie Hoover published an [article](#) entitled “Comparison of UVB effects on growth and induction of UVB screening compounds in isolates of metaphytic algae from temperate zone streams and ponds” published in the December edition of the *Journal of Phycology*. Angie Hoover is a SWOSU Biology alumna and recently earned a master’s degree in Marine Fisheries from the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory at the University of Southern Mississippi.

Alumni News

Weatherford Public Schools recently announced their teachers of the year. Three of those selected earned their degrees at SWOSU:

West Elementary – Jamie Shaw, Choir
Middle School – Pat Lightfoot, English
High School – Jane Roberts, Mathematics.

Congratulations to all three teachers!

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January 2019

Oklahoma Research Day Coming to SWOSU

Southwestern Oklahoma State University will host Oklahoma's premier undergraduate research fair in 2019. The 20th annual Oklahoma Research Day will be held Friday, March 8, on the Weatherford campus, and organizers are expecting nearly 1,000 students and faculty from universities and colleges around the state to attend.

Events will be held in the Pioneer Cellular Event Center and Wellness Center. Dr. Lori Gwyn, director of the SWOSU Office of Sponsored Programs, said the event allows students to present original research and scholarly works to their peers and community. "SWOSU is pleased to host this big event both in 2019 and 2020," Gwyn said. "This is the first time for the event to be held on our campus, so naturally we want it to be an enjoyable day for all the students and faculty who will be coming to SWOSU."



Additional information about the event is available at the [web site](#). Gwyn said volunteers are needed to help with the event, and anyone wanting to help can contact her at 580.774.7012 or lori.gwyn@swosu.edu.

The Offer of the College

To be at home in all lands and all ages;
 To count Nature a familiar acquaintance,
 And Art an intimate friend;
 To gain a standard for the appreciation of others' work
 And the criticism of your own;
 To carry the keys of the world's library in your pocket,
 And feel its resources behind you in whatever task you undertake;
 To make hosts of friends...
 Who are to be leaders in all walks of life;
 To lose yourself in generous enthusiasms
 And cooperate with others for common ends -
 This is the offer of the college for the best four years of your life.

Adapted from the original "Offer of the College"
 by William DeWitt Hyde
 President of Bowdoin College 1885 - 1917



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SWOSU and Weatherford Groups Hosted Lunar Eclipse Viewing

A viewing of the January 20 total lunar eclipse was hosted by the SWOSU Physics Club and Weatherford Astronomy Club at the SWOSU Observatory.

A total lunar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes into the darkest part of the Earth's shadow, the umbra. When this happens, the Moon is on the opposite side of the Earth from the Sun.



Photo of January 20 total lunar eclipse taken at the SWOSU Observatory by Jaxson Taylor.

Dr. Wayne Trail (Chemistry & Physics) said the moon would be completely dark when the moon was fully in the umbra if the Earth had no atmosphere. However, because the Earth's atmosphere scatters and bends sunlight, some sunlight makes it to the Moon. Just as with a sunset, red light does better than blue in passing a long way through the atmosphere, so the Moon receives mostly red light and appears reddish during totality. This is why a totally eclipsed Moon is often called a blood moon.

The lunar eclipse was the first solid evidence that ancient people had signifying the Earth is round, according to Trail. The ancient Greeks realized that the lunar eclipse was due to the Earth's shadow. They also noticed that the Earth's shadow is the arc of a circle on the Moon in every eclipse, whether it occurs with the Moon on the horizon or overhead.

SWOSU Sending Out Student Teacher Candidates

Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Department of Education in Weatherford is sending out 44 teacher candidates to work with approximately 60 cooperating teachers from 47 different schools in Oklahoma, North Carolina and Texas. The candidates are doing their practice teaching assignments from February 4 through April 26.

Seven of these students are teaching CAS subjects:

English

Shari Popejoy, Thomas, teaching at Watonga High School

Lia Hillman, Cheyenne, teaching at Cheyenne High School

History

Jett Anderson, Enid, teaching at Garber High School

Joseph O'Neal, Choctaw, teaching at Choctaw Nicoma Park Freshman Center

Mathematics

Sarah Wilson, Cleveland, teaching at Hydro-Eakly High School

Music

Devan Bettencourt, Kingfisher, teaching at Tulsa Union High School, 6-7th Grade Center and 8th Grade Center

Science

Rebecca Shanklin, El Reno, teaching at El Reno Etta Dale Junior High and High School.

Two CAS Emeriti Honored by SWOSU Alumni Association

Four former Southwestern Oklahoma State University employees were recently honored by the SWOSU Alumni Association during a reception held in the Pioneer Cellular Events Center on the Weatherford campus. Two of those employees were CAS faculty:

Dr. Stuart Burchett – Burchett was introduced at the event by 2016 Emeriti Honoree Dr. Joe Anna Hibler. A graduate of Seiling High School, Burchett earned his undergraduate degree from SWOSU in 1962 and his doctorate from Kansas State University. Burchett joined the SWOSU Chemistry faculty in 1966 and served as chair of the Department of Chemistry from 1989 to 1993.

Dr. Blake Sonobe – Born in Hawaii and raised in San Diego, Sonobe was introduced at the event by 2016 Emeriti Honoree Dr. Dan Dill. Sonobe holds a Bachelor's in chemistry from the United States Air Force Academy, a master's in chemistry from Texas A&M University, and a doctorate in chemistry from the University of California at Davis. Sonobe came to SWOSU in 1990 as a member of the university's Chemistry faculty and served as vice president for academic affairs & provost beginning in 2005 until he was named vice chancellor for academic affairs with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in 2012.

The Alumni Association Board of Directors voted in 2015 to begin recognizing former SWOSU employees annually and celebrating their contributions to the university. The Association is a dynamic group of volunteers from all walks of life who are passionate about giving back to SWOSU. The association offers members a variety of benefits and event opportunities. For more information, contact SWOSU's Office of Institutional Advancement at 580-774-3289 or visit www.SWOSU-Alumni.com.



Former Southwestern Oklahoma State University employees (from left) John Hays, Stuart Burchett, Les Crall and Blake Sonobe were recently recipients of the SWOSU Alumni Association Emeritus Award during a reception held in Weatherford.

Master Classes and Concert Presented at SWOSU



Two master classes and a concert by internationally acclaimed trumpet player Huw Morgan and pianist/vocal coach Rebecca Wilt were held Tuesday, January 22, at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. The SWOSU Department of Music sponsored the activities.

Dr. Richard Tirk, associate professor of music at SWOSU, reported the day began with a voice master class on the Fine Arts Center Auditorium stage followed by a trumpet master class in Berrong Recital Hall. The concert followed and featured music by French composers.

Morgan was the winner of the Prague Spring, Ellsworth Smith, Girolamo Fantini and Lieksa international trumpet competitions in 2016/2017. Recent concerto appearances include performances with the BBC National Orchestra, Northern Sinfonia, and the Irish Chamber Orchestra. In addition to his solo career, he also serves as principal trumpet in the Sinfonieorchester Basel (Switzerland) and is a guest professor at London's Royal Academy of Music and the Hochschule für Musik in Basel.

Wilt has received national and international recognition as a virtuoso collaborative pianist. She has worked with many of the world's prominent wind instrument performers and vocalists. She has also served as pianist and vocal coach for several opera productions, including *La Boheme*, *La Traviata*, *Così fan Tutte*, and *Die Fledermaus*, among others. She holds degrees in vocal coaching/accompanying and two degrees in vocal performance.

CAS Happenings

(Please consult [University Calendar](#) for details.)

January

30 Biology Seminar

31 Oklahoma Research Day abstracts and registration deadline

February

7 Jazz Festival Concert

8 Jazz with Pizzazz Dinner, Jazz Festival Concert

12 Chemistry Seminar, Orchestra Concert

15 Wind Symphony, Symphonic Band and Community Band Concert

16 Opera Ballet

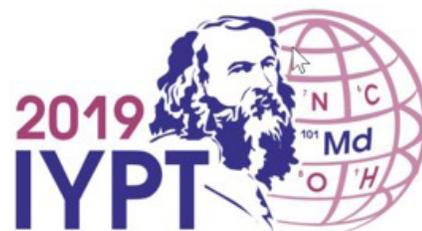
The International Year of the Periodic Table

“The Periodic Table of Chemical Elements is one of the most significant achievements in science, capturing the essence not only of chemistry, but also of physics and biology.

“1869 is considered as the year of discovery of the Periodic System by Dmitri Mendeleev. 2019 will be the 150th anniversary of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements and has therefore been proclaimed the ‘International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements (IYPT2019)’ by the United Nations General Assembly and UNESCO.”



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



International Year
of the Periodic Table
of Chemical Elements

January 2019

Medicinal Gardens Topic of SWOSU Biology Seminar

Medicinal gardens and how they can foster growth in science education and communities will be the focus of a J. D. Maness Biology Seminar Series planned for Wednesday, January 30, at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

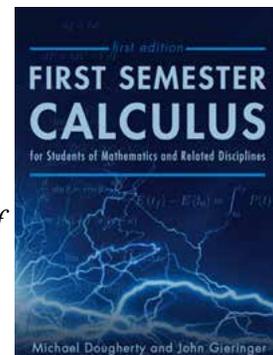
Dr. Jennifer Moody of the Kansas Biological Survey/University of Kansas will talk at 4 p.m. in Room 212 of the Science Building.

Dr. Rickey Cothran, assistant professor in the SWOSU Department of Biological Sciences, said the public is invited to the free presentation.



New Calculus Book

Dr. Michael Dougherty (Mathematics), along with coauthor Dr. John Gieringer of Alvernia University, have just published their [text book](#) on calculus: *First Semester Calculus for Students of Mathematics and Related Disciplines*.



Writing Center Spring 2019 Hours

Hours run from Monday, Jan. 14, through Friday, Apr. 26. Special hours will be posted for finals. We will be closed for Spring Break (Mar. 16-24).

Monday: 8am-12pm & 1-8pm
 Tuesday: 9:30-11:30am & 12:30-9pm
 Wednesday: 8-11:30am & 1-9pm
 Thursday: 9:30-11:30am & 12:30-5pm
 Friday: 8am-1pm
 Saturday: 12:30-4:30pm
 Sunday: 5:30-9:30pm

Hours are subject to change as needed.

To schedule an appointment, please email writingcenter@swosu.edu or call (580) 774-7083. Walk-ins are welcome!

Be sure to like us on Facebook (SWOSU Writing Center) and follow us on Twitter (@swosuwrites).

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.