The sixty-ninth annual convocation exercises at Southwestern Oklahoma State University at Sayre will be held on Friday, May 11, 2012, at 7:00 pm. SWOSU at Sayre is honored to have Dr. Brent Bell as this year’s commencement speaker.

Dr. Brent Bell is a 1976 graduate of Sayre High School. Upon completion of high school, Dr. Bell attended Sayre Junior College, Southwestern Oklahoma State University – Weatherford is where Dr. Bell received his Pharmacy degree in 1981. Dr. Bell’s medical degree was obtained at the Oklahoma State Osteopathic Medical School. His general Psychiatry Residency was completed at Griffin Memorial Hospital in Norman. Dr. Bell completed his Child/Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship at University of Oklahoma Health Sciences in Oklahoma City. He is board Certified in Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine.

Currently, Dr. Bell is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at OU Health Sciences Center. He is the past President of the Oklahoma Psychiatric Association. He serves on the Governing Board for DMHSAS of the state of Oklahoma. He also serves on the Drug Utilization Board for The Oklahoma Health Care Authority. Dr. Bell serves on the Heartline Advisory Board for Suicide Prevention. He serves

Speaker Announced . . . Commencement on May 11th

The smell of hamburgers cooking and the spirit of fun filled the air on Friday May 20th as the Spring Fling took place inside the Patterson Field house. The SGA holds a Spring Fling every year

Earth-Friendly Volunteers help Beautify Campus for Spring Fling

By Kaci Taylor

Students around campus were making the view more enjoyable while the Spring Fling activities were being held. As music rocked the campus, student volunteers brought flowers from their home or purchased them. Dean Sherron Manning and students helped with the planting of two trees.

With Earth Day just around the corner, the volunteer spirit was rewarded with a free T-shirt (with an earth friendly bulldog logo designed by our own Terry Billey) for all that took part. It was a very rewarding and fun activity for the students to be a part of. Many did not even know about Earth Day. The planting was a huge success.

The WatchDawg
Walk or Not Walk? That is the Question

By Alyssa Brandon

Students spend countless hours and possibly thousands of dollars to reach the point of graduation, yet when the time comes to celebrate all the hard work, many choose to skip out on all the pomp and ceremony. Attendance to graduation ceremonies has been declining from decades ago. Walking across the stage for an Associate Degree may seem pointless to some, but it can be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Some students say they will just walk when they reach a Bachelor’s Degree, but what if that day never comes? Why not celebrate all the accomplishments?

The graduation ceremony is a chance to take pride in what one has worked for and for the family to show how proud and excited they are for the success of a loved one. Some say the ceremony is too long, when in actuality it lasts less than an hour. Some say they can’t afford a cap and gown, but the truth is they are provided free of charge. Some don’t give a reason at all, they just don’t show. When students don’t show up without letting anyone know it causes confusion with those trying to organize the line-up. As much as we want to encourage students to attend the graduation ceremony, if you know you will not be present, please let Kim Seymour in the registrars office know.

More students today are skipping graduating with an Associates all together, and instead taking their credits and transferring to a four year school. This could very well cause problems for the student when they get to another school. If a student has graduated with an Associate Degree, a different school will accept that as proof that they have completed all required General Studies. If a student transfers without an Associates, the school will review the student’s credits and will make them first meet the new school’s outline of credits to complete General Studies before they can begin studying their major.

Another great reason to graduate with an Associates is to show others that you have completed something. During an interview Ms. Kim Seymour stated that “having a degree on a resume looks much better than someone saying they have 60 credit hours.” That would make it seem like you didn’t finish, where a degree would.

We highly encourage all students to graduate with an Associates Degree and to attend their graduation ceremony. It is a stepping stone to your future and success, and should be recognized as such. Below, students share their thoughts on the occasion:

“It really doesn’t make sense that someone would go all of those years and not go to graduation. It would have been a waste of time to skip graduation.”- Kaley Riley

“I would choose to walk across the stage because I tried hard enough to be at the top of my class. I was ranked third, below two boys, making me the smartest girl.” -Kasandra White

“I have no idea why someone would spend so much time and money to go to school and not walk. I guess some people believe they are too good to walk across stage for a two year degree. I myself am going to walk proudly across that stage, head held high. I have worked my tail off to accomplish this. Also, I am hoping for some real cool graduation presents!”-Jaci Alford

“I would definitely walk, and I would invite my friends and family to come watch. I worked my tail off to walk across that stage. To get my degree is a dream come true for me, and I didn’t spend all this money for nothing.”- Autumn Hufford

“I would walk across the stage because I want to be recognized for my success that I completed whatever level of school I’m in. I walked across in high school and it felt like a big accomplishment.”-Erica Lynch

“I wouldn’t miss my graduation unless something drastic happened. It shouldn’t matter how long it took someone to get there, everyone should care and be proud of themselves. I will go and walk because I worked hard to get there, and I’m going to show my pride in myself.”-Miranda Aranda

“I would never skip graduation. I worked my butt off and had to pay for classes to be able to walk across the stage. I would be dancing across the stage saying ‘heck ya, I did it!’ Also, to have my family there being proud of me would be awesome.”-Dani Farrell

“I wouldn’t walk only because I feel I should have already been done with school. I wouldn’t dare rob my parents of that moment though. I guess if it was ok with them that I didn’t walk, then I wouldn’t. There are too many people! I would want to leave after I walked across the stage. The ceremony is too long I would rather celebrate with only my family.”-Debbie Gallegos

Are there any good reasons to attend graduation ceremonies?


Students share their opinions...
From Stump to Stupendous!

By Karli Davis

No doubt, art beautifies a campus. When a large tree was lost at the entrance into the campus, an unsightly stump marred the landscape. But to our aesthetic rescue came Clayton Coss, from Inola, Oklahoma. Coss is a chainsaw wood sculptor who uses a chainsaw as his only tool. He has been sculpting wood since November 1985 when his father talked him into entering a chainsaw sculpting contest. He has sculpted literally thousands of trees in the Tulsa area and surrounding states.

The history behind the tree is that the tree was in the way of the power lines so they had to trim off the whole north side of the tree. So it was either cut the tree down or turn it into art.

Clayton Coss also designed the Bulldog tree carving on the Weatherford campus. For more information, visit his website: ChainsawArtistry.com. It displays a selection of photographs of the sculptures commissioned by Coss’s clients.

Pictures tell the story of Clayton Coss’s artistic progression from early morning to late afternoon as he turned a stump into a welcome sign at the campus entrance. Photos by Terry Ford.

— Part On-line and Part Class Time —

“Hybrid” Summer Classes Offered

Take a hybrid class and cut your summer travel time (and expense) in half! Work on your class on your laptop in your pajamas or lounging beside the pool!

A “hybrid” course is one in which a significant portion of the learning activities have been moved online and time traditionally spent in the classroom is reduced, but not eliminated.

Two courses—English Composition I and Improvement of Reading—will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but will have on-line activities on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The goal of hybrid courses is to join the best features of in-class lectures with the best features of online learning to promote active, independent learning and reduce class seat time and travel expense.

Enroll now in English Comp. I, Section 27, with Terry Ford from 8 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. and take Improvement of Reading, Section 42, with Holly Hernandez from 9:25 a.m. to 10:40 a.m.

Both instructors will be on campus each Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. during the summer session to assist any with questions.
By Rick Duran

In a recent survey, 73 SWOSU students were asked whether or not they would take advantage of student housing on campus. As the chart below shows, 58% of students said they would live in campus housing if made available, with 29% saying dorms would be an option, and another 29% said couple’s housing or a 2-bedroom apartment would be their preference.

Very few of our students are from Sayre. A majority of students come from Elk City, but some come from as far as Rocky to the west, Durham to the far north, and even Shamrock, Texas, to the far east. Sayre is currently in the middle of a severe housing shortage. “My parents own several rent houses which are all filled,” stated Terry Ford, “and they receive three or four phone calls a day from people inquiring—begging—for housing.”

Dayna Hicks, a SWOSU student from Shamrock, Texas commented on the subject, saying “If student housing were made available in Sayre, I would definitely take advantage of it.”

Dayna finds it hard making time for a job since she has an hour commute to and from class each day. If she were able to live closer to campus, she would have more time available to work.

In addition to cutting down on driving time for students, “having student housing on campus would help provide a more university like experience while still maintaining the small college community,” says Alyssa Brandon, a sophomore from Sayre. This is something students here at SWOSU in Sayre are missing out on. If SWOSU at Sayre were to offer this new experience, it may inspire more students to attend rather than going away to a larger school.

However, while providing a solution to one problem, having more students living in Sayre will raise another question: Where would all the students work? We all know Sayre isn’t the biggest town and has limited jobs available. The solution to this problem may be the short drive to Elk City, which offers many more job opportunities. Also, there are rumors of a new McDonald’s in town.

Kim Seymour, Registrar of the Sayre campus, offered her thoughts over the subject: “The student housing has been a real hot topic. Sayre needs housing. The problem is unless the school builds and manages the housing, it will be swallowed up by people not going to school. I think SWOSU would like for the students here to have housing available, but I’m not sure they want to manage it. Dorms are a lot of headaches.”

Some may remember that Mackey Hall was a dormitory until the 1980’s, when it was remodeled into classrooms. A couple was usually hired as “Dorm Parents” to live in one of the rooms and keep the peace.

Hopefully this survey information will help with the decision of whether or not to build student housing in the future. And hopefully students would take advantage of this opportunity to live on campus, and receive a full college ex-

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**Survey Says: Student Housing Needed for Sayre**

73 SWOSU students were surveyed over student housing. Here are the results: 58% of students said they would live in student housing, 42% said they would not.
Newspaper Class Helps Pick OPA Entries

The SWOSU-Sayre newspaper staff gets invited annually to review the writings of the local newspaper. The students read, categorize, and recommend The Sayre Record’s articles for Oklahoma Press Association Contest—a task the students take seriously. Mrs. Terry Ford, their sponsor, enjoys working closely with the local newspaper, even taking students on field trips and assigning research in The Sayre Record’s archives.

This year, the students were pleased to see that many articles they recommended did actually win state awards. Winning first place was “Murder on Main” (In-Depth Enterprise category), winning 2nd, 3rd, or 4th place in Sales promotion were Veterans Sections. In News Writing the winning articles included: “Cattle to Market,” “Main Street Fire,” and “Prison Riot.” Writing in the Feature Writing were the following: “Last Beckham County Dairy,” “Walking in Tall Cotton,” and “Spitzer in Battle of the Bulge (Christmas).” Photography awards went to two sport pictures including, Erick Lady Bearcats State coverage pictures and James Sanders football sack. News photography winners were Main Street Fire, and Crying Babies with Santa. Feature photos that won awards were: Erick Wizard of Oz kids on stage, and Duck Pond feature in color at the City Park.

“It is great experience to read good writing,” said Terry Ford, newspaper sponsor. “We are very excited to work with The Sayre Record and happy that Editor Dayva Spitzer considers our opinions. We are proud of their award-winning journalism! We have learned so much from reading the excellent writing by Dayva and the Sayre Record Staff,” said Ford.

Photography Contest for SWOSU Students

A photography contest is being held for SWOSU students, the winning photo will be used for the cover of a student anthology. The anthology is to be called “What the Heart Doth Know,” the title is taken from a Shakespearian quotation. The anthology—the 2nd annual volume of student writings and photography—will be available during the literary festival, October 10, 2012. Because the writings are from students in Western Oklahoma, the judges—Mrs. Judy Haught and Mrs. Terry Ford—suggest that the winning cover page photo “should capture Western Oklahoma.”

Now in the planning stages, the festival is to be called, “Much Ado About Words: A Festival of Literary Proportions.”

If you are interested, please email your photos to Terry Ford at terry.ford@swosu.edu, or you may also contact her at SMH 101.

Winner Named in Biggest Loser Contest

Matt Nichols was named the winner of The Biggest Loser Contest on Friday, April 27th. The contest began back in February, and Matt lost his weight early in the first two weeks, but kept it off. As interest in the contest seemed to wane and contestants all but stopped coming to the weekly weigh-ins, Matt’s consistency won him the victory and the $180 cash prize, along with other prizes. Some of the gifts included a tote bag from Maurice’s in Elk City which included discount coupons, punch cards, water bottles and other items; a backpack from SWOSU with a flash drive, pens pencils, calculator and other items; and Maurice’s in Elk City. The sponsors for earlier week of the contest were Granny’s Old Closet in Sayre, The Crooked Spur in Elk City. Thanks to all our sponsors!

Thanks to Coleen Taylor, SGA president for organizing, advertising, and officiating at the contest. Everyone get healthy!
Students and faculty from the radiologic technology program at SWOSU @ Sayre attended the 66th Annual OSRT Radiologic Sciences Seminar held on March 29th, 30th, and 31st at the Tulsa Marriott Southern Hills Hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The seminar is held each year in Tulsa or OKC to advance the radiologic sciences, assist in establishing and maintaining high standards of education and clinical practice and to enhance the quality of patient care in the profession.

On Thursday, students participated in a Jeopardy-style competition called “Wilhelm’s Trivia” (named after Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen, the discoverer of x-rays) where fourteen 4-member teams, made of students from different radiography programs across the state of Oklahoma, competed against each other for the title of 1st, 2nd or 3rd place winner of this year’s competition.

Second-year Sayre student Michael Tidmore was a member of the 1st place team and first-year Sayre student Melanie Davis was a member of the 2nd place team. “SWOSU-Sayre was represented well in this competition. Great job, Michael and Melanie!” stated the program co-sponsor Jess Parker, who is also clinical coordinator and instructor. Also attending the seminar as sponsor for the program’s students was Program Director Chris Stufflebean.

Radiologic technology students also applied for scholarships that were awarded to deserving students at this year’s seminar. First-year student Nicole Smithey was awarded a $125 scholarship, first-year student Aubrey Haffner was awarded a $250 scholarship, and first-year student Dakin Harris received a $250 scholarship. Congratulations to all these deserving students.

“The students and faculty of the radiologic technology program at SWOSU @ Sayre appreciate the support the university provides to help them attend this valuable seminar,” Parker stated. “Students gain invaluable knowledge and experience while in attendance that will benefit them as they complete the program and as they graduate and move into the work force.”
Wanna Get Paid CA$H for Taking a Test?!

By Dayna Hicks

Wouldn’t it be great if you could get paid simply to take a test? Well this is your lucky day! You can earn $20 for taking a test. And if you make the highest score in your group, you can even earn $100! Eligible SWOSU juniors and seniors can register for and take CAAP tests. There are two CAAP test components which are a Critical Thinking and Writing Essay. Both tests can be scheduled by appointment. Students may register by calling 774-3084, 774-7084, or 774-7184. Or by going online to http://www.swosu.edu/resources/evaldata/caapreg.htm!

All participants will receive $20 for participation in an appointment that occurs outside of class time. Also 32 cash prizes will be awarded for the highest scores. Examinees will be grouped in four categories according to their current GPA: a. 2.0-2.5, b. 2.51-3.0, c. 3.01-3.51, d. 3.51-4.0. Students with the four highest scores in each group, per test, will be awarded $100, $75, $50, or $25 respectively. In the case of test scores that tie, cash achievement awards will be split appropriately.

Test results are intended as evidence that SWOSU is doing a good job educating our students,” explained Jan Noble, Director of Assessment for SWOSU. “And thank you for your help!”

Speech Class Saddles Up for Demonstrations

Ashley Franklin brings her saddle and her laptop to show “How to Saddle and Bridle a Horse” for her Demonstration Speech in Intro to Public Speaking. Always entertaining, the speeches have included baking, crafts, decorating, and even facing a corset! Photo by Erica Lynch

Now Showing: The Hunger Games

By Dayna Hicks

The Hunger Games, a hugely popular novel for young adult readers, is now showing in local theaters.

The plot is described this way: “Sixteen year old Katniss Everdeen volunteers in her younger sister’s place to enter the games, and is forced to rely upon her sharp instincts as well as the mentorship of drunken former victor Haymitch Abernathy when she’s pitted against highly-trained Tributes who have prepared for these Games their entire lives. If she’s ever to return home to District 12, Katniss must make impossible choices in the arena that weigh survival against humanity and life against love.”

With cast of Jennifer Lawrence as Katniss Everdeen, Liam Hemsworth as Gale Hawthorne, and Josh Hutcherson as Peeta Mellark, how can you go wrong? In this futuristic world after everything in America has disappeared and left behind Panem in it’s place. We are forced to think about what is left when everything you hold dear is taken from you.

Katniss must fight to stay alive even if it means betraying who she is. Unexpected feelings and confusion unfold as she fights to stay alive through each night. Everything is not what it seems. Especially not for “the Girl on Fire.”

As a fan of the book, I can highly recommend the movie. Go early, as lines may be long!
Deans Improvements to Campus Continue

By Karli Davis and Ashley Brewer

Our very own . . . Extreme Makeover! We want to offer up a round of applause to the creative improvements around our campus! Our newest addition to the Sayre campus improvements this semester is our Lit Pit. Over spring break our Lit Pit underwent a new up do! Dean Manning, Terry Billey, Alan Shockey, and Jeff Roland worked hard to beautify our campus with a fresh coat of paint and new furniture.

Many Students agree the refreshing new retro look, with the bright and brilliant colors really wakes up our Lit Pit. It gives the students a clean and fresh place to meet up and be comfortable to study or hang out solo with their upcoming exams.

According to Dean Manning there are still improvements to come. They hope to do the area outside the student aide offices, considering that there are so many students that study there. They are going for an Internet Café look.

If students have any ideas or want to see anything done they can let the Dean know. She wants the students to be comfortable and happy. More improvements will be done after July 1st, when the new fiscal year begins. Also on tap for the future is repairing or replacing bleachers in the gym, bat removal in the gym, repairing or replacing the Capps Building, and new energy efficient windows in Mackey Hall. These will take time. For example, the window estimate was $37,000, so the Dean noted that the campus will have to find funding for such projects and urged all to get involved in fundraising efforts.

Graduation News, from front

(Continued from page 1)

on multiple other state, local, and hospital boards/committees related to mental health issues.

Formerly, Dr. Bell was the Medical Director for DMHSAS Children’s Services for the State of Oklahoma. For the last 8 years, Dr. Bell has been a Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist and Chairman of Behavior Medicine at St. Anthony Hospital in Oklahoma City.

Dr. Bell has received the St. Anthony Hospital’s 2011 St. Luke Award. This coveted award is given each year by St. Anthony Hospital Administration Council to a physician who most exemplifies the life of St. Luke, The Patron Saint of Physicians and Surgeons.

Specifically, Bell was recognized for his unwavering and tireless commitment to the mission and values of the hospital.

It is with great pleasure for Southwestern Oklahoma State University at Sayre to welcome Dr. Brent Bell to address the graduates of 2012.

Reception

Following graduation a reception will be held in the Bulldog Café. Free refreshments are served. All graduates are encouraged to bring family and friends by the Bulldog. The reception is open to the public.

Rehearsal

All graduates need to meet at the Sayre High School Auditorium at 10:30 a.m. on May the 9th. The high school auditorium is located one block north of the campus. Kim Seymour will assist graduates in lining up correctly for the big night.
SWOSU Grad Gets Spooky . . .
So Much Success It’s FRIGHTENING

By Josi Eeds

SWOSU graduate Chad Lagunas has hit the big time! He graduated in 2006, from SWOSU with a degree in Health Care Administration and Management. He is now giving people a break from reality— he is in the business of haunted attractions and Halloween costumes, and there is big, big money to be made!

He runs Wicked Andy’s Productions out of Charlie, Texas. His haunted hay ride takes people through acres of spooky attractions. He hires fifty to sixty actors—many drama students from nearby Midwestern State University—to dress in costumes and to operate puppets. His shows feature pyrotechnics and animatronics. Some of the costumes cost between $800-$2,000 each.

Chad, formerly a jockey and horse trainer, was down and out and nearly broke when he stumbled upon the idea of haunted houses. Then he met a guy who had made 4 million on costume shops.

Chad’s first venture was a fundraiser for underprivileged kids. He created a haunted hay ride and was overwhelmed by the public’s response.

“The wagon held 25 people, and we filled ’er up each time and made 14 trips that night,” Chad said. It was so successful that he started his business venture, named Wicked Andy’s Productions, in honor of his brother Andy who recently passed away.

Each year Chad sits at his drafting table with a map of the acreage and redesigns the haunted hay ride so it will be unique.

Chad was the SGA President while attending college here and, coincidentally, was very active in the annual Halloween dress up contest at SWOSU. As an officer, he also ran several fundraisers on SWOSU campus.

With his new income, Chad has been able to take his son Bryce to Hawaii to swim with the dolphins, to Disney World in Florida, and has time to see him every weekend.

We here at SWOSU are so proud of Chad—and all of our grads who have hit the big time! If anyone would like to visit his haunted hay ride, head down to Charlie, Texas this fall. Check out his website at www.wickedandysproductions.com.

New Dean Celebrated at Luau Reception

The newly named Dean of the College of Associate and Applied Programs, Sherron Manning, was welcomed by faculty and staff at a luau held in the Bulldog Café on Thursday, April 19th.

Guests brought finger foods, along with punch and Texas tea. The center piece of the banquet table was an island of fruit, featuring a pineapple volcano with an eruption of grapes, melon boats with sails, and palm trees made of carrots and pineapple leaves. The fruit island was the creation of Bill D’Alessandro, former chef and head of the Hospitality program at Sayre.

Hawaiian music played in the background, and a good time was had by all.
Students enjoy Spring Fling Activities!

around the same time for students to be involved and interact with others on the campus.

This year there were many activities taking place, including a huge blow-up obstacle course where students could be a "kid" again, climbing and bouncing through the toy. They also took part in a tug-of-war resulting in a few small bruises on some of the students! No one was physically hurt, but the losers feelings may have needed to bandaged!

Freshly grilled hot dogs and hamburgers were served along with chips, cookies, and cold drinks, all for FREE to SWOSU students and just in time to give all a little “fun break” before Finals!

Students could spin the Bulldawg wheel for a chance to win a Door Prize. The prizes included many local business vouchers and other coupons. There was a drawing for a chance to win an Ipad 2, with the lucky winner being Kayleigh Reed!

If you missed out on this fun-filled time be sure and join everyone next year! The tradition will go on every Spring semester here on the Sayre campus. Be sure and take part in your campus activities!