

AgPreference Donates to establish Distinguished Professorship in Math

Members of the AgPreference and WOSC Foundation, Inc. teams joined together to celebrate the commitment to create the AgPreference Distinguished Professorship in Math on Thursday, June 7.

AgPreference provides financing and other services to farmers, ranchers and rural businesses in southwest Oklahoma and in 32 states around the country via partnerships with other financial institutions. Their team made the decision to support Western Oklahoma State College with a gift commitment totaling \$125,000 to establish the AgPreference

Distinguished Professorship in Math as a part of the WOSC Foundation, Inc. Partners in Education Excellence Program.

“The AgPreference Distinguished Professorship in Math Endowment will be the fourth Professorship established with the WOSC Foundation, Inc.,” said Rebecca Warren, WOSC Foundation Board of Trustees chairman. “We are beyond grateful for the AgPreference family, for their generous support of the Partners in Education Excellence Program.”

Lisa Greenlee, WOSC Vice President for

Academic Affairs, stressed the importance of math in higher education.

“Roughly 72 percent of incoming students must take remedial math,” Greenlee said. “Math is such a core subject in higher education, and this gift will dramatically help our students succeed.”

At the reception on June 7, Joe Kelly, AgPreference Board of Directors chairman, and Cecil Sheperson, AgPreference President and CEO, presented a check to Larry Duffy, WOSC Foundation, Inc. Executive Secretary. A resolution from Western Oklahoma State College was then presented by Brent Howard,

WOSC Board of Regents chairman.

The Western Oklahoma State College Foundation provides the opportunity to invest in the future by offering many ways to give. The WOSC Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 organization and exists to generate support for the students and programs of Western Oklahoma State College. For more information on the WOSC Foundation and ways to give, visit wosc.edu/give.



Joe Kelly, left, and Cecil Sheperson, right, played large roles in making the AgPreference Distinguished Professorship in Math possible.

UPCOMING AT WESTERN

June 25 – 28: Kid’s College Session 2

June 25: First 4-week summer classes end

June 26: Second 4-week summer classes begin

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George Named Western Lifetime Alumni Member



Darcy George is Western’s newest Lifetime Alumni Member. Darcy recently graduated from Western with an associate’s degree in biology.

Darcy began attending Western as a concurrent student at Hobart High School. After high school graduation, she attended Western full-time and was involved in Phi Theta Kappa and cheer, and also worked in the Student Services office as a student worker.

In May 2018, Darcy

graduated summa cum laude. She plans to continue her education at Cameron University in Lawton to pursue a bachelor’s degree, majoring in sports and exercise science. Her ultimate goal is to receive a doctorate in physical therapy.

When asked what she enjoyed about Western, Darcy said the atmosphere at Western is unlike any other.

“I enjoyed everyone I worked with; it is like a big family,” Darcy said.

One unique aspect

of Darcy’s experience at Western was the fact that her mother, Misty George, was here on campus, too. Misty started teaching in Western’s math department in 2014.

“We got to ride to school together most days,” Darcy said. “It was nice to have her here on campus.”

If you are interested in joining Western’s Alumni Association, contact Whitney Graham at 580-477-7706, visit the website at wosc.edu or email us at alumni@wosc.edu.

Local teachers go bird watching at workshop

by Vicky Smith

Staff Writer, Lawton Constitution

Looking through binoculars, Lawton High School teacher Mona Bevington took in the lovely sight of a Barn Swallow, which perched on a tree near Quannah Lake outside the Environmental Education Center in the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge on Saturday.

Bevington took on the role of student as she learned all about birds during a professional development workshop coordinated by Lisa Chaney, a Cameron University alumna who is a biology professor at Western Oklahoma State College, and D’Anna Laminack, an environmental education specialist for the refuge.

The other three teachers who participated in the workshop included Ashwini “Rita” Sabnis of Lawton High School, Lauren Hayes of Altus Elementary School and Jeri Nunley of Olustee Elementary School.

Chaney said the teachers will be able to apply their newfound knowledge of birds to any school subject, ranging from art to mathematical physics.

“Birds – with their

beauty – lend themselves to art,” Chaney said. “We also talked about the lift and the draft – the physics of flight.”

Laminack provided the curriculum for the workshop, and she gave the teachers ideas for activities, as well as food web and bird bingo handouts for their classes.

Bevington said she plans to show her students how to make a field guide of the birds in the refuge, and Sabnis said she’s most excited for her students to dissect owl pellets.

Laminack said by dissecting the owl pellets, the students will retrieve hair and bones. Laminack explained that students will conduct research in determining to which rodents the hair and bones belong. The findings will reveal to the students what rodents live in a particular ecosystem.

Nunley said she teaches English, reading and social studies, and she plans to prepare her fifth graders for their standardized English test by giving them prompts about conservation.

“Why do we need to use less water?” Nunley said, offering an example.

Hayes graduated from Cameron University in December 2017, and the upcoming school year will make her first time teaching, she said. She plans on telling students about the bird identification app that may be downloaded on their smartphones so that the students can go bird watching in their own backyards, Hayes said.

Before sitting down to enjoy a picnic lunch, the teachers took a walk outdoors and learned how to identify bird species. The teachers walked along the trails in the refuge, looking for specific colors, shapes and sizes of the birds.

During their search, the teachers spotted a Great White Heron, which is rarer to see than the Great Blue Heron, Chaney said.

Chaney discovered the value of bird watching from Jack Tyler, who was her professor when she was a student at Cameron University, she said.

“He took me on field trips. I learned a new way of seeing things,” Chaney said.

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