SGA Hosts Games at Renaissance Fair

The newly-formed Student Government body has hit the ground running. The officers are planning games for the Oct. 10th Literary Festival and Renaissance Fair.

Some games planned include Medieval Plinko, Spin DaVinci’s Color Wheel for prizes, Men in Tights Race (where contestants race to wriggle into tights), Jousting, Rat Toss, and more!

Prizes have been donated by Granny’s Old Closet of Sayre and SWOSU.

The event begins at 9 a.m. and ends around 2 p.m. A free lunch is being provided at the Bulldog Café by the Rotary Club, and entertainment is a one-act play performed by the children from the Elk City area.

The SGA members are searching for

PICKING OUT COSTUMES for the Renaissance Fair on October 10th are SGA officers Alexis Fanshier, freshman from Oklahoma City, and Jordan Roberts, sophomore from Erick. Everyone is invited to dress for the fair!

Homeschoolers Present Play

At Noon Oct. 10th

Drama students from the Heart of Western Oklahoma Homeschoolers association are busy rehearsing The Painting as they prepare to perform at the SWOSU-Sayre Literary Festival, October 10th.

The play will take place at the Bulldog Café at noon. The Rotary Club of Sayre will be providing a free lunch. They will be serving delicious hotdogs with all the trimmings.

Mrs. Erin Brewer, of Elk City, is the director of the one-act comedy. Come hungry and ready to laugh.
Dr. Henrietta Mann to Speak at Lit Fest

...at 9 a.m. in McMahan Library, Oct. 10th

Dr. Henrietta Mann, world-renowned speaker and award-winning Native American, will be in the McMahan Library in Mackey Hall.

The lineup for “Much Ado About Words: A Festival of Literary Proportions” on Oct. 10 has had a slight change. Mr. Alden Whiteman is unable to attend, but in his stead will be Dr. Henrietta Mann—a Southern Cheyenne enrolled with the Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma.

Her soft-spoken grace and beauty will delight the audience, as well as her wealth of knowledge on Native culture and literature. She grew up in Hammon with a mixture of traditional Native teachings and values, and the white man’s Christianity and education system. Dr. Mann was never really broken or robbed of her Native culture.

In an interview for the Montana State University where she would work in later years, Dr. Mann said, “I’m not conventional. I never have been. But I know where there are boundaries and I push them.”

Dr. Mann knew early in life that she wanted to be an educator, and consequently was only 16 when she enrolled at SWOSU where she would receive a Bachelor’s Degree of Arts in 1954 at the age of 19. She would go on to receive a Master’s Degree of Arts in 1970 and become a Doctor of Philosophy in Native American Studies at the University of New Mexico—Albuquerque in 1982. She has been employed at several colleges, including Harvard, and she is currently the President of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal College, established in August of 2006.

“She lives a journey between two breaths, a circular journey,” states Mann. In 1983, she was named Cheyenne Indian of the Year, and in 1987 was declared National American Indian Woman of the Year (Mahan).

In 1991, Dr. Mann was named one of the top ten educators in the nation by Rolling Stone Magazine. She was inducted into the Southwestern Oklahoma State University’s Hall of Fame in 1997 and also published her book, Cheyenne and Arapaho Education 1871-1982, in which she interviews many Tribal Elders, including Crooked Nose Woman—the oldest living Elder at the time.

In 2008 she was given both the Bernard S. Rodney Award by the University of New Mexico and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Indian Education Association.

She also received the Oklahoma State University Distinguished Alumni in 2008. Dr. Mann has been asked to pray in her Native tongue at a multitude of various events and places over the years including: Collegiate events, indigenous gatherings in New Zealand and at Stonehenge, Ground Zero in New York City, and Cape Canaveral when Native astronaut John Harrington went to space.

“The Language Arts Department is thrilled to have her on campus,” stated English instructor Terry Ford.

Dr. Henrietta Mann, world-renowned speaker and award-winning Native American, will be in the McMahan Library in Mackey Hall.

Looking to hire a few students for Oct. 10th...

Can You Work the Festival?

With the monies from the grant for the Literary Festival, Mrs. Judy Haught is looking to employ four students for the day.

The pay is minimum wage and pays up to seven hours of work.

“We need some students to arrive at 7:45 a.m. on October 10th to help set up the tables for our vendors and games. We would also need help taking it all down at 2 p.m.,” explained Haught. “During the day, the student could attend required classes, but might also be looking out for visitors to the campus who need help finding their way around, or the student might run some errands for us.”

To apply for the position, go on the Bulldog Job Board at swosu.edu and see job number: 2790916.

Volunteers are also being sought to assist in running the games and passing out the prizes for the Renaissance Fair, held in conjunction with the Lit Fest. See Mrs. Terry Ford or SGA President Kayleigh Reeves to sign up for booths.

One or two people can work each booth in one hour shifts. Costumes are welcome but not required!
SWOSU BLOOD DRIVE a big success

The campus BLOOD DRIVE was held on September 24, 2012. The Medical Laboratory Technicians sponsored the event.

The drive, held in the Patterson Field House, provided t-shirts to those who donated, and students in the medical field even earned a few bonus points for bringing in friends and family.

With 92 people signed up to donate, the event was very successful, and the Red Cross personnel were surprised and delighted by the turn-out, according to faculty member Kathy Brooks, who directed the event.

People always turn out for the annual Blood Drive at the Sayre campus. Photo by Alicia Crum.

Enter the MISS SWOSU PAGEANT by Oct. 9th

An informational meeting for the Miss SWOSU Scholarship Pageant was held Thursday, September 13, on the Weatherford campus, but it’s not too late to enter!

All SWOSU students who would like to participate in the November 10th pageant are invited to enter before Oct. 9th. There is no entry fee. Information will be available for potential contestants.

The pageant is open to all full-time female students enrolled on the Weatherford or Sayre Campuses with a grade point average of 2.5 or above.

The Miss Southwestern Pageant is an affiliate of the Miss Oklahoma/Miss America Scholarship Pageants. Jenna Crispin of Taloga is the current Miss SWOSU.

For more information, call pageant director Debbie Brown in the Public Relations & Marketing Office at (580) 774-3063 or email Debbie.brown@swosu.edu

The reigning Queen, Miss SWOSU Jenna Crispin, will be relinquishing her crown to the next Miss SWOSU of 2013 on November 10th!

• Every two seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood.
• More than 44,000 blood donations are needed every day.
• A total of 30 million blood components are transfused each year in the U.S. (2006).
Panel of Students to Speak at Lit Fest

“What the Heart Doth Know” anthology will be distributed

By Blake Cuevas

Some of SWOSU’s very own students will be speaking at this year’s Literary Festival on Wednesday, October 10th. The panel discussion will be held in Mackey Hall Room 110 at 9:00 a.m.

The panel will consist of Ashley Brewer, Paula Gloria, Alicia Moglia, Samuel Maddux, Lindsey Dillon, Jaci Alford, and Kaylee Riley. The moderator for the discussion is Dr. Jerry Nye, retired Chair of the Language Arts Department in Weatherford.

The students will address questions about their writings. Some of their poetry, essays and/or photography is being featured in an Anthology of Student Writing named “What the Heart Doth Know,” which will be distributed on campus during the Literary Festival for free to the first 50 students.

The 80-page publication contains the works of students in English Composition classes from the spring, summer and fall semesters of 2012. The beautiful full color photographs in the anthology are the work of SWOSU students, and the front cover photograph of boots was taken by Meagan Thompson, a junior from Sayre.

All who want to read their poetry or an excerpt from their essay can attend the open mic at The Brick from 5-7 Wednesday October, 2012. The Brick is located at 109 E. Main in Sayre.

Online Degree Being Planned

SWOSU is looking into the future for you

By Blake Cuevas

Online education is extremely popular with students, and SWOSU at Sayre is close to completing a full online General Studies degree program. Instructors can volunteer to teach the on-line courses, and also approval has been given to start searching for an online adjunct faculty pool. If local faculty are interested in teaching a course online, of course, they will be given first choice. The timeline for having the General Studies online and ready to go is Summer 2013.

Distance Learning has hired a new instructional coordinator, Erin Ingraham, and she will upload and assist instructors with all content on D2L.

Dr. Ben Meredith, former Director of Distance Education, spoke to the Sayre faculty and staff earlier in the semester. He explained the variety of courses to be offered, which includes “hybrid” classes, which may be mostly online, but may also physically meet one or more times during a semester.

He stressed the importance of online offerings, not only because students love them, but they are asking of their universities, “What can you do for me?”

Meredith said, “There has been a steady increase of 14% in the last 7 years in online or blended modality. Around 1,700 or 1/3 of the entire enrollment at SWOSU, take an online or blended class. They are convenient, especially to many students that are not able to take classes because of working full time or having children at home.”

While many scholars fear it is not the best way to learn, the present and future reality is that the college must fill this demand. However, quality of education must not suffer, so the Distance Ed Department is developing rubrics to maintain the same rigor in online classes as in face-to-face classes. The plan is to move more classes here at Sayre into an online or blended setting.

“Even for students who live less than a minute away from campus, if they can’t go to face-to-face classes, they will find another junior college or university that fills their needs,” Meredith stated. “We are losing 10 to 20% of resident students who are taking distant classes from other places.”

Students are also looking for whole degree programs to take online, and SWOSU plans to meet this need in the near future. Currently, many basic courses are offered online, but the plan is to work toward offering the full Associates Degree with all requirements available on line.
Never Too Old to Get an Education

77-year old man finally gets high school diploma . . .

. . . Sayre campus is home to many mature students . . .

By Ashley Brewer

The Sayre campus always contains a variety of faces—from fresh and young to older and more experienced.

An article about a 77-year old man, Bobby McWilliams, who received his high school diploma made us think about how it is never too late to go to college.

“Oh man,” said McWilliams. “I felt like doing backflips and standing on my head.” Born with a disability, McWilliams struggled through high school the first time around, until he finally dropped out his sophomore year back in the mid-Fifties. He wanted that education during his trip through life, but life sometimes has its own ideas and delayed his dream.

But, at 76 years old, he finally took his dream off that shelf. We all have stored a dream or two on that shelf and dusted it off . . .

“We have all stored a dream or two on that shelf and dusted it off . . .”

The Sayre campus always contains a variety of faces—from fresh and young to older and more experienced. Proud are we of this heroic man for not giving up on his lifetime dream and for knowing that he was capable of doing so.

Just as Bobby McWilliams wanted to go back to school and proudly did, so we at SWOSU have a great many doing the same thing.

“I have seen more older students in the last couple of semesters . . .” mentioned our very own SWOSU student Bonnie Louise Smith, who is currently attending classes at the Sayre Campus. Bonnie is 47 years old and lives in Elk City. She has a daughter, Crystal, and two granddaughters and two grandsons. Bonnie is currently a full time student. She also is enrolled in the work study program, while also helping out at home with the grooming and boarding business. Before returning to school Bonnie trained racing Greyhounds.

“When I first came back to school I felt like I was having a hard time retaining information, but as I got back into it, it has become easier with each passing day and each passing semester,” Bonnie admitted with a smile. When asked why she decided to return to school, Bonnie replied, “In part I knew the Greyhound business was a dying trade, and unfortunately, I would eventually have the need to enter into another type of career. We still have a few Greyhounds, but its not the same anymore. And in part I am back in school just for a hobby. . . I decided it would be beneficial for me to go back to school and further my education.”

So Bonnie decided to go into the health field as a nurse, to acquire skills to also go along with the health/medical knowledge she already had from her previous experiences while working with the racing Greyhounds. “I have talked to several other students who also have the same type of story. . . They weren’t doing as well as they wanted or knew they could so they came back to school to further their current situations, as did I,” Bonnie said. She plans to receive her associates degree in May and then to attend the nursing program in Altus, OK.

SGA to tackle Renaissance Fair, then Fall Spook Fest

(Continued from page 1)

Renaissance costumes and will be dressed for the fair. Students and visitors, too, are invited to come in costume. A photo area will be provided and a few costumes are available, sizes 8-22 for women and M-L for men, so that anyone can get picture taken.

At the end of the month, a Fall Spook Fest will feature a Halloween Dress Up Contest for cash prizes, so plan now and get creative!

Elections were held last week; new officers busy

Bonnie Smith is happy to be furthering her education at this point in life.
Breaking Barriers: Intercultural Communication

Speech class humanities project to be part of Lit Fest

By Julie Olson

Most students would agree that knowledge is power, and that every student has a unique set of life experiences that comprise their cultural identity.

This month, Mrs. Terry Ford’s Introduction to Public Speaking class presented their speeches on multiculturalism. Each student chose a particular culture or co-culture to use as their topic. These included the Hispanic, Jewish, Military, Persons with Disabilities, African American, Lebanese, Philippino, Vietnamese, Illegal Immigrants, and the LGBT community, to name a few.

Students explored other cultures outside their identity, while also understanding or disproving stereotypes that are often associated with these different communities.

Studying other cultures and co-cultures is an important factor in enhancing personal and social interactions while also equipping the student in resolving misunderstandings. It is also an important factor in eradicating ethnocentrism and preventing prejudice and discrimination. Each student that participated in this assignment was required to create a visual aid to be used in conjunction with their speech.

Bonnie Smith speaks on the Hispanic Immigrant culture, using visual aids. All of the posters will be on display during the Literary Festival Oct. 10th.

These story boards and posters will be on display as a Humanities Project in Mackey Hall during the Literary Festival “Much Ado About Words” on October 10th for all students, faculty and visitors to enjoy.

The Literary Festival is sponsored by a grant from the Oklahoma Humanities Counsel and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Writing Center is here to help!

E-mail your essays for a once-over before turning them in!

Need help with writing? The Writing Center is free and at your service! It is available on the swosu.edu website, and also has a physical location in the basement of the Al Harris Library (room B3) on the Weatherford campus.

Simply e-mail your essays or other writing projects to the Center by way of an attachment, and in 24-48 hours, you will receive many helpful additions, suggestions, and corrections.

If visiting in person, it is always a good idea to call ahead (774-7083), email them at this address: (writingcenter@swosu.edu), or check their Facebook page (S.W.O.S.U. Writing Center) and Twitter feed (@swosuwrites) for any changes to the schedule.

The Writing Center will be closed during Fall and Thanksgiving breaks, and will close for the semester on Wednesday, December 12th.

Are you looking for feedback on a science-based writing project? They have a consultant with a strong science background in the center at the following times: MWF 10am-12pm & Thursdays 6-8pm.

Fall 2012 Hours
Sunday: 6-10pm
Monday: 10am-noon & 4-8pm
Tuesday: 11am-7:30pm
Wednesday: 10am-noon & 2-6pm
Thursday: 11am-8pm
Friday: 10am-noon & 2-5pm

Dr. Denise Landrum-Geyer, the Writing Center Coordinator, will hold office hours in the center on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9:30-11 a.m.

Is English your second language?
Interested in meeting new people? Want to practice your English conversation skills? Come to the English Conversation Corner (ECC) on Friday afternoons from 3-4:30pm in the center.