



5-2019

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

Peter Grant

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aCAademicS

The Newsletter of the
SWOSU College of Arts & Sciences



May 2019

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The Newsletter of the

SWOSU College of Arts & Sciences

May 2019

Now and Later

Earlier this month I attended an event on campus during which the name of a candy - Now and Later – popped into my head. That was not because I'm a big fan of this candy. In fact, I don't remember ever indulging in its consumption. The only thing I knew about this candy was its name, so, to satisfy my scientific curiosity, I did a web search. Turns out the candy has its own [web page!](#)

According to [OldTimeCandy.com](#), in 1962 the Phoenix Candy Company developed Now and Later. The name refers to the fact that someone can eat a portion of the candy now and save the rest for later. It wasn't pangs of hunger that brought to mind this candy, it was the name – Now and Later. The event that wrestled the name of this candy out of my memory neurons was SWOSU's 115th spring convocation ceremony on May 4th.

As I was sitting in my seat on the stage during convocation, I could look out at the hundreds of students in dozens of majors who were about to receive their degrees. Each one of these student walked across the stage, shook hands, and received their diploma cover. In a span of 90 minutes, these students' lives changed from an academic one to a professional one. That's what was happening "now."

Beside the awarding of degrees, other events during commencement included special music and remarks from administrators and the Student Government and Faculty Senate Presidents. Also included in the ceremony was the recognition of the year's distinguished alumni.

This year SWOSU honored six [distinguished alumni](#). Individuals who, since graduating from SWOSU, have excelled in their fields of science, business, research, and athletics. The [list](#) of Distinguished Alumni is impressive. These are SWOSU graduates who took the knowledge and experience from their years at SWOSU and used those to develop successful careers. This is what happens "later," after earning a degree, and it ought to have made an impression on our new graduates.

Each year, a capacity crowd at the Pioneer Cellular Event Center gets to watch the new graduates parade across the stage and receive their degree (now), while the new graduates watch and learn about the new Distinguished Alumni and consider the potential (later) of their newly earned degree from SWOSU.

Wishing our new alumni the best as they begin their professional journey,



Peter Grant, Dean
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CAS News

Mr. Warren Akers (Mathematics) was featured in the “Focus on SWOSU Faculty” [article](#) in the April issue of the SWOSU Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning newsletter.

CAS has two new department chairs! Dr. Robin Jones is the new chair of Art, Communication & Theatre after the former chair, Dr. Joel Kendall, assumed the position of Associate Provost. Dr. Tim Hubin will be the new chair of Chemistry & Physics in July when the current chair, Dr. Jason Johnson, becomes the new Dean of Arts & Sciences.

Mr. Landry Brewer (Social Sciences) wrote a book review of *Publisher for the Masses: Emanuel Haldeman-Julius*. The review was published in the latest edition of *The Chronicles of Oklahoma*.

Hailey Tucker (Communication major) received several honors recently. Hailey was a member of the Lady Bulldog basketball team that made it to the NCAA Division II title game. At the SWOSU Athletic Banquet she was selected as one of three SWOSU Athletes of the Year. Hailey also earned a selection to the 2019 NCAA Division II Coaches’ All-American First Team. She was also a Third Team All-American selection by the Division II Conference Commissioners Association.

The SWOSU Saxophone Ensemble was recently featured at the North American Saxophone Alliance Region IV Conference in Fayetteville, Arkansas, on March 15th. Dr. Matthew Tracy also appeared as a concerto soloist and presented a masterclass at this event.

Each issue of this newsletter has been posted on the [SWOSU Digital Commons](#). To date, the 26 issues posted have been downloaded 564 times in 36 countries.

Dr. Fred Gates (Social Sciences) recently made a presentation entitled “Using Earnest J. Gaines’s Novel, *A Gathering of Old Men*, to Teach the Civil Rights Movement” at the National Social Science Association’s annual meeting in Las Vegas, NV. He also chaired a session entitled “Historical Perspectives.” Social Science Ed. graduate student Brady Boyd presented a paper entitled “The Tulsa Race Riot: A Historical Perspective” at the same meeting.

The 106th SWOSU Interscholastic Meet (SWIM) was held on campus. Sixty schools competed and over 2,000 tests were given. All seven CAS departments participated. Of the 45 tests given during SWIM, 31 were given by CAS departments.

The May/June issue of *Outdoor Oklahoma* has a nice article on the research that Dr. Rickey Cothran (Biological Sciences) and his students have been conducting over the previous two years. The purpose of the research was to look for potentially endangered species of aquatic insects.

Ten students received Dean’s Scholarship Tuition Waivers: Sydnie Balcer (Art, Communication & Theatre), Jennifer Abshire (Biological Sciences), Brianna Furan and Hunter Floyd (Chemistry & Physics), Brandy Sanders (Language & Literature), Hayley Jones (Mathematics), Maegan Carty (Music), Tori Tabet and Lauren Buzbee (Social Sciences), and Lauren Hughes (Interdisciplinary Studies).

Dr. Heather Katz (Social Sciences) attended the 77th Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference at the Palmer House in Chicago, April 4-7. She presented a

(continued)

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CAS News (cont.)

paper, “Fixed Wireless Broadband: A Policy Solution?” and participated in two roundtables “On-line Political Science Classes” and “What to Expect at a Job Interview at a Teaching School.” She was also a discussant for “Congress and Twitter: Issues and Negativity.”

Student Successes

Garet Crispin (Physics & Chemistry major) has been hired as a software engineer at Tinker AFB. Jaxon Taylor (Physics major) will also begin working at Tinker after graduation this year. Both graduates will be joining 2017/2018 graduates Ian Ray and Albaro Nino who are already working at Tinker.

Bryler Atchley and Emily Bedea (Biology majors) were awarded internships through the OK-INBRE SMaRT Program.

Shayla Miller (Biology major) was selected for the University of Maine NSF-Funded Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Accelerating New Environmental Workskills (ANEW) Program this summer. Shayla will be working with Allison Gardner studying tickborne disease dynamics following controlled burns.

Arissa Mercer (Biology major) was accepted into the biomedical science graduate program at Tulane University.

Sarah Jane (Biology major) was accepted into the Oregon State University School of Veterinary Medicine.

Jay Garber and Mitchell Howe (Biology majors) were accepted into the Medical School at the University of Oklahoma.

Five SWOSU students have been selected to participate in summer INBRE biomedical research internships. Three students, Kade Ezell, Angelica Manning and David Tresp, will be working at the OU Health Sciences Center. Two students will be working at SWOSU: Makynna Koper will be working with Dr. Tim Hubin (Chemistry & Physics) and Alexandra Prough will be working with Dr. Vijay Somalinga (Biology).

Faculty Funding

Drs. Tim Hubin, Regina McGrane and Vijay Somalinga - Oklahoma INBRE through the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

Dr. Regina McGrane – American Society for Microbiology Missouri Valley Branch (2 awards)

Alumni News

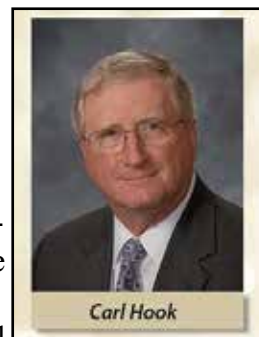
Ms. Barbara Lindamood (Biology alumna) passed away early May. Ms. Lindamood taught at Arapaho, Eakly and Weatherford High Schools for a total of 24 years.



Alumni Inducted into SWOSU Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame

Six individuals were inducted into Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame during 2019 Convocation ceremonies on the Weatherford campus. Two of those alumni earned degrees in Arts & Sciences:

Carl Hook of Norman attended Thomas Public Schools prior to moving to Weatherford for high school. At SWOSU, he studied chemistry, math and biology. Hook's parents and older sibling were alumni of SWOSU, and his uncle, Thomas pharmacist Bert Brundage, was instrumental in the establishment of the SWOSU College of Pharmacy. Hook earned an M. D. from the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine in 1970. Hook undertook surgical training at St. Anthony's Hospital and specialty training in otorhinolaryngology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Following just under three decades of private medical practice, Hook became President, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and Chairman of Physicians Liability Insurance Company (PLICO), a firm owned by the Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA) that functions as the dominant provider of medical professional liability insurance in the State of Oklahoma. In 2015, Hook negotiated the sale of PLICO to The Medical Protective Company (whose parent company is Berkshire Hathaway), the largest medical liability insurer in the United States. Although retired from active management as of 2017, Hook continues to serve as Chairman of the PLICO Advisory Board of Physicians. Hook is Past Chair of the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees. Hook and his wife, the former Sandra Combs, married while attending SWOSU. Married for over 54 years, the Hooks are proud parents of two and grandparents of five. The Hooks are active members of McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church.



Carl Hook

Tom Weichel of Colony studied physics and math at SWOSU. Following his graduation, Weichel joined the National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA) where he served as a Flight Controller for, among many other professional achievements, the Gemini and Apollo missions. Weichel was Retrofire Officer in NASA Mission Control during the Apollo 13 mission and for his service during that incredible drama, Weichel received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. After retiring from NASA, Weichel returned to Washita County, Oklahoma, to farm and ranch and raise his family. He was employed with the Southwest Oklahoma Development Authority (SWODA) Community Action Program for over a decade and served just under 20 years with the Caddo-Kiowa Technology Center as an instructor and coordinator of the Center's Educational Reform Program. Weichel was honored by Caddo-Kiowa as Outstanding Educator in 2004. Weichel sat on the governing board of Weatherford Regional Hospital for 23 years and continues to sit on the governing board of Washita County Rural Water District #2 where he has served for 43 years. Weichel has been active in the Colony Presbyterian Church his entire life.



the
Tom Weichel

SWOSU Alumnus Receives USDA Research Award



Dr. Richard Haney (SWOSU Biology alumnus) and his Soil Health Test Team were recently honored by the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture for their achievements in soil health testing which meet the USDA's strategic goal to "strengthen the stewardship of private lands through technology and research."

Dr. Haney (second from left in photo) is a soil scientist at the USDA-ARS Grassland Soil and Water Research Laboratory in Temple, Texas.

Dr. Haney graduated from SWOSU with a B.S. in Biology and went on to earn an M.S. in Soil Fertility and a Ph.D. in Soil Chemistry/Microbial Ecology from Texas A&M University.

May 2019

Alumnus Receives Honor from Kansas State University

Kansas State University has named five professors as 2019 [university distinguished professors](#), the highest honor the university bestows on its faculty members, including Dr. C. Michael Smith, professor of entomology. Smith received his bachelor's degree in Biology from Southwestern Oklahoma State University and his master's and doctorate in entomology from Mississippi State University. He also has been a postdoctoral research associate at North Carolina State University.

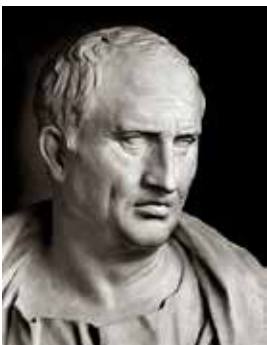


Smith is an international authority on plant resistance to arthropods, authoring three books, 17 book chapters and 115 refereed journal articles. He has served as editor or editorial board member for five scientific journals, including *Nature Scientific Reports*, and has been invited to present his research at 59 conferences in the U.S. and 15 foreign countries since 1996.

Smith's research, which has earned national and international recognition, was the first to demonstrate that, within minutes, wheat plants produce molecular defenses to aphid feeding. He later identified the first strain of an aphid pest that overcomes these defenses. Smith has received over \$10 million in extramural funding at Kansas State University from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Science Foundation, the U.S. State Department and the Kansas Wheat and Soybean commissions.

An officer or governing board member of numerous scientific research organizations, Smith was named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2015 and a fellow of the Entomological Society of America in 2006. He is an honorary member of the scientific honor societies Gamma Sigma Delta, Sigma Xi and Beta Beta Beta. A Fulbright scholar in the Czech Republic in 2002, Smith has received the Entomological Society of America 2010 Recognition Award and 2019 C.V. Riley Award. He was honored with the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award by the International Plant Resistance to Insects Workshop.

Smith has served as a professor in the university's entomology department since 1990 and was department head from 1990-1996. Previous appointments were entomology division chair at the University of Idaho and professor of entomology at Louisiana State University.



What nobler employment, or more valuable to the state, than that of the [person] who instructs the rising generation?

Marcus Tullius Cicero
106-43 BCE

https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/marcus_tullius_cicero_122149; <http://1.bp.blogspot.com/-X07OnC22B7I/UsiJUWgM-D1I/AAAAAAAAABz8/tos5QDzc3gl/s1600/cicer%C3%B3n.jpg>

Radonna Sawatzky Named Food Services Director at SWOSU

Ms. Radonna Sawatzky has been named director of food services at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. Sawatzky will start at SWOSU on May 28. She takes over for Duncan Taylor, who is retiring from the university.

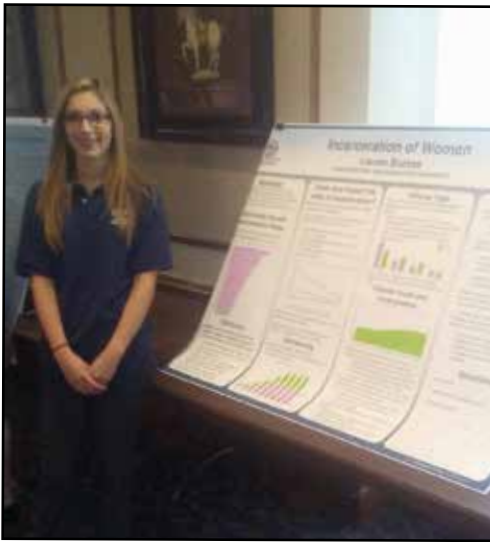


She graduated from SWOSU in 1988 with a degree in Vocational Home Economics. [Dean's note: in 1988 the Department of Home Economics was in the School of Arts & Sciences.] In 1990 she received her Master of Education degree, also from SWOSU. She has worked for the OSU-Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service for the past 30 years as a family and consumer sciences educator.

During her career at the extension office, she taught numerous nutrition, food safety, cooking schools and diabetes programs. She has taught programs dealing with food allergies, food preservation and dietary issues.

Sawatzky has been honored as one of the top Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Program educators in the State of Oklahoma for her work on many family and consumer issues. She has served on numerous committees in Weatherford and Custer County, winning many awards from organizations for her work.

Sawatzky and her husband, Terry, have two children—Taler Alexander, who works for SWOSU, and her son, Tucker, who is currently a senior at SWOSU.



Student Presents at State OCJA Conference

On March 8th, Lauren Buzbee (Criminal Justice major) presented her research on the “Incarceration of Women in America” at the Oklahoma Criminal Justice Association (OCJA) annual conference held at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond, OK. Lauren’s poster gave special attention to Oklahoma’s role in national trends.

CAS Happenings

May

31 – enrollment for students who did not pre-enroll

June

3 – summer classwork begins

4 – last day to add classes

9-12 – Marimba and String Camps

16-20 – Choral Camp

17 – New Student Orientation

20-21 – Cantiamo Solo Voice Camp

23-26 – Middle School Band Camp

28 – Oklahoma Drama Educators’ Conference



May 2019

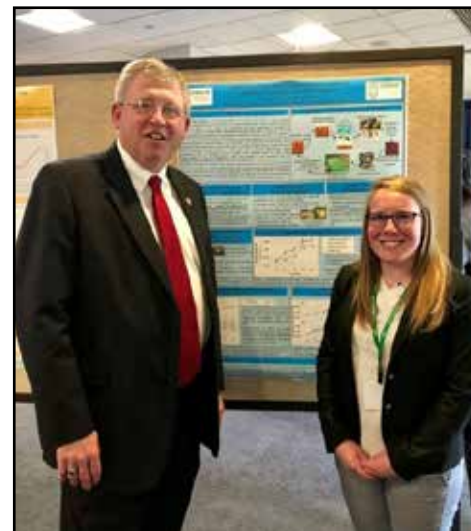
SWOSU Student Represents Oklahoma at CUR's Posters on the Hill



“On April 30, 60 teams from colleges and universities across the nation participated in the 2019 Posters on the Hill event, sponsored by the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) with support from the American Chemical Society (ACS) and Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-USA. Researchers and faculty members from as far away as University of Alaska Fairbanks, Norwich University (VT), and University of Wyoming joined local peers from George Mason University and Virginia Commonwealth University to share their research on topics ranging from fuel that can power a spacecraft from Mars and cancer research to systems for determining the fastest commuting route and identifying remains of missing POWs (read the [poster abstracts](#)). The poster session took place in the Rayburn Cafe of the Rayburn House Office Building on Capitol Hill.”

This year Chelsea Miller (Biology major) not only represented SWOSU, but the entire state of Oklahoma at this event. Chelsea’s poster was entitled, “Looking Beyond the Leaf: Understanding the Impacts of Motility on Pathogen Colonization of Seeds.” Dr. Regina McGrane (Biological Sciences) was her research mentor.

Oklahoma Representative Frank Lucas visited Chelsea’s poster (right photo) and he reported on their meeting in his monthly newsletter and his [Facebook](#) page. Chelsea also had the opportunity to speak with staff members at Senator Inhofe’s office and supplied information to Senator Lankford’s office about her research and the initiatives of the National Council on Undergraduate Research.



“CUR, in collaboration with ACS and other entities, holds the annual Posters on the Hill event to highlight the work of undergraduate researchers from across the country to Members of Congress, congressional staffers, federal government officials, academics, and others, demonstrating the value of federal investment in undergraduate research. The event is highly selective—institutions’ most talented researchers are judged by a national panel of experts in their fields, and only the best teams are chosen for the poster session on Capitol Hill. Past participants have gone on to contribute significantly to the research enterprise, such as Sarah Caudill, a gravitational-wave scientist at Nikhef who was part of the “discovery of the century” team that discovered gravitational waves.

“ ‘Each year, Posters on the Hill features a wide spectrum of fascinating research, scholarship, and creative inquiry by some of the country’s most gifted student researchers,’ said CUR Executive Officer Elizabeth L. Ambos. ‘It provides overwhelming evidence of the benefits of investment in undergraduate research not only for students, faculty mentors, institutions, and communities but also for the nation and the world.’ ”

https://www.cur.org/POTH2019/#TB_inline?height=230&width=500&inlineId=tb_external&linkId=4



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Cold War Oklahoma

Mr. Landry Brewer (Social Sciences) has just had his book, [Cold War Oklahoma](#), published by Arcadia Publishing. According to the web site

Oklahoma might seem like an unexpected place for Cold War tensions to boil over, but the state played a key role in a conflict that threatened global annihilation. Altus Air Force Base served as a hub for twelve intercontinental ballistic missile launch sites; in 1964, a missile housed at the Frederick site exploded, although the nuclear warhead remained unaffected. Ordinary citizens lived under the shadow of nuclear war as well. A former OU faculty member accused of committing espionage for the Soviet Union fled the country, while a SWOSU professor dug his own fallout shelter in Weatherford—by hand. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, an emergency siren malfunction sent terrified Elk City parents scurrying to local schools to pick up their children. Landry Brewer presents a fascinating cross-section of the era, from top-level strategy to the details of daily life.



A May 25 book signing will take place at the Stafford Air & Space Museum in Weatherford. Details TBA.

English Students Present at NCUR in Atlanta

Three SWOSU students, Maggie Logan, Kristi Celestine, and Hope Brown (all English majors), and two faculty, Dr. Christi Cook and Ms. Pamela Rollins, attended the 2019 National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Atlanta Georgia, April 10-13. The students presented insightful research on diverse literature to large, receptive groups.

Comments from the students about this experience:

“One thing that I loved about going to NCUR was seeing the thousands of people who were just as inspired as me to change the world and make it a better place. It was an awesome experience to meet people from around the U.S. and learn about their feelings and opinions. I learned SO much at NCUR. I’m so happy that SWOSU gave me the opportunity to go, and I am thankful for my teachers for supporting me.” -Maggie Logan

“SWOSU really gave me an amazing experience by allowing me to be able to go to NCUR. I arrived not expecting much but upon getting there and being around other students that were so passionate about their research inspired me so much. I also came to realize that the research my sister and I presented over Native American writers is very important because not many people are interested or know very much about the subject. Presenting the research on a national scale inspired me to continue and find a newfound passion on the topic that we presented. This trip wouldn’t have been possible without SWOSU or my teachers and for that I am so very grateful!” -Hope Brown



“I am so grateful to SWOSU for the opportunity to take the presentation I created with my sister over Native American writers to NCUR. I didn’t realize how important the topic was until we were able to present it on a national level. It was an awesome experience getting to interact with other students who had a passion for the subjects that they presented. I know that this opportunity wouldn’t have been possible without the support of both SWOSU and my teacher. Thank you.” -Kristi Celestine

Faculty and students attending NCUR in Atlanta: (l-r) Dr. Christi Cook, Maggie Logan, Hope Brown, Kristi Celestine, and Ms. Pamela Rollins.

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Four SWOSU Students Finish in Top Three at Vocal Music State Contest

Four Southwestern Oklahoma State University students in Weatherford recently finished in the top three at the state competition of the National Association of the Teachers of Singing (NATS) held April 13th in Norman.

Ten SWOSU students competed against top singers from 13 universities across the state. Finishing in the top three from SWOSU were:

- Kyra Williford, Bethany, a bachelor of music performance candidate and student of Dr. Robin Grifffeath, first in the freshman women division
- Arianna Martin, Broken Arrow, a bachelor of music performance candidate and student of Dr. Kristin Grifffeath, second in the sophomore women division
- Brianna Boyce, Marlow, a bachelor of music performance candidate and student of Dr. Robin Grifffeath, third in the senior women division
- Alyssa Garcia, Markham (Tidehaven) TX, a bachelor of music performance candidate and student of Dr. Robin Grifffeath, placed second in the senior women division.

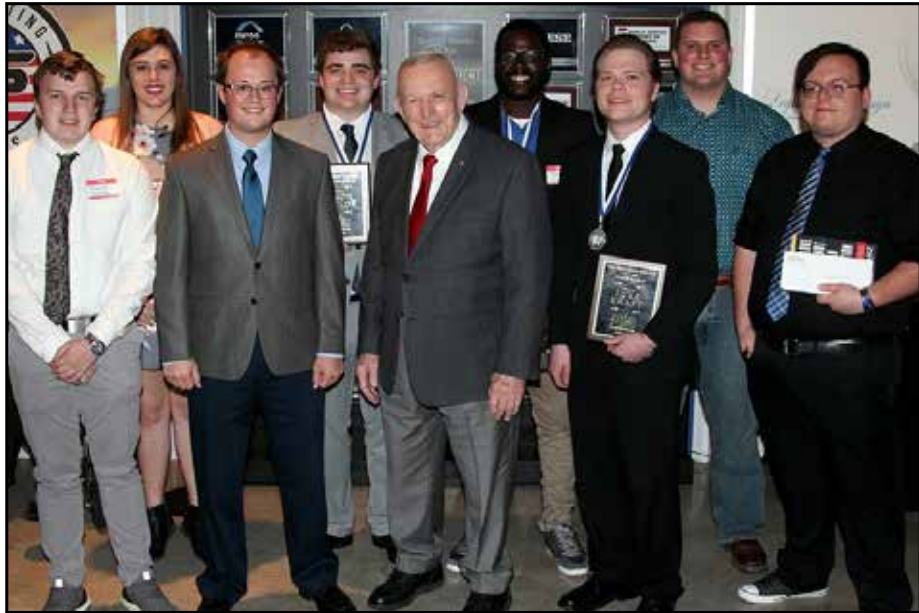


Representing SWOSU were students and faculty (from left): Dr. Daniel Farris, Abigail Kerr, Yanice Morales, Elizabeth Edge, Kyra Williford, Alyssa Garcia, Dr. Robin Grifffeath, Arianna Martin, Whitney Kleinpeter, Brianna Boyce, Andrew Carlson, Gina Patterson and Dr. Kristin Grifffeath.

SWOSU Physics Students Win Awards and Engage with Former NASA Flight Director

Southwestern Oklahoma State University physics students were recently honored with awards and heard remarks from former NASA Flight Director Gene Kranz (in center of photo) at the 2019 Physics Alumni and Awards Banquet held at the Stafford Air & Space Museum in Weatherford. Kranz, author of *Failure Is Not an Option*, was flight director beginning with the Gemini missions through Apollo and beyond, retiring in 1994 after 37 years of federal service.

The annual banquet is held to honor students and present them with awards for their accomplishments. This year's honorees were:



- Boubacar Wane, Bamako, Mali senior, J.R. Pratt Outstanding Student in Physics, Graduating with Honors and Academic Recognition
- Jaxon Taylor, Mustang senior, Leadership Award and Graduating with Honors
- Luke Kraft, Hooker senior, Distinguished Service Award, Graduating with Honors and Academic Recognition
- Josue' Ruiz, Marlow senior, Academic Recognition
- Lyly Van, Broken Arrow senior, Academic Recognition
- Emily Trail, Weatherford junior, J.R. Pratt Scholarship
- Daniel Gassen, El Reno junior, Academic Recognition and J.R. Pratt Scholarship
- Cameron Cinnamon, Garber junior, J.R. Pratt Scholarship
- Hunter Floyd, Mountain View junior, Benny J. Hill Scholarship and Arts & Sciences Dean's Scholarship
- Brock Mason, Tuttle sophomore, Sigma Pi Sigma Honor Society, Outstanding Midclassman in Physics, Arthur McClelland Memorial Scholarship and Benny J. Hill Scholarship
- Tayler Valdez, Adams freshman, Benny J. Hill Scholarship
- Raistlin Hiner, Anadarko freshman, Garabed Armoudian Scholarship and Ray C Jones Scholarship

Following the student awards, physics alumni in attendance who studied under J.R. Pratt, the first chair of the Physics Department, were recognized. Many of the graduates had careers with NASA or one of its contractors and contributed to the successful space missions that put Americans on the moon before the end of the 1960's.

The evening culminated with a presentation by Kranz. As the leader of the "Tiger Team" of flight directors who brought the Apollo 13 spaceship safely back to Earth on April 17, 1970, Kranz demonstrated extraordinary courage and heroism. The hit film, *Apollo 13*, chronicles Kranz' struggle to devise the plan that would safely bring the ship and its crew of three astronauts home after its oxygen system failed. Actor Ed Harris portrays Kranz in the film, which was directed by Ron Howard.

Kranz is currently a consultant and speaker. "Failure is not an option," is the motto that carried him through the Apollo 13 crisis and is a major theme of his motivational message. Kranz spoke to the audience of physics students and alumni on the Apollo 11 moon landing, providing an insider's view on what was happening in Mission Control during the harrowing landing as computers failed to update and the missing data needed to determine "Go/No Go." He also showed never-before-seen video of the controllers during this time, culminating with video of the planting of the first American flag on the Moon by astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin.

He was introduced by longtime NASA Engineer, SWOSU Physics Alumnus, and SWOSU Distinguished Alumnus James Bates, Class of 1962, who also played an important role in getting Kranz as speaker for the banquet.

May 2019

General Manager of KGOU Radio Visits Campus

Dick Pryor, general manager of KGOU Radio, spoke Tuesday, April 9th, at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. The public was invited to the talk in the Memorial Student Center.

Pryor's talk was sponsored by the SWOSU Department of Art, Communication & Theatre. SWOSU Professor Dr. Lisa M. Boyles said Pryor heads up KGOU, which serves more than one million Oklahomans with news, public affairs and entertainment programming.

Pryor has more than 40 years of experience in television, radio, public relations, law and government service. He began his career at KGOU as a student at the University of Oklahoma and returned in November 2016. For 25 of his 34 years in television, Pryor served as deputy director, managing editor, anchor and host of news and public affairs series and programs for OETA, Oklahoma's public educational television network. He has won numerous broadcasting awards, including three regional Emmy Awards.

In addition, Pryor has been a sports anchor/reporter and talk show host, public relations director and play-by-play announcer for Oklahoma City's professional baseball team. As a lawyer, he has provided employment law counsel and business coaching to corporate executives, managers and human resource professionals.

A native of Norman, Pryor earned a B.A. in Journalism and a J.D. from the University of Oklahoma. In 2015, he was chosen a Distinguished Alumnus of the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication at OU. Pryor was inducted into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame in 2009.

Biology Honors Banquet

Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Department of Biological Sciences recently held its annual honors banquet on the Weatherford campus. [Scholarships and awards](#) were presented to outstanding biology students at the end-of-academic year ceremony.



Elementary Career Day 2019



First grade students from Weatherford and neighboring towns participated in a career day on April 9th. Students explored a variety of careers by getting involved in many hands-on activities. The photos show students working on geometric puzzles at a station sponsored by the Department of Mathematics (left) and an animal identification station sponsored by the Department of Biological Sciences (right).



SWOSU Excellence Academy

Eleven faculty have been selected to participate in Class 2 of the SWOSU Instructional Excellence Academy. The academy is Southwestern Oklahoma State University's initiative to provide resources to university instructors who wish to improve teaching and learning in their classrooms.

Many excellent applications were received and reviewed by a panel of SWOSU staff and faculty. CAS faculty, who have been selected for Class 2 of the Academy, are



Dr. Christi Cook, Department of Language & Literature
Dr. David Kavish, Department of Social Sciences
Dr. Elaine Davies, Department of Art, Communication & Theatre
Dr. Keturah Adams, Department of Chemistry & Physics
Dr. Sylvia Esjornson, Department of Chemistry & Physics.

SWOSU Commencement 2019



Once again CAS faculty were actively involved in commencement ceremonies. Drs. Jerry Dunn (Social Sciences) and Kelley Logan (Language & Literature) served as head marshals. Music major Alyssa Garcia sang the "National Anthem" and "Climb Every Mountain" from *The Sound of Music*. She was accompanied by Dr. Sophia Lee (Music). Dr. Amanda Smith-Chesley (Language & Literature) addressed the assembly as the Faculty Senate President. Mr. Steve Strickler (Art, Communication & Theatre) read the students' names as they walked across the stage. He was assisted by the chair of that department, Dr. Robin Jones. Other faculty assisted the marshals, carried their department banner, and congratulated our new graduates. In addition, Dr. Loran Lewis (Art, Communication & Theatre) and his students produced the [Graduate Record](#) that contains photos of the graduates and chronicles the year's activities.

History Day

Faculty in Social Sciences interview student presenters during the department's annual History Day. At this event high school students create displays and presentations on historical topics of their choice. Some of these students go on to present at regional and national conferences.



May 2019

Students from Clinton and Hammon Win Timed WARP at SWOSU



Students from Clinton High School and Hammon High School were the top three finishers at Southwestern Oklahoma State University-Sayre's annual writing competition called Timed WARP (Writing and Research Program), which was held recently on the Sayre campus. Alexia Aston of Clinton High School won first place and a \$600 scholarship. She was accompanied by English teacher Brittany Miller.

Hammon High School's Jalyynn Lamb won second place and a \$500 scholarship. Delaynie Peters, also of Hammon High School, won third place and a \$400 scholarship. Hammon High School's English teacher is Mary Cole.

"I really appreciate all of the teachers who took time out of their busy schedules to allow their students this opportunity to excel and win a valuable scholarship to further their education," said SWOSU-Sayre Language Arts Instructor and Timed WARP director Terry Ford. Ford said that Timed WARP is a chance for high school students to not only compete for scholarships, but they also get feedback on their writing from college instructors and familiarize themselves with the Sayre campus.

The high school teachers who accompanied students were presented with continuing education workshops given by SWOSU Language & Literature Professors Drs. Nolan Meditz, Marc DiPaolo and Victoria Gaydosik.

All of the visitors to campus were treated to breakfast and lunch, entertained with games, and awarded prizes. "I'd like to thank all participating SWOSU administration, faculty and staff members for their help in making this year's Timed WARP such a success," Ford said.

Outdoor Classroom Bugs Students

The annual Deer Creek Conservation District's Outdoor Classroom was held on Thursday, April 25th, at Radar Park. Over 200 fourth graders from Weatherford, Arapaho, and Thomas-Fay-Custer participated in the event. The students engaged in active learning about nature and natural resources. Students and faculty in the Department of Biological Sciences sponsor a station centered around using aquatic invertebrates to better understand water quality.



Four Canyon Preserve

The Nature Conservancy operates the [Four Canyon Preserve](#) in Ellis County. Several times a year the Conservancy offers a hike along the Big Ridge Trail in the preserve. In April, the director of the Preserve, Mr. Chris Hise (left photo, white shirt on right) led that tour. Mr. Hise is a SWOSU Biology alumnus. The second photo shows a view of the Canadian River flood plain from a bluff at the end of the trail.



SWOSU Biology Students and Chapter Win Awards at Tri Beta

Eleven Southwestern Oklahoma State University Biology students recently presented their research findings at the Beta Beta Beta (National Biology Honor Society) South Central Region Convention held in Cedar Hill (TX). SWOSU's Delta Sigma Chapter was recognized as Outstanding Chapter from District 1 of the region, which includes universities from Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana.

SWOSU students earned individual awards for their poster presentations. Jennifer Abshire of Newalla and Kade Ezell of Yukon each won second place and Emily Bedea of Elk City earned third place. Abshire's presentation was "*Pseudomonas syringae* motility appendages: roles in surface colonization and survival." Her mentor for the work is Dr. Regina McGrane (Biological Sciences). Ezell's presentation was "Antimicrobial activity of phytopathogen biosurfactants against human pathogens". His mentor is also Dr. McGrane.

Bedeas presentation was "In-silico analysis and homology modeling of β -carbonic anhydrase from *Streptococcus sanguinis*, an opportunistic pathogen involved in subacute infective endocarditis." Her mentor for the work is Dr. Vijay Somalinga (Biological Sciences).



May 2019

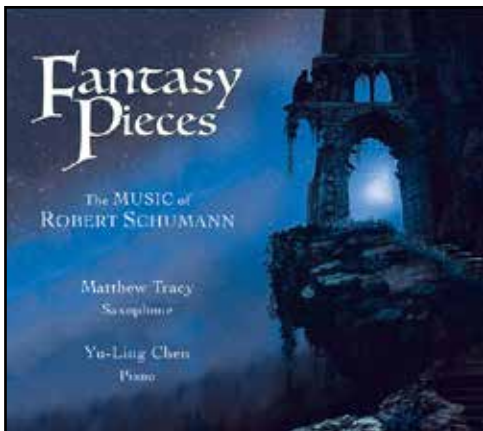
English Club Displays Activities at International Convention

The English Club/Sigma Tau Delta was invited to host a Chapter Display Booth during the Sigma Tau Delta 2019 International Convention in St. Louis, MO. Ms. Jordan Selman (Dean of Students office) supplied the booth with fun SWOSU promotional items and Dr. Victoria Gaydosik (Language & Literature) set up the display booth.



Fantasy Pieces

Dr. Matthew Tracy's (Music) debut [album](#), *Fantasy Pieces: The Music of Robert Schumann*, was recently released by Equilibrium Recordings. This record is the result of two years of work and features Dr. Yu-Ling Chen on piano. Additional information can be found at the above link.

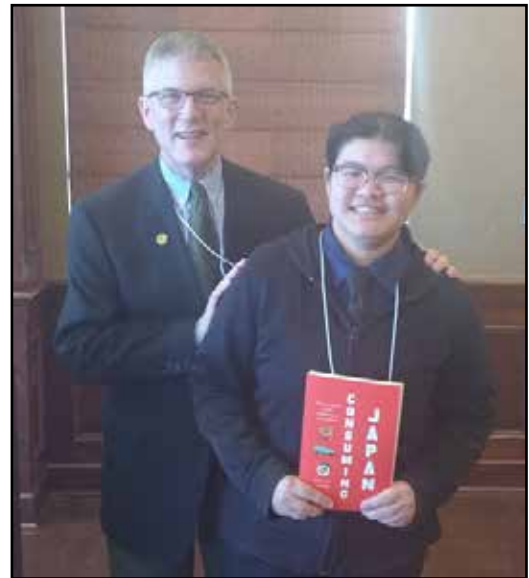


Student Historians Present at Regional Conference

SWOSU Phi Alpha Theta Honors Society in History attended the 2019 Oklahoma Association of Professional Historians/Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference in March. This is the regional conference for college students and professional historians who are member of Phi Alpha Theta. Four students presented original research papers.

History Education major Rebecca Masson (in photo) presented her paper, "The U.S. Occupation of Haiti, 1914-1913," in which she discussed the political and economic ramifications for both the United State and Haiti during that occupation. Rebecca won First Place Undergraduate Research in United Stated History for her paper and presentation.

Senior History and Political Science double major Olivia Branscum presented her research paper, "Eleanor Roosevelt: The First Lady of Human Rights." Bailey McKay, also a double major in History and Political Science, presented "Hiding the Pain: Self-Censorship during the First World War," and Katie Elmore, a junior majoring in History, presented her paper "Under African Skies - Paul Simon, Graceland, and Apartheid."



Teachers Attend Renewable Energy Educational Program

A new educational program, Oklahoma Renewable Energy Education (OREEP), is underway in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Sierra Club provides teachers in grades 4-8 with free workshops focused on using information about solar and wind energies to teach state standards. Teachers receive a \$50 stipend and free solar, wind and generator kits for classroom use. The most recent workshop was hosted by the College of Arts & Sciences on the SWOSU Weatherford campus in March.

Workshop presenters include Tara Barker, Jane Cronin and Doug Weirick, who started developing the program in 2017. Both Barker and Cronin are retired science teachers and Weirick teaches environmental health science at East Central University. Barker estimates OREEP will reach over 2,000 students in 2019.

The program is utilizing a curriculum developed by Oklahoma science teachers using the National Energy Education Development Project resources. The Kirkpatrick Foundation is the financial sponsor making this program possible.



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