

News



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Grant Receives Lifetime Achievement Award at International Conference

Photo Caption: Dr. Peter Grant (left) recently received a Lifetime Achievement Award at an international conference in Aracruz, Brazil. Shown with Grant are the two other recipients, Dr. John Brittain (center) from Norway and Dr. Eduardo Dominguez from Argentina.

Dr. Peter Grant, Southwestern Oklahoma State University College of Arts & Sciences Dean and Bernhardt Professor of Biology in Weatherford, recently received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Committee of the International Conferences on Ephemeroptera.

Grant received the award at an international conference in Aracruz, Brazil. The conference brings together specialists on the study of two groups of aquatic insects – mayflies (Ephemeroptera) and stoneflies (Plecoptera) – every three years. Grant received the award

for his work on mayflies.

Grant began his studies of mayflies as an undergraduate at Pennsylvania State University while participating in a student-originated study on a local stream. He continued his research on mayflies in graduate school, earning a master’s degree at the University of North Texas and a Ph.D. at Florida State University.

He taught at Morris College in South Carolina for three years and then joined the SWOSU Department of Biological Science in 1988 and continued his work on mayflies in the areas of behavior, ecology and systematics (species identification, classification and evolution). He has involved 14 undergraduates in this research, who have given presentations at local, state, regional and national conferences.

Grant compiled an annual bibliography on mayflies for the North American Benthological Society for 27 years. He assisted producers (BBC) and authors (*National Geographic*) who were searching for information on mayflies and was interviewed about mayflies by the *New York Times*.

He also founded *The Mayfly Newsletter* and served as editor for 26 years. Over 400 people in 51 countries received the publication, which is now being published in a digital version. All issues have been archived in SWOSU Library’s Digital Commons collection.

Grant was elected by his peers to serve on the Committee for the International Conferences on Ephemeroptera in 1998. This committee assists with the organization of the triennial international meeting. He currently serves as the secretary of that committee.

At SWOSU, Grant has served as president of the Faculty Senate, chair of the Department of Biological Sciences and has been the dean of the College of Arts & Sciences since 2014.

Grant has been active in the Weatherford community, volunteering in Boy Scouts since 1992. He served as chair of the Weatherford Environmental Recycling and Solid Waste Task Force during its first two years and has offered several K-12 teacher workshops on campus dealing with science instruction. In 1996, he and his students developed the water session for the Deer Creek Conservation District’s annual outdoor classroom.

Besides this recent award, Grant has received the Bernhardt Academic Excellence Award, an Excellence in Teaching Award and the Professional Educator Award for Conservation Education. He was nominated by students three times for Who’s Who Among American Teachers and was selected to participate in the Outstanding Professor’s Academy.

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