

**Bernhardt**



***“A Celebration  
of Academic  
Excellence”***

***March 25  
2021***

# ***A Celebration of Academic Excellence March 25, 2021***

Welcome.....Mr. Garrett King  
SWOSU Foundation, Inc. Executive Director

Remarks from Bernhardt Family.....Mr. William Bernhardt, Jr.  
Representative of Bernhardt Family

Comments from Bernhardt Scholar.....Dr. Hardeep Saluja  
2020 Academic Excellence Award Recipient

Recognition of Retiring Faculty.....Dr. Randy Beutler  
SWOSU President

Announcement of 2021 Bernhardt Scholar.....Dr. Randy Beutler  
SWOSU President

Closing.....Mr. Garrett King  
SWOSU Foundation, Inc. Executive Director



# *The Bernhardts*

Southwestern Oklahoma State University is proud to present the twenty-eighth annual Academic Excellence Award created by Dr. William and Theta Juan Bernhardt to recognize an outstanding faculty member who exhibits exceptional achievement in teaching, scholarship and service. The award represents a \$5,000 cash gift and a commemorative Waterford crystal clock and pen set.

Bill and Theta Juan Bernhardt are fourth generation Oklahomans. Dr. Bernhardt graduated from Omega High School in Kingfisher County. He attended Texas Christian University, Southwestern Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine. He received a B.S. degree at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, and a Medical Doctor (M.D.) at the University of Oklahoma.

Theta Juan Sickles Bernhardt graduated from Fairview High School. She then attended Oklahoma State University and Southwestern Oklahoma State University, where she graduated with a B.A. in Education. Theta Juan taught in the Midwest City School system while her husband attended medical school.

The Bernhardts have four children and twelve grandchildren. Theta Juan's current interests include engaging in church and community activities, and enjoying the twelve Bernhardt grandchildren.

Bill has spent his entire medical career in the Midwest City area. He has been involved in medical, community, and church activities. Bill was pleased to have been selected "Family Doctor of the Year" by the Oklahoma Academy of Family Physicians in 1986. He was elected Chief of Staff of Midwest City Hospital in 1972, and President of the Oklahoma Academy of Family Physicians in 1982. He was selected by the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine Alumni Association to be "Practicing Physician of the Year in Oklahoma" in 1992.

Bill and Theta Juan are lifetime members of the SWOSU Alumni Association. In 1991, Bill was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus for SWOSU. 2015 marked Bill's 25th year as a Trustee of the SWOSU Foundation.

Dr. Bill and Theta Juan Bernhardt recognize the importance of higher education and feel that good educators and faculty should have greater recognition.

# Academic Excellence Award Former Recipients

1994 Dr. Vilas Prabhu <i>Pharmacy</i>	2001 Dr. John Ludrick <i>Education</i>	2008 Dr. Mary Aspedon <i>Education</i>	2015 Dr. Tom Davis <i>Pharmacy</i>
1995 Dr. Stuart Burchett <i>Chemistry</i>	2002 Dr. Steven Pray <i>Pharmacy</i>	2009 Dr. John Woods <i>Mathematics</i>	2016 Dr. Kevin Collins <i>Language Arts</i>
1996 Dr. Gary Wolgamott <i>Allied Health</i>	2003 Dr. Les Crall <i>Business</i>	2010 Dr. Scott Long <i>Pharmacy</i>	2017 Dr. Trisha Wald <i>Business</i>
1997 Dr. Terry Segress <i>Music</i>	2004 Dr. Peter Grant <i>Biology</i>	2011 Dr. Charles Rogers <i>Chemistry</i>	2018 Mr. Landry Brewer <i>Sayre</i>
1998 Dr. James Hunsicker <i>Psychology</i>	2005 Dr. John Hayden <i>Social Sciences</i>	2012 Dr. Tim Hubin <i>Chemistry</i>	2019 Dr. Amanda Evert <i>Business</i>
1999 Dr. Jill Jones <i>Language Arts</i>	2006 Dr. Virgil Van Dusen <i>Pharmacy</i>	2013 Dr. Brian Campbell <i>Chemistry</i>	2020 Dr. Hardeep Saluja <i>Pharmacy</i>
2000 Dr. James Breckenridge <i>Music</i>	2007 Mr. Steve Strickler <i>Communication/Theatre</i>	2014 Dr. Patsy Parker <i>Business</i>	

# *Retiring Faculty*

**Dr. W. Sue Ball**  
**Instructor**  
**Biological Sciences**

W. Sue (Wright) Ball grew up in Hollis, Oklahoma in the southwest corner of the state. Coming to college at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) was an eye-opening experience for this small-town girl. As was common with many students, she wasn't sure what she wanted to do in life. She had always loved science and after taking Biological Concepts, she knew she had found her niche and pursued a Bachelor's degree in Biology Education. She was voted the Outstanding Biology Senior by the Biology Department for the academic year of 1979-1980.

Mrs. Ball taught in the public school system for four years before taking a break from teaching to start a family. After having her children, she returned to SWOSU to work on a Master's degree with a Biological Sciences Specialization. She taught a semester of Microbiology at Redland's Community College and taught a General Chemistry I lab and Biological Concepts labs at SWOSU before applying and being hired for a full-time position at SWOSU in 1991. Mrs. Ball considered it a privilege and honor to work as a colleague beside her former professors and mentors and never took her position for granted.

Although Mrs. Ball also taught Biological Concepts and Biological Terminology, Human Anatomy was her passion. She was the lone instructor for the course for 20 years. She developed a note packet specifically suited to her teaching style and also developed a lab manual for the course.

Mrs. Ball was appointed to several University Committees during her time at SWOSU, such as Faculty Senate and the General Education Committee. She served as a faculty sponsor for Biology Club/Tri Beta (20 years), the Pre-Medical Professions Club (16 years) and the Church of Christ Student Center (12 years). As a member (18 years) and later chair of the Pre-Medical Professions Advisory Committee, she helped interview and write letters of recommendation for student applications to Medical, Physician Assistant, Dental, and Optometry Programs. She personally penned hundreds of letters of recommendation for students applying to all types of post-graduate programs. Mrs. Ball's role as volunteer coordinator for the Agape Free Medical Clinic allowed her to arrange community service hours for SWOSU students applying to medical professions.

Mrs. Ball's greatest joy in teaching was the interactions with her students in class and witnessing her students succeed in life. She attended countless professional school graduations, weddings, and baby showers over the years and still keeps in touch with many of her former students. When asked what she wanted to be remembered for in her teaching career, she said, "That my students knew I was invested in their learning, that I was 'for them' and that my genuine love of the subject matter was reflected in the way I taught the course. Having the opportunity to have both my sons take my Human Anatomy class was just icing on the cake."

# *Retiring Faculty*

**Ms. Marsha Carman**  
**Instructor**  
**Art, Communication & Theatre**

After graduation from Vici High School, Marsha moved to Weatherford to attend Southwestern Oklahoma State University (then known as Southwestern State College). She received a BA in Commercial Art in 1977 and a BA in Art Education in 1978. Accepting a teaching position at Weatherford High School in 1983, she taught there until 2015. She earned her Masters in Education/Art from Southwestern in 2004.

While teaching in Weatherford, she developed Drawing, Painting and 3-Dimensional Advanced Placement courses and received various honors and awards including Teacher of the Year, Masonic Teacher of Today, and OAEA Secondary Art Educator of the Year. Marsha is a Fund for Teachers Fellow, and traveled to Australia to research Aboriginal art forms, customs, and traditions. She received her National Board Certification in 2003 and National Board Renewal in 2014. In 2015, she was the recipient of the State Superintendent's Award for Arts Excellence.

In 2015, Marsha began teaching at Southwestern Oklahoma State University where she works with the Art Education Bachelors and Masters programs. She serves as Art Club and NAEA club sponsor and sits on the Education Board. Marsha is an OAEA Past President and longtime board member. Marsha also serves as the National Board of Professional Teacher Visual Arts trainer for the state of Oklahoma through the Office of Educational Quality and Accountability. She also serves on the State Department of Education's Visual Arts Advisory board. Marsha was recently presented the Oklahoma Art Education Association's 2020 Higher Ed Educator of the Year Award.

Marsha has been married to husband Robert for 46 years. They have three children, Branden and wife Rebecca of Weatherford, daughters Trinity of Edmond, and Christen of Norman, two granddaughters Megan Carman and Mackina Dobrinski both of Weatherford, and one grandson, Ahoh Brewer of Norman.

# *Retiring Faculty*

**Dr. Robin Jones**  
**Professor**  
**Art, Communication & Theatre**

Robin Steverson Jones was born and raised in Anadarko, Oklahoma. Robin graduated with the bicentennial class and went on to college at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Since her sister was already here, she transferred to Oklahoma State University where she graduated with a BS in Speech/Theatre Education. After teaching in Newton, Kansas and coaching the speech and debate team there she went on to receive her Master's in Communication from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas.

While in Fort Worth, Robin worked as stage manager, floor director, talent and writer for several cable shows at the Baptist Radio TV Commission. When the cable network folded Robin moved back to Anadarko for 6 months that turned into 12 years when she met her husband Larry Jones. While in Anadarko Robin taught computer programs at Western Farmers Electric Cooperative and did some adjunct work for USAO. Desiring to teach at the university level Robin went back to school and received her doctorate from the University of Oklahoma. Upon graduation Robin was offered jobs at ECU and Southwestern. Although Southwestern was only a one-year temporary position Robin felt it was the best fit and after 3 one-year temporary stints was offered a full-time position in 2000. In 2007 the Department of Communication and Theatre was formed, and Robin became the first chair, serving until 2014 when the department was merged with Art, becoming the Art, Communication and Theatre Department, where she has served as chair except for one year.

During her time at SWOSU Robin has served on numerous departmental and university wide committees and served on faculty senate and as faculty senate president in 2006. Community service involved many years with the Weatherford Arts Council, Watonga Community Theatre, judge for the Southwest Playhouse and numerous positions in her church, Trinity Baptist.

Robin and Larry have seven grandchildren and one great grandson (who they hope to meet this summer). Upon retiring they plan to stay active in their church, travel and basically do whatever they want.

# *Retiring Faculty*

**Dr. Steven W. O'Neal**  
**Professor**  
**Biological Sciences**

Steven W. O'Neal was born in Watseka, Illinois in 1953 and grew up in Milford, Illinois. He graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. degree in Biology from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1975. He went on to earn a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Miami in Florida in 1980. He did post-doctoral work at Purdue University in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology. He taught for two years as a visiting professor at Texas State University in San Marcos.

Dr. O'Neal joined the biology faculty at SWOSU in 1990 receiving tenure and promotion to associate professor in 1995 and promotion to professor in 2009. Courses that he taught at SWOSU included Biological Concepts, Principles of Biology 1, Botany, Biological Orientation, Plant Physiology, Environmental Biology, Aquatic Ecology, and Biological Capstone. In the Department of Biological Sciences, he coordinated the laboratory prep for the Principles of Biology 1, oversaw the peer tutors within the department, and was the departmental liaison to the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory. Dr. O'Neal also was an instructor for several summer science education programs at SWOSU including SURE-STEP, Ponds and Prairies, and Tech Trek. He was instrumental in establishing and maintaining the Oklahoma Conservation Commission's Blue Thumb volunteer group on campus that provides service learning opportunities for SWOSU students. In addition to his teaching, Dr. O'Neal was a faculty sponsor for the SWOSU Student Government Association for eleven years and served on numerous departmental and university committees.

Dr. O'Neal's research centered on the ecology of algae in both freshwater and marine ecosystems. He has published 13 research papers in seven scholarly journals, as well as coauthoring a book chapter. At SWOSU, Dr. O'Neal mentored 33 undergraduate research students who have presented their research at the SWOSU Scholarly Activity Fair, the Oklahoma Research Day, the EPSCoR Research Day at the Capitol, the Oklahoma Academy of Science Annual Meeting, the Annual Great Plains Limnology Conference, and the Tri-Beta South-Central Regional Meeting.

Steven O'Neal is married to Kathleen Smith O'Neal who is an instructor in the Department of Mathematics at SWOSU and together they raised two sons, David and Christopher.



# *Retiring Faculty*

## **Linda Pye Technical Services Librarian SWOSU Libraries**

Linda grew up in rural Arkansas near Clarksville. She graduated from Lamar High School as Valedictorian and received an academic scholarship from Arkansas Tech University where she received a B.A. degree in French and English Education in 1972. Upon graduation, Linda moved with her husband to College Station, TX where she worked at the Bryan Public Library in the Cataloging Department and later at the Texas A&M University Library in the Acquisitions Department. A later move to Ithaca, New York found her working in the Interlibrary Loan Department at Cornell University's main research library. While she was working at Cornell University, she made the decision to pursue a graduate degree in library studies.

Upon her family's move to Bethany, OK in 1986, Linda began graduate work at the University of Oklahoma and received the M.L.I.S. degree in December of 1988. Choosing from 3 job offers within the state, Linda made the decision to move her family to Weatherford and take the Acquisitions Librarian job at Southwestern, starting in 1989. Upon her arrival, Linda began helping her colleagues plan the automation of the library with an online catalog. Since that time, she has helped with two other catalog migrations. While at Southwestern, Linda served on multiple library and university committees, including the Faculty Senate from 2014-2018. She also served as Interim Library Director in 2000-2001.

Early in her career, Linda became active in the Oklahoma Library Association (OLA), serving in multiple leadership roles for committees and roundtables. She served as President of OLA in 2017-2018 during a time of rapid transition and reorganization for the Association. Also, she regularly presented in conference sessions and workshops for OLA, sharing her knowledge and expertise with her colleagues on topics such as collection development, deselection, and working with vendors. She has been a mentor to several new librarians in Oklahoma. Linda's service to OLA was recognized with a resolution honoring her at its annual membership meeting in April, 2021. A long-time member of the International Library Science Honor Society of Beta Phi Mu, Lambda chapter, she served as its President in 2000-2001.

Linda has been a long-time tutor, board member, and board president of the Westcentral Oklahoma Literacy Coalition, a volunteer-based program that provides free literacy instruction to adult learners.

Linda and her husband, Quentin, have two sons and two grandchildren. She looks forward to doing more traveling, reading, gardening, and enjoying her family, especially the grandchildren.

# *Retiring Faculty*

## **Dr. James South Provost and Vice President Academic Affairs**

James South, a native of Irving, Texas, arrived at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in 1995. For seventeen years, he was Director of Bands at SWOSU and taught Instrumental Music Education. He served as Chair and Professor in the Department of Music, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

His teaching experience includes three years as a band director in the Irving (TX) school district, two years as a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Illinois, and five years as an Assistant Professor at Emporia State University in Kansas. He is completing his twenty-sixth year at SWOSU.

He holds the Bachelor of Music Education degree from Northwestern University and the Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees from the University of North Texas. As a professional trumpeter, he performed extensively with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Dallas Wind Symphony, the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra, and the Sinfonia da Camera of Illinois.

As a conductor, he conducted honor bands and adjudicated band festivals in Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, New Mexico, Colorado, and Canada. He served on the board of the Oklahoma Music Educators Association, including a term as President. He was President of the Southwestern Division of the National Association for Music Education and served on the National Executive Board of NAfME. He was inducted into the OKMEA Hall of Fame in 2012.

He looks forward to doing more hiking, traveling, and relaxing with Janis, taking photographs, riding his motorcycle, and enjoying grandchildren.

# Funded Programs

During fiscal year 2020, extramural sponsored programs activity at SWOSU has exceeded \$4.9 million. Your dedication to providing extramural activities at SWOSU provides additional quality educational experiences for our students.

*“It is with great pleasure that we as a university recognize your work in pursuit of external funding. I want you to know that these efforts are appreciated and help make this the ‘premier’ regional university of Oklahoma.”*



<u>Name</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>Sponsor Agency</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Adler, Brian	Admin	Weatherford Hotel/Motel Tax	\$10,000.00
		Weatherford Hotel/Motel Tax	\$15,000.00
Albrightson, Cindi	CPGS	Walmart Foundation	\$1,000.00
Barnett, Amy	CPGS	OK Depart. of Human Services	\$47,089.00
Baugher, Madeline	CPGS	OK State Regents	\$6,852.00
		NASA	\$5,672.00
		OK State Regents	\$5,672.00
		OK State Regents	\$3,744.00
		NASA	\$3,744.00
Boyd, Ruth. Hummel, Heather	Admin	OK Women’s Foundation	\$4,500.00
Boyd, Ruth	Admin	U.S. Depart. of Education	\$59,983.00
Burgess, Brenda	Admin	U.S. Depart. of Education	\$1,721,756.00
		U.S. Depart. of Education	\$1,721,756.00
Campbell, Brian	CAS	OK State Regents	\$47,450.00
Cothran, Rickey	CAS	Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society	\$300.00
Curry, Randy	COP	Weatherford Hotel/Motel Tax	\$5,700.00
Ellis, Trevor	CAS	OK IDeA-Biomedical Research Excellence	\$2,000.00
		OK IDeA-Biomedical Research Excellence	\$2,000.00
Fant, Robert	CAS	Mid-America Arts Alliance	\$3,300.00

<u>Name</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>Sponsor Agency</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Gwyn, Lori	Admin	OK IDeA-Biomedical Research Excellence	\$15,000.00
		OK Program-Stimulate Competitive Research	\$5,000.00
		Weatherford Hotel/Motel Tax	\$3,500.00
		U.S. Depart. of Education	\$429,564.00
Gwyn, Lori Smith, C.J. Cook-Johns, Jennifer	Admin	OK State Regents	\$30,000.00
Henrikson, Jon	CAS	OK IDeA-Biomedical Research Excellence	\$ 6,000.00
Horton, Christopher	CAS	National Institutes of Hlth OK-INBRE	\$127,929.00
Hubin, Timothy	CAS	National Science Foundation	\$27,024.00
	CAS	OK IDeA-Biomedical Research Excellence	\$2,000.00
	CAS	American Chemical Society Petroleum Research	\$23,333.00
Martinson, Shelley	CAS	Kirkpatrick Foundation	\$750.00
McGrane, Regina	CAS	American Society of Microbiology	\$2,500.00
	CAS	OSRHE via OK-INBRE	\$7,804.00
	CAS	Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society	\$550.00
Misak, Doug	Admin	OK State Regents	\$500.00
Novey, Jamie	Admin	U.S. Depart. of Education	\$435,437.00
Sharma, Horrick	COP	National Institutes of Hlth via OK-INBRE	\$154,619.00
Somalinga, Vijay	CAS	OK IDeA-Biomedical Research Excellence	\$6,000.00
		Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society	\$525.00
Tirk, Richard	CAS	OK Arts Council	\$5,000.00
Ubeidat, Muatasem	CAS	OK IDeA-Biomedical Research Excellence	\$20,000.00