$15,000 in Scholarships Awarded!

These Students Won Scholarships! Every year, the SWOSU Foundation awards scholarships to Sayre students. This year’s winners were Jennifer Wing, of Elk City, OK, Britney Widener, of Arkansas City, KS, Kolbi Bishop, of Davis, Christina Lewis, of Elk City, and Dustin Ferris, of Elk City. Not pictured: Kurtis Clark.

Could You Be One of Them Next Year?

This year, $15,000 in scholarship money was distributed between six Sayre students: Jennifer Wing, Britney Widener, Kolbi Bishop, Christina Lewis, Kurtis Clark, and Dustin Ferris.

“You, too, can be a winner,” stated Nancy Sanders of the Financial Aid Office. Don’t count yourself out without even trying! These students are glad they applied. Next year in January, watch for information in your e-mail or signs posted around campus telling you about the deadlines and other qualifying information.

Here are some of the scholarships available:

William and June Stovall Scholarship: For students who are residents of Beckham County and Western Oklahoma.

Bill W and Beatrice F. Fuller: Can be awarded to any student based on need and/or scholarship.

(Continued on page 3)
Timed WARP Winners Take Home Scholarships

Snow and ice delayed SWOSU’s annual Timed WARP this year, but it didn’t dampen the spirit of the 18 writers who were able to attend on its rescheduled date of March 24th.

The Writing and Research Project, or WARP, is a chance for high school students to compete for a scholarship, to get feedback on their writing from college instructors, and to familiarize themselves with the Sayre campus.

This year’s winner was Jonah White of Elk City who won a $600 scholarship. Second place and a $500 scholarship went to Trey Berry of Granite. Third place and $400 went to Cy Calhoun, also of Granite.

“We were pleased to have students from Granite, Wheeler, Elk City, Merritt and Erick,” stated Judy Haught, director of the project. “We appreciate those teachers who take time out of class to provide this opportunity to their students.”

Staying with this year’s theme of “Brave New Word,” Jonah White wrote “The Vision of the Future.” He argued that “The future that is being created henceforth is a future where advanced robotics replace human labor, increased communication technology causes face-to-face communication to be nearly nonexistent, and ready-to-eat food creates a generation of obese and lazy humans.” He went on to argue with originality for “dystopia” instead of “utopia.”

Trey Berry had a fresh perspective on the idealized future in his essay titled “The Decline in Technological Advances.” He asserted advances will be small instead of leaps and bounds as many would assume. Cy Calhoun wrote on the topic of robotics today compared to the way “Rosie” the robot was portrayed in the futuristic cartoon *The Jetsons.* This paper was entitled, “Robotics: Into the Future.”

“We were thrilled with the quality of the writing this year,” stated one of the judges, SWOSU English instructor Terry Ford. “Overall, the students did a good job following the MLA standards for research. Congratulations to the winners.”

The attending high school teachers were presented with a continuing education workshop, entitled “Using Popular Culture and Media in the Classroom.” All of the visitors to campus were treated to breakfast and lunch, entertained with games, awarded prizes and were sent home with t-shirts and gift bags.

Mrs. Haught thanked DeShawna Smyth for her assistance, as well as the faculty and staff on campus for making the day a success.

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**SGA**

**Campus Spring Fling!**

**When:** Wednesday, April 1

**What:** EGG HUNT for $$

& for prizes, including HP laptop & tablet

**Where:** All over campus!
Enroll Now! Two New Classes Available

Developing Business Model

By Morgan Hagerman
Dreamed of owning your own store? Now you can see what it would be like with a fun new class offered this fall. It’s called “Developing Business Model.”

It is a business simulation course, meaning you get to name your business and practice running it. Best of all, no book is required, just a $29.95 online access code. What a bargain!

Instructor of this online class is Renae Bagzis. Here are a couple of great things that you can experience before taking on the responsibilities of owning your very own store.

- Advertising
- Hiring people
- Coming up with your own business name
- Improve your communication, leadership and interpersonal skills
- Make decisions based on your business setup

Creative Writing: Poetry

Another new class for fall is a humanities course called “Creative Writing: Poetry.” It is offered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. in SMH 110.

Whether you like Shakespeare or Shania, Bob Dylan or Dylan Thomas, your love of all things lyrical will be satisfied in Mrs. Terry Ford’s new humanities course.

No book is required, as the instructor will provide materials. The lives of poets will be examined in videos, and students may try their hands at emulating the greats, plus developing their own modern style.

Enroll now!!!

Scholarships, continued

(Continued from page 1)

L. L. “Red” Males Scholarship: For students who are residents of Roger Mills County transferring from SWOSU Sayre Campus to the Weatherford.

Interbank of Sayre: Awarded to a full time student on the Sayre Campus. Must be a U. S. Citizen. Financial need and academic merit are considered.

Cecil & Gladys Lewis Scholarship: For a Sayre student from Beckham or Roger Mills Counties.

Andy and Dora Farmer Memorial Scholarship: For full-time students on the Sayre Campus, being a U.S. citizen with a home residence in Oklahoma.

If you could use an extra $2,000, don’t forget to see Nancy Sanders next January to apply.
Campus Says Bye to Stufflebean and Welcomes Sheana Thompson

Taking over the classes taught by Chris Stufflebean will be Sheana (pronounced Shawna) Thompson, who actually attended college at the same time Stufflebean did. They both graduated from Sayre’s Radiology program in 1995.

Thompson then received her Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences from Midwestern University in Wichita Falls, TX. She worked at Great Plains Regional Medical Center in the radiology department from 1995-2010.

Then, she taught at Western Oklahoma State College for their radiology program from 2001-2004. She is the owner and manager of an R.V. Park in Elk City.

“With the experience of our former Program Director and current Clinical Coordinator, we were able to find such a knowledgeable, experienced individual to finish the year for our students,” stated Sherron Manning, Dean of the Sayre campus. “We are very fortunate to have her.”

Chris Stufflebean was suddenly called away from teaching when it became clear his parents needed his help on the farm.

Jess Parker, who worked with Stufflebean for 16 years, remarked that it was a very sad day for him to see Chris leave. Parker said that in those 16 years, Chris was technically his boss, but always made him feel like a partner, and he really appreciated that quality in Chris.

Stufflebean’s students treated him to a party with cake, then the staff and faculty had a luncheon with hotdogs, chips and homemade desserts.

GOODBYE, STUFFLEBEAN, and hello, Thompson! Former Director of Radiologic Technology, Chris Stufflebean, left, was feted on his last day on campus, March 11, by a large gathering of his friends and co-workers. His partner in Radiology, Jess Parker, gave a heartfelt goodbye speech. Everyone was introduced to Stufflebean’s temporary replacement, Sheana Thompson (at right), of Elk City.

Campus Gets New Van

Great news! The Sayre campus received a van last week – a 2015 fifteen-passenger Ford. Instructors who need to schedule the van may do so through the dean’s office.

The van is a tremendous asset to the campus vehicle fleet, as it can be used to transport faculty and staff to conferences and to take students on field trips. Previously, Sayre had to borrow a van from Weatherford, which required a great deal of travel to go pick it up and return it.

“I’d like to thank Tom Fagan, Dr. South, Dr. Beutler and Brenda Burgess,” stated Sherron Manning, Dean of the Sayre Campus. “This would not have been possible without these people.”
Help Conserve Our Most Needed Necessity!

By Amie Glendenning

If you have been keeping up with the news lately, then you know that scientists are saying that we have to start being more careful with the world’s most valuable resource—water!

About 72% of the world is made up of water, with only about 3% of that being drinkable.

Yes, I said 3%!

With the water being so scarce and not much more seeming to come around with all the droughts the last couple of years, we as people need to be as conservative as possible and stop being so wasteful, once and for all. Here are some very simple, yet surprisingly effective ways to help out with this needed cause.

One of the simplest ways to conserve is to simply turn off the water while you’re brushing your teeth. It is surprising how many people actually leave it on the entire time.

Another easy way is to take shorter showers. You don’t need to be in the shower for an hour. Try listening to a CD, and you have to get out at the end of the third song. You will be surprised how fast you can actually get done when you make yourself aware.

How about washing your car? While it’s understandable that you want your vehicle to be nice and stand out, it really does not need to be washed every other day. While you’re at it, try using a bucket and doing it the old fashioned way. This will save a lot of water.

One thing that most people don’t think to do is to report water leaks immediately. If you realize a toilet or faucet is running or leaking, whether you’re at a restaurant or on campus in the restroom, or at your apartment, tell someone! Getting this fixed is of major importance in saving water— and your janitor or landlord will really appreciate knowing in a hurry before water creates costly damage!

While, yes, we are college students, and a lot of us don’t have yards or plumbing problems yet, we still need to take action about our share of helping with this worldwide problem. We have just as much responsibility as the next person to help conserve the planet for our future, and the future generations of our families.

Pass these tips along, and if you have any, speak up and share them with your family and friends. The world is all of ours to take care of, and we all need to lend a helping hand.

A detour from the regular tour led them to a special peek into the Mission Control Center, where the famous words were heard “Houston, we have a problem.”

Computer Instructor Renae Bagzis was awarded an $18,000 grant from the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCor), which partners with government, higher ed, and industry to improve research and technology development.

Her grant provided for the instructor and four students to take the trip to the Johnson Space Center and the National Aeronautics Space Administration.

The four students get to take a Geographical Information Systems (GIS) class with tuition, fees and books paid for, and the grant offers an opportunity for a job at an aeronautics program, such as the Burns Flat Spaceport. Congratulations to Mrs. Bagzis for this exciting program.

At far right, SWOSU instructor Renae Bagzis enjoys an expense-paid trip to Houston to tour NASA with four students—all part of an $18,000 grant awarded to her! The SWOSU group made the tour March 15-18.
Photo Contest Winners on Display

By Trasey Boyd

One of the display areas in Mackey Hall shows an array of photographs from SWOSU students. The theme of the festival and photo contest was “#AdventureBound,” and students found a variety of ways to depict adventure. Last spring, the photos were taken downtown to be judged in a city-wide contest. The photos and artwork were on display at the Gallery@112 for a month.

The members of Gallery@112 voted on winners and two students received Honorable Mention ribbons. They are Andrea Nichols from Sayre with a picture of her daughter skipping along with her feet off the ground, and Kristen Price, from Elk City, caught the delight in the baby’s eyes as he played.

Once the photos were received back from the Gallery@112, they were displayed in Mackey Hall, and the staff and faculty voted on their favorites. One Big Adventure was captured by Kristen Price. It was a pregnant belly and was selected as the Faculty Favorite. An action shot of a Jeep Adventure by Destry Kelly won a People’s Choice Award.

At left, SWOSU student Kimberly Ayala checks out the photographs on display in Mackey Hall. Photo by Trasey Boyd
The Focus is YOU: Get to Know Jacob Gastineau

By Renilda Denny and Morgan Hagerman

If you don’t already know Jacob Colby Gastineau, you’ve probably heard his voice in the hallway. It’s that voice coming out from underneath that big felt hat.

His cowboy twang rings out loud and clear in whatever tall tale he is telling. He’s about the friendliest ol’ cuss you’d ever want to meet—always eager to tell you what happened last night or on the way to school today. Heck, he’s probably got a picture of it on his phone he wants to show you!

But besides just cutting up in class, Jake is working hard to cut out a spot for himself on SWOSU’s rodeo team. He feels like he could make the team if he practices hard and makes all the practices.

Jake owns two Quarter horses named Abby and Sandy.

He is the son of Ron and Linda Gastineau from Amarillo. He started rodeo events when he was between 3 and 4 years old. He got his first buckle when he was only five. He now has won 8 buckles and last year, he was named the 2014 NWOJR Roping Champion.

Jake says, “I credit my parents for making me the roper I have become and having Dad’s help with achieving it all.” His role model is Trevor Brazile, an American rodeo champion, who is a 20-time world champion and 12 time PRCA All-Around Cowboy World Champion and has won several all-around titles in roping.

In addition to having a lot of love for his horses, Jacob is pretty proud of being “Uncle Jake” to a couple of tow-headed nephews who think that he hung the moon.

It would complete his life if he could rodeo forever. We wish Jake lots of luck in his future—both at SWOSU and beyond.
“Crossing the Border to Cambodia”
SWOSU Student Shares Asian Travel Adventure

By Christopher Celsor

Bill Bryson once wrote, “I can’t think of anything that excites a greater sense of childlike wonder than to be in a country where you are ignorant of almost everything.”

“I can’t think of anything that excites a greater sense of childlike wonder than to be in a country where you are ignorant of almost everything.” - Bill Bryson

It won’t kill me to do it once. I need to get over myself. Besides, it really can’t get much worse.” I was probably right about needing to stick it out and get over myself, but I was wrong about it not being able to get much worse. It got much, much worse.

So, last summer I decided to go to southeast Asia for a month. After a ½ hour flight from Dallas to Hong Kong, and two days in Hong Kong, I finally arrived to my main destination, Thailand. Besides the plane ticket there, I hadn’t prebooked anything. I stayed in the northern Thai city of Chaing Mai for 5 days before deciding to head on south to Bangkok. I stayed in Bangkok for a week, until I decided that I’d had enough of it. So, I decided to head west to Cambodia, the city of Siem Reap, and the temples at Angkor Wat.

There are two main ways to get to Siem Reap from Bangkok. There’s the easy way, which involves shelling out $130 or so for a plane ticket, going to the airport, and being there in an hour and a half; or there’s the hard way, which is (supposedly) much cheaper but also much longer. Against my better judgment, I decided to take the hard way.

I walked up to the ticket counter at the main train station in Bangkok and asked for a ticket to Aranyaprathet.

“I do not understand you.”

I explained, “Border, um border town on western edge of Thailand, I’m trying to get to Cambodia.”

The agent understood. “Ah, ar-ANYA-PRATH-et. That will be 50 baht (about $1.50 US Dollars) The train leaves in 45 minutes.”

“Goodness,” I thought to myself, “I knew that this would be cheap, but I had no idea it’d be that cheap. I wonder why anyone would pay $130 or so to travel by train?”

It wouldn’t take long for me to find out.

Forty five minutes passed by, and I boarded the train. It wasn’t air conditioned, it was old, but most of all, it was severely overbooked. Every single seat in the train was taken. Not only were they taken, every single one of them was taken either by an elderly person or a pregnant woman. Not only was every seat taken by an elderly or pregnant person, there were many elderly and pregnant people that couldn’t find seats either, which, of course meant that whenever the train stopped and let some of the elderly people and pregnant women off, more elderly people and pregnant women would take their seats. Which, of course meant that, taken to it’s logical conclusion, I was going to have to stand, cramped, in the aisle, for five hours.

“Oh well,” I thought. “This is how locals have to get around every single day.
Asian Adventure, continued

(Continued from page 8)

The average Thai person makes $8,500 a year. The average Cambodian is lucky to make $1,000. This summer 240,000 illegal Cambodians fled Thailand, under threat of prosecution from the Thai government. Thailand is a Buddhist country, gambling is illegal. Cambodia is also a Buddhist country, gambling is also illegal, but Cambodia is also very poor and direly needs money, so the government allows the mafia to operate casinos and brothels in a ¼ mile stretch between the two border posts for a share of the revenue. Thailand drives on the left side of the road; Cambodia drives on the right.

In Poipet, all these factors come together, making the border and the adjacent city a bustling, militarized and gritty cluster of gaudy casinos, men with machine guns, hecklers, drug dealers, scammers, and beggars. I have never felt more out of place.

For a country that prefers to position itself closer to China at the expense of relations with the United States, Cambodia sure does love the US dollar. While it has its own currency (the riel), practically everything in Cambodia is bought and sold with using the US dollar. Even the government doesn’t like to deal in riel—the visa that must be bought at the border costs US $20.

My hotel in Aranyaprathet didn’t have any US dollars, but they assured me that past the Thai checkpoint, in the casino zone, before the Cambodian checkpoint, there was an ATM where I could get US dollars to pay my way into Cambodia. They were wrong.

I made my way out of Thailand, walked up to the Cambodian police station and asked an officer where I could find an ATM. “No ATM in Poipet,” he said. So, I went into one of the casinos.

“No ATM in Poipet,” the casino worker said.

After walking around aimlessly for 45 minutes, looking for the ATM that wasn’t there, a barefoot Cambodian man who curiously spoke perfect English came up to me. “Marijuana?” he asked.

“No.”

“Heroin?”

“No.”

“Prostitutes?”

“No.”

“Then what are you looking for? I’ve watched you walk around for 30 minutes. You must be looking for something”.

Weary of associating with this guy, but also realizing that this shady character was the only person I’d came across that spoke good English and also seemed to know his way around, I said, “ATM?”

“Come with me.”

So I followed him through a back alley and into a much smaller casino. He took me past the card tables and slot machines to the very back to a man in a booth.

“ATM?” I asked.

“No, it’s a guy, but he does the same thing”

“You need money?” asks the guy behind the booth.

“Yeah, $25.”

“Ok, $10 fee. It will put $35 charge on your account.” Thankful that the money changer admitted that he was kind of ripping me off (instead of saying no extra charge and withdrawing an exorbitant sum from my account), I agreed and handed him my card. He handed me a 20 and a 5, I gave the helpful barefoot English speaker the remainder of my Thai currency, and headed to the checkpoint where I gave the police officer my passport and $20.

“Visa cost $30,” he said.


“$20 for government, $10 for me.”

“Oh, yeah? What if I don’t give you $10?”

“I make you wait here for six more hours.”

“I can give you $5.”

“Okay,” said the border guard as he affixed the visa to my passport, “$5 will do. And, with that, I had finally made it—I was in.

Cambodia is an amazing country full of fantastic people, beautiful places, but with a very interesting and unbelievably tragic history. I would encourage anyone to go there. But, the next time I go there, I think I’ll just take the flight.
What's happening in Sayre?
By Belinda Graham

Community Corner

In each volume of the newsletter, I will bring you information on the community of Sayre! Things to do, places to go, and sights to see! I hope you enjoy it!

Belinda

Shop in Sayre!!!
Did you know the latest fashions for ladies, plus unique accessories, are available in downtown Sayre? That's right! Copper Cross Boutique is located at 103 E. Main and has fashions for ladies from size zero to 3X at great prices!

They are currently renovating a much larger space and will expand with a full spa and salon, as well, as an enlarged boutique! To entice SWOSU students to check out their great merchandise, they are offering 10% off the entire store! Just take in the coupon below and take advantage of the offer!

Copper Cross is hosting their Second Annual Kentucky Derby Style Show & Brunch on May 2nd at 11:00 a.m. Seating is limited. Tickets are now on sale! Call 580-928-9900 for more information!

Sayre Alumni Celebration
Did you know that Easter Weekend in Sayre is the time of the Annual Alumni Celebration? That's right! Even if you are not a graduate of Sayre High School or SWOSU, you can enjoy the festivities which are open to the public!

**Friday, April 3rd**
- 3on3 Basketball Tournament
  Sayre High Old Gym
  Registration at 5:30, Game at 6:00
  Concessions Available
  $30 per team. Free to watch.

**Saturday, April 4th**
- Rotary Pancake Breakfast
  The Broadway Center
  7:30 to 9:30 a.m.
  $5/person
- Alumni Parade
  Downtown Main Street
  10:30 a.m.
- AfterProm Luncheon
  Sayre HS Cafeteria
  12:00 to 2:00 p.m.
- Alumni Golf Tournament
  2 Man Scramble - Sold Out
  1:30 Shotgun Start
- CCA Easter Egg Hunt
  Sayre City Park
  3:00 p.m.

Shop in Sayre!!!

10% off
Copper Cross Boutique
103 E. Main Street
Sayre, OK 73662