

English and Modern Languages Department

Weekends Are for Writing

Two weekend activities in the life of the English and Modern Languages Department have engaged students in opportunities that have fostered growth in writing skills. A weekend in the woods of Eastern Oklahoma was a productive and refreshing and memorable opportunity for 12 students and professors Dr. Joann Allen and Mr. Keith Gogan. This last Sept. 23-25 was the English and Modern Languages' third annual Walden Weekend at the ORU-affiliated Myers Cabin near Kansas, Oklahoma. Modeled after Henry David Thoreau's two-year stay in the woods near Walden Pond in Concord, Massachusetts, the Walden Weekend afforded students a time to live simply, relax, hike in the woods, and write and read without modern-day hassles of hectic schedules. Students and faculty alike thoroughly enjoyed this memorable weekend.

During the weekend of October 22, about a dozen students attended the annual Nimrod Writing Workshop at the University of Tulsa. This workshop afforded aspiring writers a chance to participate in writing workshops with published authors and to get one-on-one time with authors who critiqued and encouraged students in honing their writing skills. It may seem intimidating to students to ask published authors to read and respond to student writing, but that hesitation was quickly turned into time well spent.

Music Department

Over the years, ORU's Music Department has prided itself on its alumni. Not only are they successful individuals, they are responsible, Christ-focused, and they exhibit honorable integrity. Alumni Chrissy Miller and Wes Atkinson, both 2009 graduates, are two worthy examples.

With a Sacred Music degree, Chrissy Miller took the vision of ORU seriously, combating the darkness of the music world in mainstream and in the jazz lounge to go into every person's world. Currently the worship leader at her home church, Chrissy is also pursuing a career in vocal jazz with plans to record, and recently opened a voice and piano studio for inspiring young musicians. She is also interning with the New Orleans Jazz Institute and sings with the New Orleans Vocal Arts Chorus and New Orleans Opera Chorus.



Euphonium Performance graduate Wes Atkinson stepped directly from graduation into a band director position in Tulsa. Wes is thankful for the education and preparation he received at ORU through his music classes and ensembles. While striving to learn everything he could at ORU, he also discovered that knowing the right people is key. For Wes, ORU was the perfect place to form relationships and make connections that ultimately resulted in his current job as the jazz/pep band director at Lincoln Christian School.



Communication, Arts, and Media Department

Fifty-three ORU students and three faculty members spent their Fall Break in Washington, D.C., getting extraordinary glimpses of how the federal government operates. The five-day itinerary included divine appointments that left everyone in awe of God's work in Washington:

- Fox News tour with alumnus Kelly Wright of Fox News on Capitol Hill and the testimonies of two network reporters/anchors and the chief production engineer.
- Capitol building tour at night with historian David Barton and a congressman who gained access to the House of Representatives chamber where students sat, listened, learned and then joined hands and prayed for Congress.
- Testimony of William Murray, the son of atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair, who gave his life to Christ and now leads the Religious Freedom Coalition.
- Interviews with Senator Jim Inhofe (Oklahoma) and Congressmen John Sullivan (Oklahoma) and Peter Roskam (Illinois).



These divine appointments were in addition to touring museums, monuments and institutions such as the U.S. Supreme Court and the Library of Congress.

The trip is the foundation for the American Studies (Washington, D.C.) Internship and Communications Seminar, offered each fall. It can be used as a three-credit course substitution for one of the General Education Humanities requirements.



History, Humanities, and Government Department

The 2nd annual International Crisis Policy Simulation (ICPS) was held on October 29th. Once again, ICPS was a major success with over 50 ORU students participating. The ICPS leadership team deserves a great deal of credit for its success. The leadership team consisted of: Rebecca Butcher, Ben Steiger, Andrea Tenney, Nathan Lundeen, and Kara Evans. ICPS is a crisis simulation where simulations of possible world events are run to test students' ability to respond and to give them a taste of the pressure of making a decision in the heat of the moment. Ultimately, ICPS strengthens the Government, International Relations, International/Community Development, Public Relations, and Journalism programs and prepares those students for real-world scenarios they are likely to face.

Over 50 ORU students recently returned from a fun and educational Fall Break trip to Washington, D.C. The trip was co-sponsored by the HHG Department and Communication, Arts and Media Department (see write-up above for specific details).

Recently, Professor Warren Rieger, Dr. Paul Vickery, and ORU student Ben Steiger attended the Mid America Conference on History at OSU in Stillwater and presented a paper titled "*Was George Washington Really a Deist?*"

**INTERNATIONAL
CRISIS POLICY
SIMULATION**

Develop your leadership skills in a real world situation
with **EXTRA CREDIT** available

Saturday, October 29, 2011
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
6th Floor of the GC

Register by October 27, 2011 in
the government department or
on Facebook (ORU ICPS) to join.

**FREE food and drink
for all participants!**