Tragedy Strikes; Universities Review Safety Plans

University officials have been scrambling to check the adequacy of current safety procedures in light of the recent tragedy at Virginia Tech, where 32 students were murdered in the worst shooting spree in U.S. history. OSU is thinking of a reverse 911 system, OU is looking at instant messaging, the University of Memphis plans to build a school-wide intercom.

Last fall, SWOSU created a response policy and procedure that incorporates Campus Security, Park Law Enforcement Security, Police, Sheriff’s Department, and Highway Patrol. A “Shooter” response strategy has been developed and rehearsed.

Nevertheless, Weatherford and Sayre school officials will be meeting next week to discuss more campus security issues. These are the happenings thus far at Sayre:

* Rick Bolar, Director of Public Safety, has done a presentation to faculty and staff on campus security, and is scheduled to be here on a monthly and per request basis to review and discuss campus security matters.

* Safety manuals, emergency procedures, and floor plans have been reviewed and updated.

* A Safety Committee is in place.

(Continued on page 8)

Dr. Wootton will be leaving campus

By Daniel Ferrari

Dr. Patsy Wootton has accepted a new job offer and will be moving to Weatherford in the fall.

Wootton has been here at SWOSU at Sayre since 1999. She has recently obtained her doctorate degree and will be moving to the Weatherford campus to teach.

Classes she will be teaching on our sister campus are advanced computer business applications, professional issues, business communications, and intro to management information system.

She will be staying to teach her summer classes because she would never let her students down like that.

She said she is very proud of the business program she has built here at Sayre and she hopes the next instructor will work to preserve the program and the PBL organization.

“What I will miss most of all is the great faculty, staff, and students we have here,” Wootton said.

Wootton started her career in education as a middle school teacher, instructing seventh and eighth grade math at Sayre Junior High. She also taught several grades at Carter in the late ’80s and at Sayre High School in the ’90s. Since 1999, she has taught accounting, microeconomics, computer and keyboarding, and several business courses. She has won numerous awards, including “Teacher of the Year,” and served on over three dozen committees.

She has been the ACT Test Center Supervisor for this testing site since 2000.

And, of course, she has trained many business students who then went on to win competitions as part of the PBL organization. Her record of first place wins ranks above many instructors from much larger state universities. Her students go on to compete and win at the National level. (See related article, page two.)

She is a member of 11 professional organizations, and has had her research published in the journal Women in Higher Education.

“I like her, she’s a really awesome, outgoing teacher,” stated PBL member Megan Dickson, “I’ll miss her a lot, but hopefully I can take her classes at Weatherford.”

From the students at Sayre, thank you for your time and service.

Dr. Wootton will be leaving campus

“So near the anniversary of our own Murrah Building tragedy, the hearts of Oklahomans go out to Virginia Tech. Photo by Sue Brown.
By Megan Dickson

SWOSU at Sayre students recently traveled to Tulsa to compete in a statewide competition involving secondary and post-secondary students. The Sayre chapter received 7 first place awards, 5 second place awards, 2 third place awards, and 1 fourth place award.

Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) is the collegiate division of the national association, Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda.

Brian Atteberry, of Elk City - 1st place in business law; 1st place in emerging business (team event)

Dustin Batterton, of Cheyenne - 2nd place in financial concepts; 1st place in future business executive; also named to Who's Who in PBL

Elizabeth Braux, of Elk City - 4th place in business communication; 2nd place in marketing concepts

Megan Dickson, of Weatherford - 2nd place in database design; 2nd place in word processing

Lauren Eaves, of Elk City - 2nd place in accounting principles; 1st place in emerging business issues (team event)

Jennifer Hayden, of Elk City - 1st place in management analysis and decision making

Jessica Jamison, of Welling, OK - 1st place in accounting principles; 1st place in job interview

Tina Porter, of Reydon - 3rd place in business communication; 1st place in emerging business issues (team event)

Doug Tate, of Elk City - 1st place in economic concepts; 3rd place in marketing concepts.

PBL is a dynamic organization of people preparing for success as leaders in business, government, and communities.

PBL’s mission is to bring business and education together in a positive working relationship through innovative leadership and career development programs. Advisor Patsy Wootton, business professor at SWOSU at Sayre, accompanied the students on their trip.
Matthew Swint is going to Africa

SWOSU sophomore Matthew Swint is preparing to take the trip of his life. He has been given the awesome opportunity to travel to Zimbabwe, Africa, this summer for six weeks. He will be traveling with 11 other college students from across the United States to northern Zimbabwe, where they will be doing mission work among the villages.

“My team and I will spend all six weeks in the bush sleeping in tents, taking bucket showers, and eating native foods,” Swint said. “We’ll be doing Vacation Bible School, starting a church, and teaching True Love Waits (abstinence training), because of the HIV and AIDS epidemic in Africa. Many Africans believe the prevalent myth that a man can have intercourse with a virgin to be healed from HIV or AIDS, so there is a great need for education.”

Swint and the other college students are taking donations to help fund the trip. If you see him, he will welcome any amount you wish to donate, and he will also be selling candles to raise money for this worthwhile safari.

“Zimbabwe’s citizens have the shortest life expectancy of any place in the world, and their inflation is the highest it’s been in many years,” explains Swint. “They can’t even afford to buy products for sale, so the economy is stifled. It will be nice to see a country so diverse, and to help bring Christ to these people in need.”

Student Art on Display in our Library

Mrs. Campbell’s Basic Drawing Class has been busy creating excellent work and has recently decided to showcase it. You can now view the class’s work on display in the library and see for yourself the variety in talent and artistic abilities.

Even though this is the first semester that Basic Drawing has been offered, everyone involved would agree that it has gone really well. Student Matthew Swint says, “I really like that we are given a lot of freedom to use any technique to draw anything we want. I can relax in this class and have really been reminded about how much I enjoy art.” Don’t think you can draw but are still interested? The class is structured so that it caters to both beginners and even the advanced. Students are shown different techniques using watercolors, pastels, pencil, colored pencil, and acrylics, and then let loose to create what they want.

“I really enjoy this class because I can do what I like and go at my own pace,” replied Ashley Womack when asked about the class. Another appealing part of the class is that it counts as a 3 hour credit! Who wouldn’t want to take a fun and educational elective that counts as 3 total hours?

“If you would like to take a relaxing, non-stressful class, then enroll in Basic Drawing in the fall,” recommends Mrs. Campbell. If you are looking to learn basic art techniques or even just to break out the old paint brushes, then take this awesome opportunity and enroll in Basic Drawing in the fall.

Celebrate National Library Week!

By Linda Pye

In celebration of National Library Week during April 15-21, Weatherford’s Al Harris Library is sponsoring an exhibit and book discussion on “Favorite Books of SWOSU Students.”

The books and information submitted by SWOSU students are now being displayed as part of the National Library Week exhibit at the Al Harris Library.

All participants are invited to a book discussion on “Books are the carriers of civilization. Without books, history is silent, literature dumb, science crippled, thought and speculation at a standstill.”

Henry David Thoreau

Wednesday, April 18, at 3:30 p.m. in the Library Instruction Room to talk about their favorite book.

If you have any questions, please contact Linda Pye (linda.pye@swosu.edu).
SWOSU Students to Perform in Theater Production

By Jeanne Shadaram

Fellow SWOSU students have not only been studying for finals these past few weeks, but some have also been hard at work memorizing lines and preparing for the April 30th debut of the original Oklahoma play titled “The First Territorial Saloon,” composed by Oklahoma native and retired professor from the University of Central Oklahoma, Dr. Coleman Smith.

The five SWOSU students involved as cast members are Tom Warren, Teagan Ross, Lane Henry, Kevin Williams, and Alex Werner. This musical tells the story of the first saloon in Oklahoma territory, and first premiered in 1991 at our sister campus in Weatherford. The musical is directed by Elk City Choir Teachers, Justin Ediger and Lori Daubenspeck, and will make its debut at the Red Carpet Community Theatre located at 422 N. Jefferson in Elk City.

Tom Warren has been cast as the “Professor” and “Marshall,” Teagan Ross as “Daisy,” and Lane Henry as “Honest John.” Kevin Williams will be playing the role of “Tex,” and Alex Werner is featured as “Dub.”


Also, Justin Ediger as “Jake” Mason Congdon as “Pee Wee,” Daniel Pruett as “Preacher,” Sandy Werner as “Ethel,” Kelci Werner as “Abigail,” Shirley Mitchell, Katey Smith, and Stephanie Allen as “Ladies for Civic Virtue.”

Also, Alyssa Hefner and Lacey Smith as “Saloon Girls,” Drew Ediger, Anna Ediger, and Steele Cobb, Necie Cobb & Stacey Strong as “Towns Children.”

So, come and join in the fun, sit back and witness the good ol’ west and the local talent. “The First Territorial Saloon” runs April 30th through May 5th with nightly performances beginning at 7:30 with an encore matinee performance, Sunday, May 6th, at 2:30 p.m. For more information, contact Justin Ediger at 580-225-1357 or the Red Carpet Community Theatre at 580-225-5461 or 580-225-1941.

Barney,” Madison Owsley as “Willie Belle,” Charlie Werner as “Lonnie,” and McKinlee Eastom as “Sarah.”

Also, Justin Ediger as “Jake” Mason Congdon as “Pee Wee,” Daniel Pruett as “Preacher,” Sandy Werner as “Ethel,” Kelci Werner as “Abigail,” Shirley Mitchell, Katey Smith, and Stephanie Allen as “Ladies for Civic Virtue.”

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SWOSU Professor Receives State Award

By OSCPA

OKLAHOMA CITY – On Saturday, The Oklahoma Society of Certified Public Accountants named the 2007 Outstanding Accounting Educators at the annual Oklahoma Accounting Educators’ Conference at Tulsa Community College. The winner of the two-year award is Dr. Patsy Wootton from Southwestern Oklahoma State University’s Sayre campus.

Wootton began her teaching career in 1982, where she instructed seventh- and eighth-grade at Sayre Junior High School. Currently, she is an assistant professor at SWOSU.

“Providing education to others while pursuing my own continuing professional education is the focus of my career,” Wootton said. In addition to the OAE prize, the OSCPA will give a scholarship to an accounting student from SWOSU on Wootton’s behalf.

With more than 6,000 members in public practice, industry, government and education, the OSCPA is Oklahoma’s only statewide professional association of CPAs. Since 1918, the organization has continued to provide professional education, conduct quality reviews and promote and maintain high standards of integrity and competence within the accounting profession.

You may visit the web site www.KnowWhatCounts.com for a free CPA referral and 30-minute consultation.
Is full-time for summer six or twelve hours?

By Yuri Soto
Many students have been discussing a new regulation for full-time enrollment for the summer schedule. The debate has been over whether 6 hours is full time or are you required to take 12 hours in the summer to be considered a full time student?
Here’s the answer: Through the Registrar’s Office you are considered full time if you take 6 hours. Six is also full time for student loans.
The new regulation that is causing confusion is from the Federal Government. In order to get a government grant, you must be enrolled in 12 hours. Grants, unlike student loans, do not have to be repaid, so the rules are different. You may still qualify for a partial grant with less than 12 hours, but you will not get the full grant.

Ron Kistler, Director of Student Financial Services, admits it is complicated.
“You do not have to take the 12 hours to get Financial Aid. You can still get aid if you take less than 12 hours, only you may not get the full amount,” Kistler said.

Volunteer Work and the College Student

By: Jeanne Shadaram
Some call them lazy, more interested in partying hard than helping out. But a new study shows college students volunteer at a rate that’s grown sharply over the last few years, especially since 9/11 attacks.
A report comprised by the “College Students Helping America” and released by the federal Corporation for National and Community Service, found that the number of college students who volunteer increased by 20 percent between 2002 and 2005. The report states that “one bright spot coming out of the 9/11 tragedy is a surge of interest by college students in serving their community,” said Steve Goldsmith, the Chairman of the Board of the Corporation.
“This rise in college student volunteering and the growing campus support for service are hopeful signs for the future of civic involvement in America. Higher education is a powerful engine of civic engagement and we are committed to working with university and student organizations and the larger nonprofit sector to nurture this growing civic generation.”
Episodic volunteering may also have been boosted by the more-than 200,000 college students, many of them giving up fall and spring breaks, who volunteered to help rebuild the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina. Katie Franck, a senior at Elon University in North Carolina traveled to the Gulf Coast on her fall break, and now coordinates an after-school mentoring program, believes that college kids are given a bad rap, and that “when they're given the opportunities and it's facilitated the right way, they're willing to donate a lot of time and energy to others.”
The report also found that thirty-three percent of female college students volunteer, compared to 26.8 percent of males; that among volunteers, tutoring and mentoring are the most common activities; and that students who work part-time volunteer at higher rates than students who don’t have jobs.
By working with other federal agencies, colleges and universities, higher education and student associations, and nonprofit organizations, the Corporation for National and Community Service hopes to increase the number of college students volunteering each year to 5 million by 2010.
To do this, they are investing in building a culture of service on college campuses through the Learn and Serve America and AmeriCorps grants to institutions of higher education to support service learning and community service.
In addition to direct grants, the Corporation has also supported higher education through the more than $1.2 billion in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards to AmeriCorps members who complete their service and use their awards to pay for college tuition or to pay back student loans.
Each year they provide opportunities to more than 2 million Americans to serve their communities and country through the Senior Corps, AmeriCorps and the Learn and Serve America programs.
The Sixty-fourth Annual Spring Convocation for Southwestern Oklahoma State University at Sayre will be held on Friday, May 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sayre Schools Auditorium.

One hundred-twenty-four students will receive an Associate degree in this ceremony.

Senator Tom Ivester, Sayre native, will be the featured speaker at this year’s ceremonies. Ivester is the recently-elected senator for District 26.

Bridgette Gibson will offer special music. Ms. Gibson is graduating from SWOSU at Sayre, majoring in General Studies and General Business.

Immediately following the graduation ceremony, a reception will be held in the Southwestern-Sayre Student Center, also known as the Bulldog Café.

All graduates, friends and family are invited to attend.

Graduation practice will be held Wednesday, May 9th at 10 a.m.

Blunk’s Studios will be present at graduation to take photographs. Graduates, check the mailbox this week for a letter containing all the information on graduation.

Please look for next week’s edition of The WatchDawg for a list of all graduates, their hometowns, and their majors.

Honors students at the Sayre campus were recognized Friday, April 13, at New Member Induction Ceremony for Phi Theta Kappa, the International Honor Society of the Two-Year College.

Held in the Bulldog Café, the induction consisted of a procession, a welcome by Ms. Dayna Coker, Chapter Advisor, and a presentation of a scholarship by Dr. Jim James, Dean.

Ms. Roxann Clifton, Chapter co-advisor, introduced the officers, Vice President Tami Tosh, Recording Secretary Kelly Bearshield, and President Robet Bogle.

Phi Theta Kappa’s mission is two-fold: 1) recognize and encourage the academic achievement of two-year college students and (2) provide opportunities for individual growth and development through participation in honors, leadership, service and fellowship programming.

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Phi Theta Kappa traces its beginnings to a Society that originated with six charter members under the name of Kappa Phi Omicron at Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, in 1910. We need to remember the late Mike McKinney, who was the individual responsible for the evolvement of the Phi Theta chapter, Beta Iota Gamma, here on the Sayre Campus.

Today Phi Theta Kappa is the largest honor society in American higher education with more than 2 million members and 1,200 chapters. To be eligible for membership a student must complete a minimum of twelve hours of associate degree course work and generally earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. Students must maintain a high academic standing throughout their enrollment in the two-year college, generally a 3.25 GPA.

The new Beta Iota Gamma oath was led by Ms. Clifton.

Inductees for Fall of 2007 were as follows: Paula Janine Howes, Hallie Jewell Keahey, Belenda Faye Terry, and Linda Kay Zehnpfund.

Inductees for Spring of 2007 were as follows: Keesley Brooke Gholston, Caitlyn Range Parr, Lisa Ralene Phillips, and Sharlene Suzanne Stabel.

The closing was conducted by Ms. Coker.
Centennial Celebration: History of Reydon or Rankin

In celebration of our state’s centennial, students have been invited to submit heritage features on their home towns. Rebecca Rippy found out the following information on the history of Reydon or Rankin.

By Rebecca Rippy

You may not even know where this place is located, but it is still a grand place to live! You know, there is so much stuff that happens there also. You may not believe it, but they still have a school. The house that I grew up in is almost falling to the ground. That is a shame, but the farm was sold and the people that bought it did not think the house was worth saving. Do you know how many memories were left in that rotten piece of old house? I am not sure why they don’t just tear the poor thing down.

Reydon did not used to be where it is now. They moved the town from the curve about 3 miles north because of the railroad. Now a train does not even go that way.

There are some very important people that live there. My own grandparents were very important to the community back in their day. Walter K. (Hipper) used to have a chicken plant in the house they now call home. Olive can bake the best pies west of the river. She can also give you good advice if you need it. She’s one that will tell you how it is. Even if you don’t like it, she will say it. She has had 13 children and is on my list of people of people I love very much from Reydon.

The churches in Reydon are still going strong. Some people drive a ways to go to some of these. They have a Church of Christ, Baptist, Methodist, a non-denominational and maybe a few more. Ya’ll come check it out. See if you can hang with a former Reydon person. I have lived several places. If things were different I would, in a heart beat, go back home to my small little town.

The school after a storm.

Several very well-educated people come from Reydon. There are places you can rent or maybe even buy real cheap, if you want to help a small town grow up some. It is a very quiet place to be. They have hunting grounds that are the best anywhere, I think anyway. They even have a lake that is just grand to go have a family camp out. Once a year at the lake they have a fishing derby, which is really cool. I enjoy helping out with that.

The small town even has its own cemetery. It is about 5 miles outside of Reydon, not too far from where Dr. Cary lived in his time. Pop Cary now lives there. Lenard and his wife live on the curve, also. Reydon hasn’t always been called Reydon. The name it used to have was Rankin.

Reydon is the perfect example of small town life, which is something we can all celebrate and be proud of during this 100th Celebration of our grand state of Oklahoma!
Summer schedule changes are announced

By Justin Edler

There will be some minor changes in the new summer schedule, due to the retirement of long-time instructor Tom Worley.

According to the registrar, Kim Seymour, the following classes will be canceled:

- Mr. Worley’s 8:00 a.m.
- World History
- Mr. Worley’s 9:25 a.m.
- World Cultural History

Seymour announced the following changes:
- Mr. Landry Brewer will now be teaching Mr. Worley’s U.S. History at 10:50 a.m.
- Mrs. Susie Campbell will be teaching Mr. Brewer’s Art Survey at 10:50 a.m.

Dr. Wootton will remain at Sayre during the summer, so no changes have been made there.
Summer classes begin Tuesday, June 5th and the semester ends Thursday, August 2.

Tragedy Strikes, continued from front

(Continued from page 1)

* The process of ordering and installing security cameras is underway.

* There has been a meeting of Beckham County law enforcement officials and area school administrators to begin discussion of security and safety matters.

Anyone with suggestions to improve security is most welcome to visit with Tommye Davis, Chair of the Safety Committee, or Mr. Alan Shockey, Coordinator of Safety, or Dr. Jim James, Dean.

“Obviously, we need to take care of ourselves and one another,” stated Dr. James. “Anyone seeing or suspecting something as harmful and/or dangerous should contact the Dean’s office, the Sayre Police Department, or the Sheriff’s Office, and don’t forget 911.”

However, faculty and students are reminded to dial 9911 from campus phones in case of emergency (the first 9 is to get an outside line, then 911). As was reported in the November 20, 2006 issue of the WatchDawg, Sheriff Scott Jay held a summit with school administrators, including Dean Jim James, to discuss responses to acts of violence. (This act had been preempted by a man with a gun spotted at Sweetwater Public Schools.)

The new policy stated police will no longer wait for the shooter to leave or to negotiate. They will immediately converge on the premises.

Recommendations for everyone in the building were as follows, “Stay in rooms, out of the line of sight of the shooter, behind a desk or some other barrier.” Instructors were advised to lock the doors so that a shooter cannot come in; however, because college students are adults, the instructor will not prevent anyone from leaving who wishes to leave.”

Sheriff Jay met with the State School Superintendent last November to try to get this plan of action—a coalition between the schools and law enforcement—passed statewide.

Sheriff Jay told the WatchDawg today, “Hopefully by next school year, we’ll make plans to heighten awareness. We have yet to get the legislature involved. We need to get the support of the State School Superintendent and OSA. You have to get the backing of associations and entities to get a plan passed, and it is quite a process.”

However, the Sherriff expects work to begin on a plan for all of Beckham County and “by the end of the summer, we hope to get it all in place,” he said.

Many students on the Sayre campus were discussing the Virginia Tech shooting tragedy Wednesday. Although the possibility seems remote that an event of such magnitude could happen here, the April 19th Memorial Service being held today in Oklahoma City is a sharp reminder that we are not immune to acts of violence.

Bake Sale Planned on Campus

The SGA, along with the Fraternal Order of Masons of Erick, is going to sponsor a bake sale. It will start April 23 and will run until April 27. The bake sale will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Mackey Hall, the Alexander Building and the Conner Building.

If you would like to help with this, please see Jen Hodge, in the financial aid office, 928-5533, Ronnie Duffield, instructor at extension 110, who is a local Mason; or any SGA member, including President Paula Howes.

Some ways to help include baking a desert, donating money, or even providing some of your time to sit at a table and sell the goods. Some examples of good treats would be brownies, Rice Krispy treats, muffins, cookies, maybe even a pie or two.

Proceeds from the bake sale will help a SWOSU student whose toddler had been diagnosed with cancer.