

Academic Department/Division
Diversity Report Executive Summary

1. Name of Department/Division

School of Arts & Sciences/Department of English, Foreign Language, & Humanities

2. Academic Year of Report

Fall 2020-Spring 2021

3. Faculty/Staff extra-curricular or co-curricular activities involving or supporting Diversity and Inclusiveness

Dr. Kathy Lane

- Organized the 5th Annual Writing Marathon, inviting local schools and the community to join the department for a day of writing on the square in Alva.
- Organized reading of bilingual Visiting Writer Lisbeth Coiman, March 31, 2021.
- Organize departmental activities (on social media) to keep students connected with posts and trivia.

Dr. Lindsey Cherry

- Working with state-wide group of English program coordinators for revision of English OSAT for unfair testing practices.
- Professor Cherry teaches yoga at the Wellness Center and works to accommodate students of all levels.
- Attended reading of bilingual Visiting Writer Lisbeth Coiman, March 31, 2021

Dr. Roxie James

- Presented Let's Talk About It Oklahoma presentations on Shellshaker (Native American author) & The Jungle (detailed expose of lower socioeconomic realities in 19th century).
- Judged at Spanish club's salsa dancing competition.
- Co-coordinated reading of bilingual Visiting Writer Lisbeth Coiman, March 31, 2021.

Dr. Robert Vest

- Spanish Club activities including: salsa dancing, Day of the Dead celebration, piñata breaking, bilingual bingo, multilingual game night.
- Does translation (Spanish to English) for court cases when called upon by Woods county
- Implementing an outreach program through local churches to work with recent immigrants to learn "useful" English.
- Personally working with Wesleyan Church (in Alva) to teach recent immigrants English.
- Placed student intern at Iglesia Palabra Viva in Enid, OK.

- Presented professional development session on meeting students at their level at request of FDAB.
- Attended reading of bilingual Visiting Writer Lisbeth Coiman, March 31, 2021

4. Diversity activities in the Classroom

- Victorian Detective Fiction course “breaks” stereotype of detective as white male by offering narratives with women, people of color, and lower socioeconomic status solving crimes.
- Foundations of English Studies course integrates wide selection of authors for readings. Text was selected for its selection.
- Dr. Lane’s syllabi integrate various modalities to reach students at their level.
- Dr. Lane’s upper-level courses are offered via Zoom to accommodate non-traditional students.
- Young Adult Literature course has been redesigned to include texts such as *The Hate You Give & Night*.
- Methods course now has students present a detailed unit on a “challenging” read that has social justice as its focus.
- Prof. Cherry’s syllabi integrate various modalities to reach students at their level.
- Prof. Cherry’s upper-level courses are offered via Zoom to accommodate non-traditional students.
- World Literature course has been re-conceptualized with a more “global” perspective.
- World Mythology course has been broadened to include the mythos of marginalized groups through student research projects.
- Integration of global literature into departmental senior exit exam (Gilgamesh passage) making the exam now more truly diverse.
- Dr. James’s syllabi integrate various modalities to reach students at their level.
- Redesign of Spanish minor and new course descriptions for upper-level Spanish courses.
- Hispanic-American Literature course offered that was cross-listed as both English and Spanish and was taught in both English and Spanish.
- Integration of Hispanic literature into departmental senior exit exam (Don Juan passage) making the exam now more truly diverse.
- Dr. Vest’s syllabi integrate various modalities to reach students at their level.
- Dr. Vest utilizes Zoom for his teaching so that students who have been limited in some way can continue to attend their Spanish courses and gain this valuable knowledge and skill set.
- Integrates opportunities for students to utilize real-world experiences as learning opportunities via internship opportunities, Zoom meetings with experts, and partnering with other classes from around the world for conversations.

5. Department activities pursuing Diversity and Inclusion

- Following Dr. Shewanda Riley’s presentation, we had a productive discussion on biases, micro-aggressions, and how we might adjust the rhetoric of syllabi to be more inclusive.

- Hosting a bilingual, multiracial poet as the Visiting Writer for 2021 who works with immigrants and will address this issue some in her presentation of March 31, 2021.
- A world literature course is offered each semester with our definition of “world” shifting from borders to a global perspective and the marginalized as well as the mainstream.
- Faculty strive to integrate disparate voices into course reading selections for every course.
- Faculty are continually revising the senior exit exam to be more inclusive and less traditionally-canonical (read: dead white men).