Inside: Dawg Day scales new heights

New Year, New Clubs, New Opportunities

By Sarah Stephens

Classes are in full swing and club sponsors are busy recruiting members. Clubs of interest this year will be Computer Club, Phi Beta Lambda, and Literary Club. (See related stories.) Students will want to check with instructors to see if extra credit can be earned by club membership.

Dr. Jim James, Dean of the College of Associate and Applied Programs, welcomed all 500 enrollees for Fall, saying, “We are looking forward to the new year.”

This year the SWOSU Sayre Campus is bringing back a major, expanding its distance education options, taking classes on the road, and hiring some new faces around the campus (see page 2). SWOSU-Sayre is resuming an Associate in Applied Science degree with a major in Criminal Justice, and corrections officers may have already completed half of the degree’s requirements before even stepping on campus, according to SWOSU-Sayre Registrar Kim Seymour.

“Students who provide proof of Corrections Corporations of America training completion may be awarded 32 credit hours toward the new degree,” Seymour said. “The degree only requires 65 hours, so corrections employees with CCA training have completed half the degree before taking a single college class.”

Employees with the degree are eligible for promotions and pay raises at corrections facilities, such as the Northfork Correctional Facility in Sayre.

To make classes more accessible to students through the Internet, SWOSU-Sayre faculty will also research on-line course development and delivery this year. More information regarding specific

Pretty in Blue: SWOSU Students Float Through Rodeo Parade

It started out a very humid Saturday afternoon, but the breeze was blowing, and that made everything alright. The SWOSU-Sayre float was a hit with the Elk City Rodeo fans. On board were Chase Cook and his new wife, as well as his brother Cody. Nancy Sanders and Ron Kistler from the Financial Aid office were the driving force behind the entire float.

A special thank-you needs to be said to Tom Warren for securing a truck (loaned by Barber-Dyson) and a trailer (loaned by Elk City Church of God) to pull for the float. Mrs. Terry Bille used her artistic talents to make many logos to attach to the trailer. Ron, Nancy, Tom, and his daughter Stacy Strong painted the trailer and got it ready for the parade.

Brandy the Bulldog was there and, boy, was her tail wagging. She had a great time with all the kids. Sarah Merlatt came and brought a great group of kids. To round it out, we have Candise Warren, Stacy Strong, Kallie Brawner, Kayella Woodard, Tate Ford and Garrett Bailey, as well as Mrs. Ford’s cousin Jo Snow (who is a permanent feature on the SWOSU floats).

The day ended with a nice cool shower and a very fast ride back to the beginning point. All in all, it was a great time!

Calendar

* Sept. 5th, Late penalty assessed if tuition isn’t paid. See Linda in the Business Office
* Sept. 10th, 1pm SAB 105 PBL meeting
* Sept. 15,
  * 12 pm, Computer Club meets in SMH 104.
* Oct. 16th-17, Fall Break

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New Faces on Campus . . .

By Ben Mauldin

Several new hires occurred over the summer, and now SWOSU- Sayre has a new face in the library. April Howenstine is the new librarian here at Sayre. She replaces Janice Hodge who retired at the end of the Spring 2008 semester.

Howenstine started August 18th, 2008. She graduated from Cheyenne High School in 1998 and from Southwestern in Weatherford in 2005. She is currently not married.

Her major at Southwestern was Graphic Design, and she is currently seeking a degree in Library Information Studies at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. She has previously worked in Clinton in the Western Plains Library System for seven years.

Dr. Jim James, Dean of College Associate and Applied Programs here at Sayre, stated: “We are very pleased and excited to have her with us. We know she will do a great job.”

Working 8 to 5 . . .

By Carrie Myers

Two new faces will greet students and visitors in the front offices of the Registrar and of Financial Services and Recruitment.

Nancy Sanders is one of the newest employees at the Sayre campus. She is the Administrative Assistant for the Student Financial Services and Recruitment. Many may have seen her recently assisting Director Ron Kistler. Some of Nancy’s responsibilities include answering the phone, assisting students with financial aid forms and organizing Dawg Days, parades, booths, and other events.

Nancy has been married to her husband Jim for 28 years. She has two children: Ryan, who graduated from SWOSU in 2007, and Zach, who is currently attending SWOSU in Weatherford. Nancy’s hobbies include cooking, fishing, camping, and working in the yard.

When asked how students benefit from having a campus here in Sayre, Sanders replied, “This is a great transition from high school; here, everyone is someone.”

Paula McKennon is also one of the newest employees at the Sayre campus. She is the Administrative Assistant in the Registrar’s Office and works closely with Registrar Kim Seymour. Some of Paula’s responsibilities include answering the phone and assisting students with enrollment.

Paula is single with two children, Shana and Todd, and grandmother to five. She is a former foster parent. Some of Paula’s hobbies include sewing, gardening, reading, and remodeling her home.

When asked what attracted her to SWOSU, McKennon replied, “I wanted a change and enjoy working with kids and people.”

With their friendliness and enthusiasm, these ladies will make an unbeatable team. Be sure to get to know them! You’ll be glad you did.
Dawg Day Scales New Heights

By Michelle Butcher

SWOSU’s Sayre campus held the 2008 annual Dawg Day on August 22nd which consisted of activities such as rock climbing and karaoke. Thanks to InterBank, First National Bank, and Great Plains National Bank, the students were able to enjoy delicious burgers, chips, cookies, and watermelon.

Dawg Day was a great way for students to register to vote, sign up for clubs and activities, learn more about stopping student violence through the VIPER program, and to see many other things available to students, or just hang out and meet new friends.

Many students went home with a free SWOSU goodie bag, free color-changing cups, and if they entered the raffle, many won prizes.

The SWOSU spirit was introduced by the school mascot—Brandy the Bulldog, who also played a part in all of the Dawg Day activities by rock climbing and singing karaoke.

A karaoke contest was held and a winner was chosen out of the competitors. Shannon Eslinger went home with a $100 gift certificate to the bookstore.

Dawg Day was enjoyed by many and will be continued each fall at SWOSU–Sayre.

Meet Derek Wheeler—New BCM Director

By Kristine Hall

Derek Wheeler always felt a desire to be in ministry. He knew it was his calling at age 15 when he was a member of the Elk City Baptist youth group. Wheeler is now the new BCM Director here on campus. Derek attended SWOSU in Sayre for the Fall Semester of 2001, then in 2002 transferred to WOSC in Altus. In 2005 Derek transferred to SWOSU in Weatherford where he attended the BCM.

Being passionate about working in ministry, Derek originally wanted to be the BCM director in Weatherford. There were no openings at that time, but fortunately Sayre had a position for him. Wheeler calls the opportunity “a God thing.” Derek’s goals for the BCM are to get students to see it as not just a place to have a free lunch on Wednesdays, but to see it as a place they can go if they have a need or want to hang out throughout the week.

Derek recently married his wife, Vanessa, and is currently working to achieve his bachelor’s degree in Interdisciplinary Studies at SWOSU in Weatherford. He plans to eventually receive his Master’s Degree in Biblical Counseling.

The BCM is free to everyone on campus. If you have any questions about the BCM go see Derek at the building north of the Library or visit him on FaceBook (his profile name is Derek BCM).

Events are as follows:
- September 12 – Momentum Collegiate Conference (FBC Moore)
- September 24 - See You at the Pole, national prayer event (On Campus)
- November 14, 15 - BCM Volleyball Tournament (UCO Edmond)
- There will be a free lunch every Wednesday this fall from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., except during Thanksgiving Break and Finals.
Should the Drinking Age Be Lowered to 18?

By Matt Brooks

A hot topic everywhere right now is should the drinking age be lowered from 21 to 18. One reason this question has arisen is because some college presidents think that it makes it more tempting for underage people to drink illegally. They also bring up the fact that students are going to drink anyway, so you may as well go ahead and make it legal.

Another reason this topic has come up is because people are starting to question the fact that at age 18 you can vote and you can also fight for our country; however, you can’t legally drink alcohol until the age of 21.

On the other hand, some people are afraid this will promote binge drinking. Since it will be legal, it will be open for even more drinking than before. When the drinking age was raised to 21 in 1987, it was a law with good intentions, thinking that it would save lives and prevent people from getting into alcohol-related accidents because of youth and irresponsibility. Over the years the drinking age has changed, so maybe this will be another change.

Drinking laws vary from state to state. In the state of Oklahoma, it is legal to consume alcohol in a private setting; however, in Texas it is legal to consume alcohol under the age of 21 if a parent or guardian is present. And in Kansas it is completely illegal for a person under the age of 21 to possess or consume alcohol.

So right now this is a pretty hot topic, in the news, on TV, in newspapers, and all over the internet. It seems like we have been hearing a lot about it.

My own personal opinion is that it would make more sense to just lower the age to 18. You can smoke when you are 18 and you can fight and die for your country, yet you can’t even drink legally? Besides that, most people have drank alcohol while under the age of 21, so just go ahead and lower it.

“It makes people want to drink more when it’s illegal,” stated one 18-year-old on campus.

Public Opinion—American Made

By Michelle Anderson

The United States, once an industrial super giant, produced 50% of all the world’s goods. Today however, that is not the case. According to standupforsteel.org, 49,000 American manufacturers will lose their jobs to foreign markets per month. That is 12,250 unemployed Americans per week, and estimated 1,750 job losses per day.

Many of these foreign countries do not uphold the same safety standards as the United States; this has become apparent with the lead paint recalls last year. Nevertheless, companies continue to ship manufacturing overseas.

Airlines are now using foreign repair shops to maintenance their aircrafts.

Are Americans at risk?
Foreign repair stations have no safety guidelines or security measures for workers. Repairs are often done by unlicensed technicians.
IMA reports “aircraft has returned from repair shops with flaps rigged improperly, engine fan blades installed backwards, airspeed lines disconnected, and emergency slides deactivated.” However, all these planes were deemed airworthy by the foreign repair stations.

Americans may be unaware that the many of the foreign factories now construct the support our troop emblems as well as our nation’s flag, America’s symbol of freedom. When one purchases these items, one may be open-handedly giving to a country that considers itself communist. While Americans fight to defend our freedom, the movement of the factories has a significant impact on the United States: from the rise in unemployment, to jeopardizing of American security. Why, one might ask. Just because someone can save a few bucks.
Litary Club Announces Book

By Carrie Myers

Playing For Pizza is a short novel by John Grisham, released on September 25, 2007. The novel is about an itinerant American football player who can no longer get work in the National Football League and whose agent, as a last resort, signs a deal for him to play for the Parma Panthers, in Parma, Italy. The quarterback's move to a small city in a foreign land leads to a series of cultural misadventures.

New Year . . . Continued from page one

(Continued from page 1) courses should be available soon.

The Sayre campus is also making college more convenient by taking classes to Elk City. Three night classes will be taught at Elk City High School in the upcoming semester—Computer/Information Access and General Psychology. These classes are in addition to the regular lineup of night classes offered at the Sayre campus. “We are trying to make classes more available to those who are interested, along with giving some of our Elk City students the opportunity to save some gas by offering classes nearby,” James said.

The Sayre Campus has also made some additions to the staff this year. They include new administrative assistants in the Financial Aid and Recruitment office and the Registrar’s Office, a new librarian, a new Maintenance Technician/ Groundskeeper, and they have also hired additional evening Interactive Video (ITV) Course Room Coordinators. “We are now fully staffed and look forward to working with the excellent new staff members joining us this year,” James reports.

New this school year will be the Martin Luther King Holiday. Starting in January of 2010, class will be dismissed on MLK Day.

Last year the Sayre campus held their first annual Counselor’s Appreciation Day. “It was well received and we are hoping for another,” James said.

In the early fall SWOSU will begin a marketing plan in order to supply the students with more scholarship opportunities. They will also be expanding their recruitment base to some of the area high schools. Another project that is in the works is expanding the ITV courses and adding on-line courses.

SWOSU-Sayre is committed to the safety of the students and faculty. And regarding security measures on campus this year, a campus wide inter-com system is going to be installed. A CLEET trained officer is now on campus, and the former concession stand in the gym across from the main entrance to the Fitness Center has been renovated in a Security Office. Also the Chief of police from SWOSU Weatherford campus will be making regular visits to the Sayre Campus.

Litary Club will meet in the Lit Pit located in Mackey Hall. The first meeting will be Wednesday, September 3, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. The book Playing For Pizza can be bought at Walmart, Walgreens', United, Amazon.com or see Mrs. Haught to order yours.

Come join Lit Club for food, fun, and prizes. Some instructors are giving bonus points for your participation. Ask your instructor for details.

By Kasie Gatlin

Join PBL

Need to hone your business skills? Need extra credit? It’s easier than you think. Join PBL today!

You don’t have to be a business major, either. To join Phi Beta Lambda, talk to Ms. Hernandez in the Mackey Hall room number 153. There is a one-time fee of $20.00. Check with your instructors to see if they give extra credit for being in PBL.

The first meeting is September 10th at 1:00 p.m. at Sayre Mackey Hall room 105. Cookies will be served.

PBL is a national student vocational education association that prepares students for careers in business and business education. Students may compete for regional and national awards in fun cities across the U.S, and trips to conferences and competitions are paid for by the school!
It’s Your Fitness Center—And It’s FREE

By Cheryl Irwin

Don’t forget to exercise your body, as well as your mind! The workout room and gymnasium are located inside the Patterson Field House. Students are encouraged to use the facility, which includes a full size basketball court and a mirrored weight room. Membership is included in your tuition.

Hours are Mon. Tues. & Thurs. 8:00 am -8:00 pm & Wed. & Fri. 8:00-5:00. There is still a need for one attendant to work in the gym at 10 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. To apply, see Ron Kistler in the Financial Aid office.

Brandy—She’s Everywhere!

The SWOSU mascot Brandy, the big bulldog, has been seen lately around the Sayre campus. She was at Dawg Day and met everybody including visitors, students, and staff. Brandy participated in karaoke as well as climbing the wall that the Oklahoma National Guard had displayed. When asked what she was doing on this campus she replied, “It’s kind of nice to get away from the Weatherford campus once in a while.”

By Cheryl Irwin

Ron Kistler asked her to ride the float in the Labor Day rodeo parade and she obliged. She was seen throwing out footballs, Frisbees, and candy to the spectators at the parade.

Brandy was a “big hit” to everyone young and old.

She was asked what her plans are now, and her reply was, “I think I’ll just hang around in Ron’s office for a couple of days.” When Brandy goes back to the Weatherford campus, she will be greatly missed. She was told to come back any time to visit.

West Wins Book Drawing

Literary Club announces the winner of the book Dear John, given away during Dawg Day. At left Stacy West is presented the book from Mrs. Ford. West is a sophomore from Elk City.
Scenes From Dawg Day at Sayre

Some campaigning for the House by Dan Gambill.

Adam Brookes enjoying a free burger.

Brandy and Mrs. Mosburg are old pals.

Terry Billey drawing student names for a raffle.

Kelsey Ackley singing “You’re So Vain” for karaoke...

Shannon Eslinger wins $100 in the Karaoke Contest. YOU ROCK. SHANNON!!

Great Plains National Bank provided watermelon. Thank you, Nancy for cutting it up.

Brandy’s got talent.

Leslie Castleberry gives away free trinkets and ice cold water.

Mrs. Coker takes a break from her busy schedule.

InterBank employees serve hot hamburgers.

Photos by Michelle Butcher and Kasie Gatlin
Join Computer Club Today

By Ben Mauldin

SWOSU Computer Club will have its first meeting on Monday, Sept. 15, at 12 pm.

Mrs. Debbie Carpenter is the sponsor, and membership is free. The meetings will be held in Mackey Hall, room 104.

The club is an active student organization promoting professional development of Computer Science students and providing an opportunity for social interaction for those with interests in Computer Science and information Systems.

The club holds meetings providing interesting and informative programs and arranges trips to company computing facilities. Participation in programming contests and fundraisers are activities of the club.

Ask your instructors to see if they offer bonus points for participation in Computer Club.

Back to School Word Search Puzzle

ASR

U Q D E C J Y E

SZ PT I C R DH LI A U

PRRE IC MPL E U IG G L R D

O D C N T M ESA Q BC E N A G GH

MK LO I O Q D Y C N QC A N I TE Y W

LY US O AG M IC IO H N ST C S G BS

SB R G NT C H D J I E R T R F

OTA A EY AO OYU P O Y U E A

AC GR B CL ND X L L LT D Y N L B P N A N MA

HI Y T K I OR T IL O O H I Z N U S Z Y M R L U

V ASS O S M M Q N A G I G S E I T IV IT SE F

T UL K I O U V R PL U Y D I T E C H N O L O G Y Y V S

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G D I O D W A P E B M T E R I Y F

F G S U U L N B B C U Q S

T E T X L N F I Y

S Z Y

Pen
Book bag
Loose Leaf Paper
Thesaurus
Advisor
Sociology
Science
Medical Laboratory Technology
Education
Friends
Electives
Fall Festivities,

Pencil
Messenger Bag
Dawg Days
Literature
Literature Club
Music
Criminal Justice
Algebra
Clothes
PBL

Notebook
Binder
History
Financial Aid
English
Gym
Nursing
Business
Computers
Laptops
Phi Beta Kappa

Backpack
Portfolio
Dictionary
Registrar
Psychology
Weight Room
Radiological Technology
Social Work
Zip Drives
Newspaper
Student Government

The WatchDawg is proud to keep in step with the school motto by focusing on you, the student. Sponsor for the newspaper class is Mrs. Terry Ford. The staff (in alphabetical order) is Sharon Adair, Matthew Brooks, Michelle Butcher, Shannon Eslinger, Kasie Gatlin, Kristine Hall-Roed, Tiffany Holloway, Cheryl Irwin, Benjamin Mauldin, Carrie Myers, Nicole Smith, Sarah Stephens, Candise Warren, William (Tom) Warren and Chandra Watts.

All past issues of the WatchDawg are available online by clicking News and Events on the SWOSU-Sayre homepage. The staff prints 110 copies; of those, 30 issues are mailed to local high school counselors in southwest Oklahoma. The paper is available every couple of weeks, and can be found around campus at various leisure hot spots.

Have news to report?
Campus photos to share?
Have an opinion you would like to share?
Contact a staff member or Mrs. Terry Ford at 580-928-5533x152 or e-mail at terry.ford@swosu.edu

2008 Student Publications Staff knows “The Focus is YOU”

From left, Kasie Gatlin, Kristine Hall-Roed, Carrie Myers, Matt Brooks, Sharon Adair, Candise Warren, Ben Mauldin, Tom Warren, Cheryl Irwin, and Michelle Butcher.