Beach serves on delegation to South Africa

As part of a People to People Art Education Delegation, Dr. Gleny Beach traveled to South Africa and spent two weeks in Johannesburg and Cape Town, finishing with a two-day safari to Kruger National Park.

The Art Education Delegation team consisted of art educators from elementary through university levels as well as a senior art education major and a dean of an art school.

The team visited art facilities and public schools from primary through high school, an arts magnet high school, a print-making studio and university art programs in Johannesburg and Cape Town, as well as the South African National Art Museum in Cape Town.

Professional meetings and visits focused upon learning about the culture and history of South Africa. The People to People program also included touring of Johannesburg and Cape Town areas to further immerse delegates in the culture of South Africa.

Metropolitan Opera singer visits SE

The SE department of music welcomed Metropolitan Opera singer Morris Robinson on Monday, Nov. 1. He was a guest of Dr. Jammieca Mott, voice instructor, visiting voice studios and leading a master class for four Southeastern students.

Master class participants included Aaron Williams, Jocelyn Batts, Essie Jefferson and Justin Britt.

Robinson was in Dallas for his performance of the Commendatore in “Don Giovanni.” Twenty-seven students, faculty and chaperones attended this performance with the Dallas Opera on Friday, Nov. 5, and were invited by Robinson to meet cast members and to take a short tour backstage afterward.
Students compete in Speech Jam

The top three competitors of the 2010 Speech Jam, left to right, are Trey Davis, Kristina Bruce and Jordan Hedrick.

From percussion ensemble performances, student recitals, marching and symphonic band activities, to state performances and national excursions, Southeastern Percussion continues to make new strides in the flourishing world of percussion. The SOSU Percussion Ensemble performed for the Oklahoma Percussive Arts Society Festival at East Central University, made tours to Paris, Tom Bean, Aubrey and Collinsville, Texas, standing room-only audience at their fall 2010 concert.

Other recent percussion performances include a solo recital featuring music performance major Ryan Emrick on Dec. 2. Continuing a 12-year tradition, several SE percussion students attended the four-day Percussive Arts Society International Convention in Indianapolis, Ind., broadening their horizons and experiencing the multi-faceted world of percussion on an international scale.

Percussionists enjoy busy semester

SE professor publishes papers

Dr. Mo Chehbouni, assistant professor of chemistry, published two papers in different books in collaboration with Dr. Allen Apblett from Oklahoma State University.

The first paper titled “Green Process for Uranium Separation Utilizing Molybdenum Trioxide” was published as chapter 13 of the 2010 issue of the Nuclear Energy and the Environment, an issue of the American Chemical Society Symposium Series. Chehbouni was the first author of the article. The second paper titled “Nanotechnology for Uranium Separations and Immobilization” was published in Advances in Materials Science for Environmental and Nuclear Technology: Ceramic Transactions, Volume 222.

Fisheries and wildlife classes combine research, course content

During 2010, three field-based courses literally submerged SE students interested in aquatic ecology. Dr. Tim Patton taught Western River Ecology at two locations. A spring course was done in collaboration with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Sam Houston State University and entailed 10 days of rafting an 85-mile stretch of the Rio Grande River on the Texas-Mexico border near Big-Bend National Park.

The summer course was conducted in collaboration with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Navajo Nation and entailed rafting a 75-mile stretch of the San Juan River in Utah.

Both courses emphasized ecology as it relates to endangered species recovery, provided data in support of Patton’s research and allowed students to see what it is like to conduct multi-day scientific sampling expeditions in wilderness situations.

In the fall, Patton took students to Galveston Texas, where they studied coastal ecology on the Gulf of Mexico.

Fisheries and wildlife classes combine research, course content

The river ecology class receiving a lecture using illustrations in the sand at San Juan River in Utah.

The river ecology class canoeing a remote stretch of the Rio Grande River along the Texas-Mexico border.

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Safety students attend ASSE Chicago leadership conference

Seven occupational safety students attended the American Society of Safety Engineers Future Safety Leaders Conference in Chicago Nov. 4-5. This was an “invitation only” event where students were required to submit an essay and application. The materials were reviewed by an independent panel, and selected participants were notified in September. Only 120 students were selected nationwide.

SE receives NSF research laboratory renovation grant

In September, the National Science Foundation awarded a three-year grant of $475,458 to Southeastern for support of a project titled “Renovation of Biotechnology and Chemistry Research Laboratories at SEOSU,” which will totally renovate three key research labs in the Science Building.

Dr. Nancy L. Paiva is the principal investigator (PI) and lead author. Dr. Tim Smith is the co-PI and Dr. Jerry Polson and Eddie Harbin are listed as senior personnel in the grant, but several others on campus contributed to the submitted proposal and are working on the project. The funding is actually from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, or “stimulus funds,” via a competitive grant program at NSF. All of the money will be used to pay local contractors and purchase American-made lab fixtures to bring the 47-year-old labs from their current conditions to a style more suitable to modern research.

Pre-Law Society visits Texas Wesley School of Law

Student members of the Southeastern Pre-Law Society and its sponsor Bruce Johnson traveled to Texas Wesleyan University School of Law on Oct. 12. At Texas Wesleyan they attended a regularly scheduled constitutional law class, met with admissions personnel and toured the academic facilities. The Southeastern Pre-Law Society sponsors at least one trip each semester to an area law school to provide pre-law students with relevant information about the school and its academic environment. There are several recent Southeastern graduates currently attending area law schools including the University of Tulsa College of Law, Oklahoma City University School of Law, University of Oklahoma College of Law and SMU Dedman School of Law.

SE graduate students present at scientific meeting

Two Southeastern graduate students in the master of technology – biology degree program presented the results of their thesis research at the 51st Annual Technical Meeting of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society. Christina Newman presented her research paper titled “Prothonotary Warbler Temporal Response to Flooding Events at Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge, Oklahoma.” Ross Anderson presented the results of his thesis field work titled “Tree Swallow Reproductive Success and Site Fidelity at Red Slough Wildlife Management Area.” Both students will complete their MT degrees in spring 2011. Two Southeastern undergraduate students, David Eason and Stephanie Blankenship, Ryan Favors and Katy Bevers attend last spring’s TORUS conference.

Math department to host symposium

In the spring, the mathematics department will host the seventh annual Texas/Oklahoma Regional Undergraduate Symposium (TORUS).

In addition to student presentations, the symposium also consists of a keynote speaker, a panel discussion and the always popular Math Jeopardy contest. This year’s keynote speaker will be Alejandro Aceves, a mathematics professor from SMU, and Dr. Jerry Polson and Eddie Harbin are listed as senior personnel in the grant, but several others on campus contributed to the submitted proposal and are working on the project. The funding is actually from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, or “stimulus funds,” via a competitive grant program at NSF. All of the money will be used to pay local contractors and purchase American-made lab fixtures to bring the 47-year-old labs from their current conditions to a style more suitable to modern research.

SE Speaks workshop for True Blue Ambassadors

The True Blue Ambassadors started their 2010-11 school year with an SE Speaks workshop, directed by Dr. Lacinda Brese, director of forensics and assistant professor of communication. SE Speaks is a training program that teaches participants how to cohesively and concisely share their Southeastern stories. The program was designed by Liz McCraw, dean of enrollment management, and Brese. SE Speaks was created to ensure that visitors and prospective students hear about real experiences during their time on campus, so they gain insight into what being part of the Southeastern family is truly about.

Both McCraw and Brese lead SE Speaks workshops on campus throughout the year.

Christina Newman

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Wood elected president of state Ornithological Society

Dr. Doug Wood, associate professor of biological sciences, was elected to president of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society at the 51st Annual Technical Meeting of the Society in Stillwater on Oct. 16. He will serve from 2011 to 2012.

The Oklahoma Ornithological Society was founded in 1951 and has a strong history of supporting avian research and conservation in Oklahoma. The Society supports research grants for students and professionals, supports educational projects related to bird conservation at the state and community levels, interacts with state and federal agencies on bird conservation issues and publishes a research journal. Its members also volunteer on a large number of citizen science projects. Wood looks forward to strengthening the Society and its commitment to education, research and conservation of our feathered friends.

SE Jazz Ensemble performs and tours Oklahoma schools

The Southeastern Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Brian Walker and assistant director Todd Gentzel, gave their fall concert on Nov. 7. Featured in this concert were two guest artists, Dr. Aaron Adair, director and associate professor of theatre at SE, and Dan Foster, current lead-trumpeter in the Grammy-nominated North Texas One O’clock Lab Band. The next morning, the SE Jazz Ensemble then embarked on a tour to McAlester and Antlers to perform for middle and high school students. A total of three concerts were given, one at McAlester High School, one at McAlester Middle School and one at Antlers High School where students from both the high school and middle school gathered to see the group perform.

Oklahoma won bragging rights as the winner of the Second Annual Red River Sing-Off held on the campus of Southeastern. Eight high school choirs from Oklahoma and Texas competed in four divisions at the event held on Oct. 12.

David Childs, internationally acclaimed composer and conductor, served as a clinician for the Red River Sing-off, and judges for the event were Dr. Suzanne Pence, from the University of Texas; Dr. Charles Chapman, retired professor from Southwestern Oklahoma State; and Donna McCommon, from Pearl, Miss. The awards ceremony opened with a performance by the South-eastern Chorale, followed by announcement and presentation of the awards by Dr. Stacy Weger, Dr. David Childs and Dr. Lucretia Scoufos. The Presidential Partners Sweepstakes Cup, won by Texas last year, goes to the state delegation of directors whose scores totaled the highest number of points.
Representing the School of Arts and Sciences from various academic departments, several students and faculty participated in the 12th annual Oklahoma Research Day, held this year at Cameron University in Lawton on Nov. 12.

The event, coordinated by Oklahoma’s regional universities, provides an opportunity for faculty and students from various disciplines and universities across the state to share poster presentations depicting their respective research and academic projects.

Dr. Nancy Paiva, associate professor of chemistry, took the following students: chemistry majors Stefan Jones and Sadira Abu-Arja, biotechnology major Joel Teko and chemistry/biology double majors Allen Baughman and Rebekah Ritchie. Dr. Teresa Golden, assistant professor of biological sciences who advised Ritchie in her research project, also attended.

Computer science major Trey Davis and computer information systems major Clay Julius participated in the event, along with their respective faculty members, Dr. Ming-Shan Su, associate professor of computer science, and Mike Morris, assistant professor of computer science.

Curtis Lusk, occupational safety and health major and communication minor, also presented research and was accompanied by Dr. Faye Mangrum, professor of communication.

SE students, faculty attend Research Day

Sadira Abu-Arja, chemistry major

Stefan Jones, chemistry major

Joel Teko, biotechnology major

Rebekah Ritchie, chemistry and biology double major

Clay Julius, CIS major; Trey Davis, CS major; Mike Morris, assistant professor of computer science; and Dr. Ming-Shan Su, associate professor of computer science.

Allen Baughman, chemistry and biology double major, and Dr. Teresa Golden, assistant professor of biological sciences

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