

# Dr. Brian D. Campbell Wins Bernhardt Award at SWOSU

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Dr. Brian D. Campbell (middle) won the Bernhardt Academic Excellence Award for 2013 at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. The award for exceptional achievement in teaching, scholarship and service is made possible by Dr. William and Theta Juan Bernhardt of Midwest City. SWOSU President Randy Beutler (left) and last year's winner Dr. Tim Hubin congratulate Campbell, who won a \$5,000 cash award made possible by the Bernhardts.

Dr. Brian D. Campbell is the winner of the Bernhardt Academic Excellence Award for 2013 at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

Campbell, professor in the SWOSU Department of Chemistry and Physics, was surprised with the prestigious award at the annual Bernhardt banquet held March 12 in the Memorial Student Center on the SWOSU campus. For winning the award, Campbell received a \$5,000 cash award, clock, pen and medallion.

SWOSU alumni Dr. William and Theta Juan Bernhardt 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. Guest speaker for the evening was Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and former SWOSU Provost Dr. Blake Sonobe.

Born in Mason City (IA), **Dr. Brian D. Campbell** comes from a family of educators. His father and uncles were university professors and science teachers, his grandmother a public school teacher and two of his sisters teach in private schools. Dr. Campbell's most formative years were in Platteville (WI) where his father was a mathematics professor at the University of Wisconsin, Platteville.

In 1987, Campbell received a B.S. in elementary and science education from UW, Platteville. After graduation, he took a position as science teacher in Delmar (IA). While there, he realized the importance of science not only for his students but also for the community. In order to reach a broader audience, Campbell began to teach at a local community college. At this time he began graduate school at the University of Iowa. He earned an M.S. in science education in 1993, an M.S. equivalent in geology, and a Ph.D. in science education from the University of Iowa in 1997.

The newly minted Campbell was offered several positions, but upon interviewing at SWOSU, he knew he found a new home. At SWOSU, Campbell has taught geology, physical science, astronomy and science education courses. He quickly became involved in serving the community by volunteering at the Thomas Stafford Air and Space Museum, Weatherford Public Library, attending Leadership Weatherford 2009, and has offered a free grant consulting service for the Western Oklahoma Literacy Coalition.

Campbell's grants (totaling more than \$2.6 million) and research over his years at SWOSU have been impressive. He continues to serve as director of the long-running

SWOSU Summer Science & Math Academy. Through these grants, Campbell has interacted with over 700 public school students and 250 teachers. He has published more than 50 science activities and was a guest author in the text “The Physical Universe” 9e by Krauskopf and Beiser. He is also a textbook reviewer for several companies. He has given over 70 presentations at local, regional, national and international conferences.

Campbell continues to mentor students in their research as well as his. Recently he has begun a general paleontological survey of Ordovician West Spring Creek Formation, Arbuckle group, Kiowa County, OK. He also has research interests in nature, meaning, and philosophy of science and the improvement of STEM education.

Campbell spends what little free time he has with his wife of 13 years, Melaine Mathieu-Winston–Campbell.

Previous winners of the Bernhardt Award are (in order by year): Dr. Vilas Prabhu, Dr. Stuart Burchett, Dr. Gary Wolgamott, Dr. Terry Segress, Dr. James Hunsicker, Dr. Jill Jones, Dr. James Breckenridge, Dr. John Ludrick, Dr. W. Steven Pray, Dr. Les Crall, Dr. Peter Grant, Dr. John Hayden, Dr. Virgil Van Dusen, Steve Strickler, Dr. Mary Aspedon, Dr. John Woods, Dr. Scott Long, Dr. Charles Rogers and Dr. Tim Hubin.