Long-time Instructor Succumbs to Illness

By Dr. Sara Jane Richter

Tom Lewis, long-time OPSU instructor, died on the evening of Sunday, February 28, in Liberal, Kansas, after a long and debilitating illness. His wife Charla Dannels Lewis and daughter Robbi were by his side. Tom touched and influenced a legion of students since he first began teaching English and humanities in 1987. Besides being a well-respected and beloved instructor, he advised English majors and pre-law students, was commencement coordinator for many years, and helped to advise Anglistics (English Club). For a time, he served as the sponsor of the campus black student organization. Last year, the 2009 senior class named him Outstanding Faculty Member.

Born December 4, 1960, of Cherokee descent, Tom graduated from Nowata (Oklahoma) High School and attended the University of Oklahoma until he transferred to Oklahoma State University where he received his BA and his MA degrees. He and his family made their home in Liberal. Tom loved fishing and basketball, carpentry and reading, OU sports and the Pittsburg Steelers. He had an intellectual brilliance and cynical sense of humor rarely matched by anyone.

For the past several semesters, Tom taught his courses exclusively online for OPSU as his illness negatively impacted his mobility, voice, strength. Never did it impair his thinking and intellect though. Calm, positive, and dignified to the end, Tom was surrounded by those whom he loved and those who loved him.

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Students Celebrate Black History Month

By Ryan Bramblett

As I am sure at least a few of you know, February is Black History Month. A few of OPSU’s students decided that they would take this chance to honor their heritage. In just three days, the students put together a presentation celebrating Black History Month. The event included a reading of Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech, a recital of one of Maya Angelou’s poems, and a PowerPoint presentation honoring famous African-Americans such as Rosa Parks, Frederick Douglas, Malcolm X, and President Obama. It is good to see that there are those who have not forgotten the brave men and women who stood against oppression and prejudice.

Photo: Associated Press
Genna Buettner: “A man’s, so I could figure out what they’re really thinking instead of what they’re saying.”

Zach Hegwood: “My wife’s so I would know whether to work late that day or not.”

Channing Hawks: “The judge’s minds at our horse shows, so we would know what to adjust so we could win EVERY time.”

Stovall: “Every woman in the world, so I can have relations with all of them.”

Patrick Wilson: “My own mind, because I seem to be lost in it at the moment.”

OPSU Student to Attend Nigh Leadership Academy

By Ryan Bramblett

J.B. Test, the OPSU Student Association President, attended the George Nigh Public Service Leadership Academy on February 26, 2010. He is the first OPSU student since Brent Shoulders to attend the Academy. Test and other attendees heard speakers including former Governor Nigh, the CEO of the Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce, and the Director of the Metropolitan Area Projects (MAPS). They also traveled to Oklahoma City to speak with lawmakers including State Senate majority leader Todd Lamb, State Representative and Former Nigh Scholar Scott Limmin.

That’s not all that Mr. Test will be doing. On March, 20, he will be traveling to Washington D.C. to attend the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee. There he will hear from people like Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Israeli ambassador to the United States Michael Oren.

Photo Hector Cobos
Sports

Benefit Concert Rocks

By Ryan Bramblett

It is always nice to see students getting out and raising money for the various clubs and organizations on campus. On Tuesday, February 23, the OPSU Science Club did just that. They held a benefit concert in the Student Union Ballroom to raise money for science-related trips.

The evening’s entertainment kicked off with the band Hide the Grapes. They warmed up with a few covers of classic rock songs then played some of their originals. Next up was Brister and Green, who played piano and drums respectively. They were joined by Jayden Rosseboro who performed one of his famous free-style raps to their music. The event wound down with country/southern rock band Oklahoma South Wind. ORSW played a good mix of their original songs and covers of songs by the likes of Cross Canadian Ragweed, Lynyrd Skynyrd, and Old Crow Medicine Show.

On the whole, I felt that the concert was a very enjoyable experience. I helped support some of OPSU’s campus activities, and I got to listen to some good music. Sounds like a win-win situation to me. I would also like to leave you all with a closing thought. If you ever think that there is nothing to do on campus, think of this particular event. You could either join one of OPSU’s student organizations like the Science Club or attend activities like this one.

Homecoming

By Renee Dickens

Another fantastic homecoming has occurred. Men’s basketball team beat Dallas Baptist 93-87 and Women’s team blew out Johnswell & Wales University 77-43. The 2010 King and Queen are August Overstreet and Kariz Bioni. August Overstreet is 21 and from Enid, Oklahoma. He is majoring in Biology and Chemistry. His activities include Football, Science Club, Student Ambassador, and Student Senate. Kariz Bioni is 24 and from Maringa, Brazil. She is majoring in HPER and minoring in Biology. Her activities include working out, playing basketball, and hanging out with friends. Kariz was also honored with All Conference Basketball in the 08-09 season.

Since it is an honor to be nominated by your fellow peers I have included the rest of the King and Queen candidates along with their bios. Stephen Colvin is 22 and from Guymon, Oklahoma. He is majoring in Psychology and his activities include Men’s Basketball team. Leslie Bledsoe is 20 and from Guymon, Oklahoma. She is majoring in Psychology and her activities include President of Aggie Peers, Psych Club, member of the Baptist Church, and climbing trees in flip-flops and dancing in the rain. Leslie’s honors include the Chuck Norris Award and Superman’s Cape! (Impressive!) She has found the fountain of youth and uses the Holy Grail for an orange juice cup. Apparently, the first rule of Leslie Bledsoe is that you don’t talk about Leslie Bledsoe. Kelsey Ridenoure is 21 and is from Rocky Ford, Colorado. She is majoring in Animal Science and Agromonomy and her activities include Science Club, Alpha Zeta Treasurer, and Holter Hall RA. Kelsey’s honors include Who’s Who Among College Students, Presidential & Dean’s Honor Roll, and National Scholars Honor Society. Krisha Roach is 21 and from Lubbock, Texas. She is majoring in HPER and activities include Volleyball (senior) and FCA. Krisha is also on the Dean’s Honor Roll. Carlee Scofield is 25 and from Guymon, Oklahoma. She is majoring in Biology and her activities include Holter Hall RA, Student Senate Secretary, Science Club, Centennial Committee, and Senior Class President. Carlee is also honored in Who’s Who Among American College Students.

Thursday’s game against University of Arkansas was a special Pink Zone night with all proceeds going to Panhandle Area Circle of Friends in support of patients receiving treatment at the Harrington Cancer Center. There was also a semi-formal dance on Friday, put together by Student Senate. Between the 50/50 raffle, two autographed basketballs, enough to wear pink hats and the women’s basketball team a total of $853 was raised. Student Senate sold homecoming t-shirts with all proceeds going towards Leaves & Fishes. Erin Russell took first in the talent show singing a Miranda Lambert song and Clint Horton was crowned Mr. Irresistible.

What a week! I would personally like to say Thank You to Student Senate and the Homecoming Committee for putting together such an awesome homecoming week!

Christina Cobos photo

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