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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



March 2019

March 2019

Just a Walk in the Park

My wife and I really enjoy attending concerts. Over the years we've taken advantage of many that came through Oklahoma, whether in the metro area or performances on campus. Several weeks ago we had the opportunity to see Bonnie Raitt and James Taylor. It was truly an amazing performance. So much artistry on display.

I'm not a trained singer or musician (some would call me untrainable in both areas) so I have always wondered how to determine if someone is really good at these skills. Professionals certainly know what to look for, but I don't. So I developed a hypothesis – someone who is really good at what they do should make it look effortless.

I test this hypothesis by taking some time during a performance to watch the performer rather than listening to them. Some performers sounded good but they looked like they were passing kidney stones. Then there were others who sounded great while making it look easy. Bonnie Raitt and James Taylor had this look. So did Sean Jones and the Josh Hanlon Trio who performed at the recent SWOSU Jazz Festival.

SWOSU recently hosted the 20th annual Oklahoma Research Day on campus. (See page 12.) There were 560 poster presentations by students and faculty from universities all over Oklahoma. SWOSU presented 130 posters, 76 of which were by CAS students and faculty.

These posters were on a variety of subjects. For some posters, the titles could be rather intimidating - bacterial terminator efficiency, Lehman seismometers, glycine metal complexes, or homology modeling. Nevertheless, the students did a great job of explaining their research. So good, in fact, they made it look easy to do.

Of course the real reason these presentations, whether by professional musicians or undergraduate students, look effortless is because of the tremendous amount of time and effort they invested. That investment made the presentations look just like a walk in the park.

Pete

Peter Grant, Dean
College of Arts & Sciences



CAS News

Twenty-five CAS students were among those recently honored for their academic achievements and service at the annual Academic Recognition ceremony on the Weatherford campus. Campus nominating committees selected the students based on academic achievements, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success.

Randi Reyes (Biology major) was accepted into the Medical Laboratory Science Program in Lawton.

Mr. Fred Alsberg (Language & Literature) read his poetry at the 40th Annual Pop Culture Conference in Albuquerque NM.

The Department of Biological Sciences celebrated the life and accomplishments of Charles Darwin at the third annual Darwin Day in the Student Union. There were activities for all ages that covered the concept of evolution and fun facts about Charles Darwin. Activities included Darwin trivia, evolution workbook for children, natural selection role-playing game, imaginary critter phylogeny, and adaptations of aquatic invertebrates.

Five CAS faculty completed the Three Pillars Course Transformation for their courses: Drs. Jieun Chang (Social Sciences), Shelley Martinson (Music), Todd Parker (Art, Communication & Theatre), Tugba Sevin (Language & Literature), and Wayne Trail (Chemistry & Physics).

Dr. Rickey Cothran (Biological Sciences) was featured in the [March 2019 issue](#) of the *SWOSU Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning Newsletter*.

Dr. Marci DiPaolo was [interviewed](#) for the library's Book Growl about his book, *Fire and Snow: Climate Fiction from the Inklings to Game of Thrones*.

Dr. Jon Henrikson (Chemistry & Physics) was one of the presenters at the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning's 5Cs & R Luncheon Series. The topic was critical thinking.

Dr. Howard Kurtz (Social Sciences) wrote a chapter for *Policing America's Educational Systems*. The chapter is entitled "A Review of Campus Shootings."

Art, Communication & Theatre recently held their annual speech tournament on February 8-9.

Three STEM seminars were presented this month. Dr. Somrita Mondal, who is a National Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Calcutta (India) presented a talk on "Physico-chemical Aspects of Synthesis, Characterization of Nanostructured Materials and their Multifaceted Applications" to Chemistry Seminar students. Watchable wildlife and bat conservation were discussed at the J. D. Maness Biology Seminar Series. Ms. Melynda Hickman, a wildlife diversity biologist with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, presented the seminar. Dr. Tom McNamara (Mathematics Chair) presented the first math seminar of the semester entitled "Fastest Descent."

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CAS News (cont.)

Dr. Dan Brown (Social Sciences) conducted a workshop for students in the department who were interested in submitting posters to Oklahoma Research Day, set for March 8th on the SWOSU campus. Twenty-five students attended the workshop.

Dr. Swarup Ghosh (Mathematics) attended the Joint Mathematics Meeting in Baltimore earlier this semester and presented the talk, "A Conjecture of Andrew Gleason for Uniform Algebras on Smooth Manifolds." He also served as a judge for the undergraduate poster session at that same meeting.

Faculty Funding

Dr. Tim Hubin (Chemistry & Physics) – Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

Dr. Wayne Trail (Chemistry & Physics) – American Institute of Physics

Two Proposal Development Awards were available from the Office of Sponsored Programs and both were awarded to CAS faculty: Dr. Denise Landrum-Geyer (Language & Literature) for SAGE STEAM Camp Expansion Proposal and Dr. Keturah Odoi (Chemistry & Physics) for SWOSU Summer Science and Mathematics Academy. Both faculty will prepare a proposal and submit them to an external funding agency.

Graphic Design Conference and Exhibition Held at SWOSU

A free graphic design conference and exhibition were presented at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. The conference featured two sessions—alumni presentations and interns' showcases—on Tuesday, February 12, in the Ballroom of the Memorial Student Union. Among the speakers at the conference were John Herring, Maggie Tran, Elizabeth McMahon, Connor Albrightson and Alexandra Cassidy.

The exhibition of works took place Monday through Friday, February 11-15, in the Union lobby.

The event was sponsored by the SWOSU Department of Art, Communication & Theatre.



Dr. Jason L. Johnson Named Dean of the SWOSU College of Arts & Sciences

Dr. Jason L. Johnson has been named Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. Johnson, who has been chair of the Department of Chemistry & Physics for the past four years, will start his new position on July 1, 2019.

Johnson has been a member of SWOSU's faculty since 1996, earning tenure and promotion to associate professor in 2001 and promotion to professor in 2006.

Johnson earned a B.S. in Chemistry and Natural Science Education from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in 1988. In 1993, he earned a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Oklahoma. Upon graduation, Johnson received a National Research Service Award from the National Institutes of Health that provided three years of support as a Post-Doctoral Research Assistant at Texas A&M University.

During his tenure at SWOSU, Johnson has assumed various leadership positions across campus, including serving as secretary / treasurer of Faculty Senate, chair of the Institutional BioSafety Committee, chair of the Research and Scholarly Activity Committee, and a long-term member of the Pre-Medical Advisory Committee.

His wife, Dr. Lisa Appeddu, is an associate professor in the SWOSU College of Pharmacy.



Garrett King Named Trustee of America's Public Television Stations



Garrett T. King, assistant to the president and director of institutional advancement at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, has been elected to the Board of Directors of America's Public Television Stations (APTS). King is one of six newly elected trustees and will begin his term on February 25.

King has served or is serving on the governing boards of the Oklahoma Educational Television Authority (OETA) and the OETA Foundation, Inc., Friends of the Weatherford Public Library, Weatherford Community Habitat for Humanity, Weatherford Food & Resources Center, and HOBY Oklahoma. Before coming to SWOSU, King served on the personal staff of U.S. Representative Frank D. Lucas where his work focused on issues related to education, agriculture, Indian affairs, energy, transportation and the environment.

King was raised on a peanut farm in the Oakdale Community near Eakly in northern Caddo County where his family has lived and worked since 1890. He is a 2004 graduate of Binger-Oney Public Schools and a 2008 alumnus of SWOSU where he studied history and political science. He holds an M. Ed. in social sciences and is currently a Ph. D. candidate in history at the University of Swansea in Wales.

"It is an honor to serve and represent Oklahoma on the America's Public Television Stations (APTS) governing board," King said. "I am looking forward to working with my fellow APTS trustees to provide all Americans access to non-commercial public programming that educates, enlightens and empowers." King said the adherence to these qualities for over five decades has made OETA the most-watched public television station in America.

Public television is uniquely positioned to provide its viewers quality programming in history, culture and civic affairs. "I will do my best to promote and advocate for the best interests of our public television system on the national level," King said.

King's role at SWOSU is the institution's chief advancement officer with the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. He leads a team that works every day to develop private investment in the university's mission and to engage SWOSU's alumni, emeriti and friends.

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Students to Attend International Music Academy

Alyssa Garcia (photo, left), a senior vocal performance major and Whitney Kleinpeter (photo, right), a junior vocal performance major, will be attending the [Varna International Music Academy](#) in Varna, Bulgaria, this summer. The 20-year old young artist program offers comprehensive training for aspiring opera singers, conductors, instrumentalists, and collaborative pianists.

Alyssa and Whitney will be performing in fully staged operas with a professional orchestra, taking classes in all aspects of stage performance, and studying applied voice with world renowned teachers. The faculty at Varna International draws from the world's leading universities and concert halls. Alyssa and Whitney will have the privilege to work with Maestro Gregory Buchalter, conductor of the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, and Marek Rusczyński, vocal coach of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

The young artist program will span three weeks and culminate in public performances.



Please Help Support Alyssa and Whitney

The tuition and travel expenses for Alyssa and Whitney to attend the international music academy total \$6,000 per student. Fundraisers will be held during the rest of the spring semester to help with these costs.

Donations will be very helpful. If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to "SWOSU Foundation" with "Bulgaria Student Trip" in the memorandum line. Checks may be mailed to the SWOSU Foundation, 100 Campus Drive, Weatherford, OK 73096.

In my own writing I have tried to make the case that liberal education is the best rehearsal we have for democracy. The liberally educated person is a better citizen. That doesn't mean that you have to have a college degree to be a good citizen. It does mean that colleges and universities have an obligation to prepare our students for not just a job or a career, but also engaged citizenship with the larger community.

[Dr. Andrew Delbanco](#), President
The Teagle Foundation

Sean Jones Headlines SWOSU Jazz Festival

Trumpeter Sean Jones was the headliner at the 49th annual SWOSU Jazz Festival on February 7-8, in Weatherford. Also featured at the festival was the Josh Hanlon Trio as well as a Big Band Competition involving high school and middle school jazz bands from around the state.



The artists were featured in a Thursday evening free concert in the Berrong Music Hall and then highlighted a full day of activities on Friday with two concerts in the Fine Arts Center. The SWOSU Jazz Ensemble A performed with the artists.

Music and spirituality have always been fully intertwined in the artistic vision of trumpeter, bandleader, composer, educator and activist Sean Jones. Jones has been prominently featured with a number of artists, recording and/or performing with many major figures in jazz, including Illinois Jacquet, Jimmy Heath, Frank Foster, Nancy Wilson, Dianne Reeves, Gerald Wilson and Marcus Miller. He has also performed with the Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Youngstown Symphony Orchestras as well as Soulful Symphony in Baltimore.

Jones is also an internationally recognized educator. He was recently named the Richard and Elizabeth Case Chair of Jazz at John Hopkins University's Peabody Institute in Baltimore. Before coming to Peabody, he served as the chair of the Brass Department at the Berklee College of Music in Boston.

SWOSU also hosted its annual Big Band Competition on Friday. Fifteen schools from across the state performed and were judged by an expert adjudicator panel.

SWOSU Biology Student Named Young Ambassador for American Society of Microbiology

Southwestern Oklahoma State University biology student Jennifer Abshire of McLoud was recently named the American Society of Microbiology (ASM) Young Ambassador for the state of Oklahoma. Abshire will serve as the Oklahoma representative to the ASM Young Ambassador program, which aims to advance the microbial sciences and mobilize the next generation of scientists to solve global challenges.



"The position is very prestigious and is often awarded to PhD Candidates or post-doctoral researchers working at large research institutions," said Dr. Regina McGrane, assistant professor in the SWOSU Department of Biological Sciences in Weatherford. "For an undergraduate student at a regional university to be awarded this honor is pretty unique."

As an ASM Young Ambassador, Abshire will participate in networking and professional development activities with other ambassadors from across the United States and around the world. She will aid in collaborations between ASM, Oklahoma universities and the local scientific community. Abshire will communicate Oklahoma's specific funding and support needs to ASM and will work to instill a passion for science in future generations.

Last summer, Abshire participated in an undergraduate research fellowship supported by ASM and has since expressed her desire to bring Oklahoma into the "microbial future." Abshire recognizes potential solutions to Oklahoma's agricultural, environmental and health challenges within the field of microbiology.

Through her appointment, Abshire hopes to host public awareness events, work with Oklahoma legislators to promote funding for microbial research, and initiate a "Microbiologist for a Day" shadowing event for high school students.

March 2019

Inter-Generational Residential Experience Taking Place Between SWOSU and CHVR

There is a new inter-generational residential experience going on in western Oklahoma. Corn Heritage Village & Rehab (CHVR) and Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) in Weatherford now have “SWOSU at the Village,” a collaboration designed to benefit both senior citizens and university students.



CHVR provides apartment-style, independent living for senior citizens—as well as skilled nursing, long-term care, and memory care—at their Corn (OK) location. With this new program, the facility provides a free, partially furnished apartment—with amenities—for the SWOSU students in exchange for their interaction with the CHVR residents.

“We are the first nursing home in Oklahoma to implement the inter-generation living concept,” said CHVR Executive Director Dee Henderson. “These experiences are rare; similar programs can be found at the Cleveland Institute of Music and in countries such as the Netherlands and France.” The concept is the brainchild of Henderson and Stephanie Warner, assistant administrator at CHVC.

“We were delighted when Dee approached SWOSU with the idea,” said SWOSU Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Ruth Boyd. “We hope to continue this program well into the future.” The program was piloted during this past fall 2018 semester. Molly Nguyen, senior music therapy major from Oklahoma City, was the first SWOSU student to participate. Nguyen regularly performed musical pieces for the residents and interacted in a variety of ways, including offering piano lessons.

“I have grown so much as a student music therapist, and my interaction and relationships with the residents have so positively influence me,” Nguyen said. “This is an unforgettable experience that I am so grateful to have been a part of as the first SWOSU student in the program.” For the current spring 2019 semester, two SWOSU students have been selected and will soon begin their intergenerational living experience, while a third student is also under consideration.

Major Anniversaries in 2019

50th anniversary of the first moon landing
 100th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Versailles
 150th birthday of Henri Matisse
 200th birthday of Walt Whitman
 250th birthday of Jean Baptiste Joseph Fourier (mathematician)
 400th birthday of Barbara Strozzi (Italian baroque singer/composer)
 500th anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci's death

CAS Happenings

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

March

18-22 – Spring Break
 20 - Vernal equinox
 22 – World Water Day
 28 – SWIM Meet



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the little match girl passion

On Saturday, February 16th and Sunday, February 17th, SWOSU Music Department's Opera Workshop singers partnered with Oklahoma City Youth Ballet's pre-professional dance ensemble to present David Lang's Pulitzer Prize winning chamber work, *the little match girl passion* (2007). This performance marked the Oklahoma premiere of the piece.



The production featured an innovative twist on the composition, which does not specifically call for dancers. Lang's musical score indicates that "sound processing, lighting and staging may be useful in the performance of this work," opening the door for a collaborative approach. Original choreography by Oklahoma City Youth Ballet Director and Ballet Master Ms. Penny Askew (in collaboration with the dancers themselves) interpreted the match girl's story in an abstract approach. Ten dancers joined six solo singers (who also played select percussion instruments throughout).

Scenic and sound design were provided by Bryce Wood and the Fine Arts Auditorium staff, lighting design by Dawn Askew, with direction by Drs. Robin and Kristin Griffeth. The performance was conducted by Dr. Kristin Griffeth. Singers included: Andrew Carlson, Peter Fischhaber, Abigail Kerr, Whitney Kleinpeter, Arianna Martin, and Gina Patterson. Dancers included: Ainsley Black, Mia Boggs, Madison Dennis, Kameryn Frazier, Ayla Govenlock, Xander Hennigh, Allie Roberts, Jacob Seagraves, Briana Wernke, and Hannah White.

With the vulnerability of an abused young girl who freezes to death—unable to sell her matches—at the work's heart, directors Kristin and Robin Griffeth felt that the tragic story might serve as an opportunity to draw attention to poverty and suffering in the community. Audience members were encouraged to bring canned food donations to benefit the Weatherford Food and Resource Center in honor of National Canned Food month and in lieu of any ticket sales. Over four hundred pounds of food were collected.

SWOSU Opera Workshop participants look forward to an opportunity to reprise the performance for an Oklahoma City audience on April 27th, 2019, as part of Oklahoma City Youth Ballet's Spring Showcase.

SWOSU Celebrates Music Therapy Awareness Week

Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Music Therapy Awareness Week 2019 was celebrated from Saturday, February 9, through Friday, February 15, on the Weatherford campus with the highlight being an awareness expo.

Dr. ChihChen Sophia Lee, LPMT, MT-BC, professor and director of the SWOSU music therapy program, said participants experienced the power of music therapy via the Drum Circle, an active music making technique of music therapy, facilitated by SWOSU music therapy students. Musicians of melodic instruments were encouraged to bring their instruments along for the experience.

Upper class music therapy students also showcased their clinical practices in early intervention, pediatric medicine, school-age children and adolescents with special needs, adolescent acute physical rehabilitation, at-risk youth adult physical rehabilitation, women and children experiencing domestic violence, and geriatrics via oral and poster presentations.

Additional celebratory events included open house, movie night, public awareness and fundraising events, and open mic night. The activities were organized by the SWOSU Music Therapy Student Association (SWOSU-MTSA).

SWOSU has the longest standing music therapy undergraduate and equivalency/certification programs in the state of Oklahoma (approved by the former National Association for Music Therapy in 1981) and is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music and American Music Therapy Association. The Master of Music in Music Therapy has received the approval by the National Association of Schools of Music in 2016.



March 2019

SWOSU Stages *The Crucible*

Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Department of Art, Communication & Theatre presented *The Crucible* on March 7-10 on the Weatherford campus.

The 1953 Tony Award winner for Best Play was written by Arthur Miller during the McCarthy period when many of Miller's friends were being attacked for their alleged pro-Communist beliefs.

Mr. Steve Strickler, director of the SWOSU production, said the McCarthy hearings pitted artists and performers against each other. Individuals were asked to "name names" – which was reminiscent of the way the citizens of Salem were asked to accuse their friends and family members of witchcraft. Miller was called before the House Un-American Activities Committee in 1956 and like John Proctor, the protagonist in his play, refused to implicate others involved in activities condemned at the time by society.



Cast and crew of the 1953 Tony Award winning play are (front row from left, name of student and role) Christine Tipton, Ann Putnam and Sarah Good; Savannah McCormick, Asst. Stage Manager and sound board operator; Abby Darragh, Asst. Stage Manager and light board operator; and Carlos Ramirez, Giles Corey. (Second row from left): Colleen McGowan, Betty Parris; Hannah Detweiler, Elizabeth Proctor and Makeup/hair designer; Kendra Place, Susanna Walcott and costume designer; Ceirra Sorrells, Mary Warren and sound designer; and Allee Thiessen, Abigail Williams. (Third row from left): Chandler Seaton, Dramaturg and box office manager; Lupita Mora, Tituba; Payton Phillips, Rebecca Nurse and costume crew; and Dillon Propst, Rev. John Hale. (Fourth row from left): William Appel, John Proctor and Asst. Tech Director; Grant Crews, Rev. Parris; Joshua McGuire, Thomas Putnam; Daniel McGuire, Judge Hathorne; and Han Yu Shih, Ezekiel Cheever. Back row from left—Alex Hawkins, Francis Nurse and Asst. makeup/hair designer; Izzy Moad, Asst. Dramaturg; Michael Misak, Stage Manager.

Physics Club Attends Meeting of the American Physical Society

The SWOSU Physics Club presented three research posters at the annual regional conference for the Texas Section of the American Physical Society (APS), the Texas Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers, and the Texas Section of the Society of Physics Students, on March 7-9 at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. Talks and posters were presented from students and faculty from Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. Plenary talks included detection of extrasolar planets and space travel, improved techniques for detecting particles in our water, and the physics of shock waves. Other posters and talks covered a wide range of topics in physics and physics teaching.

SWOSU students Jaxon Taylor and Boubacar Wane presented “Automating an Astronomical Observatory” in which they showed how to use inexpensive electronics and a personal computer to cause the slot in an observatory to track with the observatory telescope without requiring constant management by the user, making long observation cycles much less tedious.

Cameron Cinnamon, Daniel Gassen, and Jaxon Taylor presented “The Dobsonian Telescope: A Reclamation Project” in which they removed the optics from very old, broken telescopes and repurposed them into convenient Dobsonian telescopes, which are very simple, lightweight, and hand-operated.

Boubacar Wane, Luke Kraft, and Jaxon Taylor presented “Building and Using Lehman Seismometers,” in which they have built several seismometers and are monitoring earthquakes in Oklahoma. A long-term goal of the project is to be able to partner with regional schools and set up several seismometers that can be used to triangulate the positions of Earthquake epicenters.

Faculty who attended and contributed to the work are Physics Club Sponsor Dr. Wayne Trail, and Chemistry & Physics faculty Drs. Tony Stein and Terry Goforth.



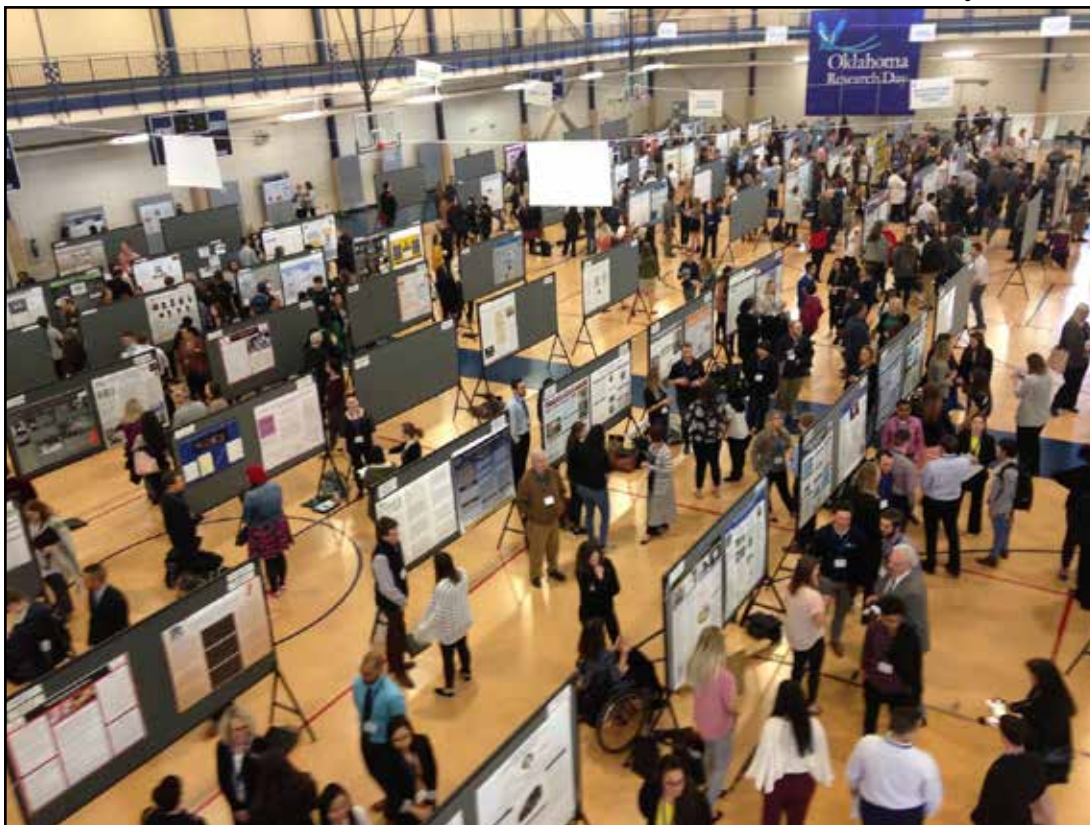
Music Students Win Music Scholarship Competition

On Sunday March 10th, Alyssa Garcia (Senior, Vocal Performance major, left photo), a student of Dr. Robin Griffeth, and Yun Ru Li (Music Therapy and Flute Performance major, right photo), a student of Dr. Shelley Martinson, won the 2019 Ladies Music Club of OKC Music Scholarship Competition in their divisions. Both students received \$800 and performed in a winners' concert at Oklahoma City University.



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Photos from the 20th Annual Oklahoma Research Day



SWOSU GSM Project Attends Annual Summit

On Friday, Feb. 22, The GSM Project traveled to Rose State College for the Annual LGBT+ Summit sponsored by Freedom Oklahoma. The group consisted of 15 students and their sponsor, Dr. Elaine L. Davies (Art, Communication, & Theatre). The group participated in several sessions about advocacy in the LGBT+ community and discussed future collaborations with other Oklahoma university LGBT+ chapters and organizations for upcoming events.



SWOSU-Sayre Presents Timed WARP

The 20th annual Timed W.A.R.P. (Writing and Research Project) was held on March 12th on the Sayre campus. “Hooray for Hollywood” was the theme. Area high school juniors and seniors were welcome to compete for a share of \$1500 in scholarships to the Sayre campus, according to event planner and SWOSU-Sayre Language & Literature instructor Ms. Terry Ford.

While the contestants were writing, high school English teachers who attended enjoyed continuing education workshops from Dr. Nolan Meditz, Dr. Marc DiPaolo and Dr. Victoria Gaydosik (SWOSU Language & Literature faculty), related to poetry, film and fiction, respectively.

The day began at 8:30 a.m. with movie trivia, some Pixar short films, followed by the competition. Lunch was provided, followed by games and a Paparazzi photo booth, and then the contest concluded with editing and proofreading.

Almost all of the Sayre faculty and staff had a role to play in making the day a success, and were involved with mailing invitations, decorating, feeding the group, registering the contestants, creating games and prizes, judging the contest, and announcing the winners.

“This event is a great opportunity for high school students to experience a college atmosphere while gaining writing experience that will help them as college students,” Ford said. “Plus they could pick up some scholarship money in the process.”

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.



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