SE safety grad gives back to department

In January, the Department of Occupational Safety and Health received a donation from alumna Carolyn Crain. Crain graduated from the SE in 2007 and is a safety specialist for the Bechtel Corporation’s construction division. Crain felt the need to give back to the department after an incident that occurred during her tenure in her current position. An employee experienced a cardiac arrest, and Crain was instrumental in administering CPR to the individual until emergency medical treatment arrived on-site.

After a one-week stay in the hospital, the employee actually returned to work the following Monday. Crain’s company rewarded her with an approximate $800 stipend for outstanding performance. Crain did not feel comfortable accepting the reward, so she explained to Dr. Nick Nichols, associate professor in the OSH Department, that she wanted to “see the funds used towards the next group of safety professionals coming into the arena,” and that she would also like to “have it used for something that deals with the construction side of safety.”

Crain donated a total of $900 to the department (supplementing the original sum). Nichols accepted the award on the department’s behalf and will utilize the funds for purchases to support the construction safety course.

Theatre major interns at Disney

Sophomore technical theatre major Darrin Wade is on internship at Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Fla., this semester.

Art, Communication and Theatre Chair Dell McLain conducted a site visit to see Wade working at the 27,000-acre resort facility.

Over the course of the semester, Wade will work with visiting children at Disney’s Animal Kingdom, assist with the “Finding Nemo” live action theatrical production and attend weekend master classes provided by the Disney College Program.

“I’ve been most impressed with the company’s aggressive approach to positive customer relations,” Wade said. “Employees are expected to assist every visitor in having a single and specific ‘magical moment’ while at Walt Disney World.”
Spanish education receives national recognition

The Department of English, Humanities and Languages is pleased to announce that its B.A. program in Spanish education has received joint national recognition from the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Southeastern thus becomes, along with the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma State University and Oklahoma Baptist University, one of only four universities in Oklahoma to receive that distinction.

The Spanish faculty members in the department are Dr. Daniel Althoff, Kim McGehee and Dr. Caryn Witten.

Smith appointed chair

Smith, who joined Southeastern in 1995, is a professor of chemistry and is an Engles Endowed Chair in Biomedical Sciences.

He succeeds former chair Dr. Jerry Polson, who recently assumed the role of assistant vice president for academic affairs and dean of the School of Graduate and University Studies.

After receiving his B.S. in chemistry from Southeastern in 1990, Smith earned his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry at Oklahoma State University in 1994.

In addition to teaching responsibilities, Smith has served in several capacities including as the director of the NIH Minority Biological Research Support program at Southeastern and as the campus representative for the Oklahoma IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence.

Smith has developed a substantial research program in the area of bio-analytical chemistry that has involved more than 50 undergraduate students and has obtained well over a million dollars of funding from external grants. He has authored or co-authored 30 research articles in peer-reviewed publications and co-authored two book chapters.

Dr. (Joel) Tim Smith has been appointed chair of the Department of Chemistry, Computer and Physical Sciences.

“SE is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Institution.”

Edited by: Jeni Maple
Journalism instructor and student publications adviser
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Patton publishes two papers

Dr. Tim Patton, associate professor of biological sciences, recently had two papers accepted for publication in the Proceedings of the Oklahoma Academy of Sciences. These papers are “Trends from Six Years of Spotlight Surveys for American Alligators in Southeastern Oklahoma” and “Harris’ mud crab Rhithropanopeus harrisii in Oklahoma (Lake Texoma).” Patton and his students have worked on these organisms for the past few years, and their work in these and other areas of fisheries and wildlife conservation continue.

Rice publishes new book

Prometheus Books has just released the latest book by Dr. Stanley Rice, SE professor of biology.

“Life of Earth: Portrait of a Beautiful, Middle-Aged, Stressed-Out World” is the story of how biological life has made Earth into such a beautiful planet, and of the major themes of evolution. Much of its focus is on human adaptations such as altruism, religion and science.

Reviewers have praised its readability and humor.

This is the third book Rice has published while a faculty member at Southeastern. His two previous books were “Encyclopedia of Evolution” and “Green Planet”.

Students volunteer at Women in Science conference

Four students from the SE School of Arts and Sciences (chemistry, biology and occupational safety and health majors) served as volunteers at the 2011 Women in Science conference, Feb. 8 at the Science Museum Oklahoma.

“Despite a pending ice storm, our students travelled to OKC to spend the day mentoring hundreds of female high school students, and helped them learn what they need to do to succeed in college science majors and careers,” said Dr. Nancy Paiva, the NASA OK Space Grant representative in charge of recruiting volunteers at SE.

The SE students who participated were Rebekah Ritchie, Crystal Shupert, Courtney Tolar and Britannie Swift.
Mathematics majors participate in competition

On Saturday, Dec. 4, three mathematics majors spent three hours attempting to solve six mathematics problems. They then took a lunch break, and afterwards attempted to solve six more problems in another three-hour time period. This is the William Lowell Putnam Mathematical Competition in a nutshell. With the median (not mean) score of 0, each problem is a challenge, and to get a nonzero score is a victory in and of itself.

John Bradfield, Prawesh Pandey and Michael Tilles are the three SE students who took the exam this year and spent the semester practicing by solving problems from previous exams, under the guidance of Dr. Karl Frinkle, associate professor of mathematics. The students now have to wait until April for the results.

Weiner named to OSF Board

Dr. Charles Weiner, assistant vice president for academic affairs, is the newest addition to the Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival’s Board of Trustees.

“It is an honor to serve on this board,” said Weiner. “The OSF means so much to me, the community and the region. I am excited to participate in the future planning as the Festival continues to move forward and prosper.”

Weiner is in his 21st year at Southeastern, having served in a number of capacities, including chair of the professional education department, executive director of TAPSI and coordinator of the master of education program. For the past 10 years, Weiner has been a member of the Office of Academic Affairs.

Su presents best technical paper

Dr. Ming-Shan Su presented the nominated best technical paper at the 50th Annual International Association for Computer Information Systems Conference at the Golden Nugget Hotel during Oct. 6-9, 2010 in Las Vegas, Nev. The paper, titled “Using Discrete Event Simulation to Evaluate the Benefits of RFID in Reducing Traffic Congestion and Pollution While Increasing Student Safety in Rural Oklahoma Schools,” was the result of a team effort among faculty from several different disciplines and schools, including Dr. Jane Hicks and former faculty member Dr. Andrew Tiger from management in the School of Business.

The theme of the conference was “Social Networking – From Personal to Business,” and the themes of the meeting revolved around how social networks can be used to enhance the educational process.
Dr. Robert McFadden, professor of music, has released a new CD titled “Glad Sounds.” It features lively piano solo arrangements of well-known contemporary Christian and patriotic numbers.

The CD sells for $15 and copies may be purchased by calling the SE Music Department. All proceeds go to the Southeastern Foundation – McFadden music scholarship. The scholarship bearing his name was instituted by Waples Memorial United Methodist Church, in Denison, Texas, in 2009 to recognize 20 continuous years of service to the church as pianist/organist.

McFadden teaches piano, music history and literature and aural skills, and he also accompanies choral ensembles for the department.

He has earned degrees in piano performance from Wichita State University, University of Michigan and University of Kansas. He is a past president of Oklahoma Music Teachers Association, an affiliate of Music Teachers National Association.


The 400-page manuscript is the product of almost a decade of research and writing, supported in part by grants from the Oklahoma Humanities Council.

The book explores Carter’s role in activating a conservative Christian political constituency in his 1976 presidential campaign and, in turn, how his actions in regard to abortion rights, gay and lesbian civil rights and the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment turned this same voting bloc against him in 1980.

This is Flippen’s third book with a major national university press in his 16 years at Southeastern.

Flippen will present a paper drawn from this new book titled “A Tale of Two Baptists” at the Ohio Academy of History Conference at Denison University in Columbus, Ohio in April.

The inaugural meeting of the Southeastern Oklahoma State University Occupational Safety and Health Industry Advisory Board met Thursday, March 3 in the OSH conference room.

The board held a three-hour meeting to discuss various issues related to the improvement, sustainability and successes of the program.

Members of the board are:
- William Armstrong, City of Ft. Worth, TX
- Richard Bourlon, Boy Scouts of America
- Phil Bunker, AT&T
- Dusty Callahan, Texas Instruments
- Jason Cole, Baylor Medical Center
- Jachin Howard, The Hartford Insurance Company
- Diana Jones, OSHA Consultation Division, Oklahoma Department of Labor
- Skipper Kendrick, consultant formerly with Bell Helicopter-Textron
- Anton Pavlovsky, Alcon Labs
- Greg Smith, CSHI Company.
Internationally renowned soprano visits SE

The SE Department of Music welcomed internationally renowned Baroque soprano Dr. Julianne Baird on Feb. 17. Baird performed as part of the Musical Arts Series in a program titled “Music from the Jane Austen Songbook” assisted by Sung-Yun Kim and SE theatre faculty members Dr. Aaron Adair and Kathleen Hardgrove.

Baird also worked with six Southeastern students, exploring their vocal talents through text and musical style. Master class participants included Aaron Williams, Justin Britt, Nicholas Vance, Jocelyn Batts, Charli Jo Haggard and Katie Herron.

With more than 130 recordings to her credit on Decca, Deutsche Gramophone, Dorian and Chandos, Baird has been named one of the world’s 10 most recorded classical artists.

Coleman elected to NCHC board

Dr. Lisa L. Coleman has been elected to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the National Collegiate Honors Council by nationwide ballot. Results were posted in January.

The Board consists of 24 members, six of whom are students. The NCHC is composed of over 846 national and international member institutions. The mission of the NCHC is to serve honors professionals and advocate support for and excellence in higher education for all students.

Coleman has served as chair or co-chair of the Committee on Diversity issues for the NCHC since 2004 and has led numerous workshops on diversity issues. She also initiated the first Diversity Forum at the national conference in 2006, which she has organized and moderated for the past five years.

Coleman and Jonathan Kotinek, Diversity Committee co-chair, also co-edited the NCHC monograph, “Setting the Table for Diversity” (2010), which included Coleman’s chapter, “Psyche as Text: Diversity Issues and First-Year Honors Composition.”

Braley develops Grantsmanship Online Course

Kate Plunkett has earned the first Certificate of Completion for finishing the SE Grantsmanship Online Course, a self-paced, online professional development course for SE employees created by Dr. Richard Braley, assistant professor of occupational safety and health.

Braley, who has almost 30 years experience in grant-getting, also sought suggestions Paul Buntz, Chris Bradshaw, Hal Poovey and Wayne Jones in creating the course.

SE Grantsmanship contents cover several topics including the use of the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA), the important part the Federal Register (FR) plays in grant authoring, when to review the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) and how to prepare an analysis of an RFP or FOA (Request for Proposal or Funding Opportunity Announcement).

There are “Knowledge Checks” at the end of many of the 18 modules which can be completed in one hour or less, and the questions for the Certificate of Completion test are taken from these Knowledge Checks.

To enroll in the free course, call Ellen Hendrix at 745-3185 or email her at ehendrix@se.edu.
The Choctaw Nation hosts a nationally acclaimed pow-wow each year during the Thanksgiving weekend, and one of the main events of a pow-wow is the dance competition. Native Americans from all over the United States attend and perform tribal dances in one of six categories that offer prize money and other awards.

Because more than 400 dancers from about 60 tribes are typically represented at the pow-wow, it is quite a chore to register, score, award prizes and process the information generated.

Former SE computer science instructor Ben Cacho is employed by the Choctaw Nation and has written a custom software application that handles all facets of the dancing competition. Since 2005 Mike Morris, assistant professor in computer information systems, has voluntarily assisted Cacho in the operations of the event and execution of the computer system.

This year Clay Julius, a top CIS student, also assisted in the operation and was introduced to the concept of “service learning.”

Cacho and Morris also take care of data processing at the smaller pow-wow in Tuskahoma every Labor Day.
CIS/CS program adds applied computer security course

Do you need to know martial arts in order to be a security guard? Nowadays, the answer is: It depends.

The CIS/CS program at SE is offering a new course called “applied computer security” this spring semester to help train students to guard computers and networks from intruders.

The instructor of the course is Clay Risenhoover, a field security professional who also owns a consulting company. Risenhoover is a certified GSEC (GIAC Security Essentials Certification) instructor, and he has been an IT security auditor for many companies.

SE safety alumni attend oil and gas conference

On Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, over 1,000 business owners, operations managers and safety professionals in the oil and gas field met for the 2010 OSHA Oil and Gas Safety Conference in Dallas. Southeastern was well represented as many graduates from the university’s Occupational Safety and Health program were in attendance.

The conference is an arena in which leading government personnel and industry safety leadership can engage direct dialog about current and future safety regulations and share best practices being implemented within the oil and gas industry to reduce fatalities and employee injuries.

Several dynamic presentations were featured, ranging from real-time monitoring systems for workover rigs to preventing explosions in above ground storage tanks to real-life stories from former and current field employees whose lives have been impacted by industrial accidents.

The conference also featured speakers from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), the National Safety Council (NSC), British Petroleum, ExxonMobil and Devon Energy.

Several Southeastern alumni took the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new contacts. SE alumni who attended the conference include:

- Alex Flores, EHS specialist -- Contek Solutions
- Corey McDaniel, EHS specialist -- Contek Solutions
- Travis Bell, HSE manager -- Cameron Drilling & Production Systems
- Hunter Clymore, safety compliance specialist -- Cross tex Energy
- Chris Cole, loss control representative -- National American Insurance Company
- Josh Rose, safety and environmental coordinator -- Cimarex Energy
- Bobby Turner, safety analyst -- Anadarko Petroleum Corporation
- Dustin R. Payne, EHS representative -- Anadarko Petroleum Corporation
- Rocky Lee Phillips, HSE coordinator -- Complete Production Services
- Scott Mercer, HSE manager -- Complete Production Services
- Jeremy Morgan, HSE manager -- Quicksilver Resources
- Johnny Macon, HSE field manager -- Cactus Drilling Company
- Henry Jackson, safety and training coordinator -- Murphy Oil

Pictured left to right, are: Alex Flores, Corey McDaniel, Travis Bell, Hunter Clymore, Chris Cole and Josh Rose.
EHL recognizes outstanding students

The Department of English, Humanities and Languages is pleased to announce the winners of the Elbert and Marion Hill Outstanding Junior and Outstanding Sophomore awards.

The scholarships are funded by an endowment established by Dr. Elbert and Marion Hill. Elbert Hill holds the rank of Professor Emeritus at Southeastern, after teaching here for 40 years. Marion Hill has published four mystery novels, most recently “Deadly Design”.

Jessica Pearce, the Outstanding Junior, lives outside of Durant. She is autistic and, since a young age, has been interested in writing. She plans to attend graduate school, specializing in fiction writing, and hopes that through her writing she can have a positive influence on other people with disabilities, especially the autistic.

Joyce Butler, the Outstanding Sophomore, is from Denison, Texas, and is the mother of four adult sons. She transferred to SE in the fall of 2010 to pursue her love of literature. Butler is drawn to the historical, linguistic, interpretative and critical aspects of literature and plans to pursue a master’s degree after graduating from Southeastern.

CIS/CS plan field trip to Choctaw Casinos

The Department of Chemistry, Computer and Physical Science has planned an IT field trip for its junior and senior students to visit the IT department of Choctaw Casinos on March 23.

Last year, the department took a group of 23 people including CIS/CS students, staff and faculty to visit the Casinos.

During the visit, students saw how the networking skills they learned in the applied network class are applied in a real world environment on a daily-basis. For example, the Windows Domain Controller Server, the Database Server and the Web Server that students learn to set up in this class are all used at the Choctaw Casinos.

Allen Baughman, a May 2010 graduate who works as a part-time lab tech for Dr. Nancy Paiva, helps move lab items for storage during the construction phase of the renovation.

NSF-funded science lab renovation underway

The renovation of three research labs in the Science Building, funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation, is proceeding on schedule.

The three rooms, located on the second floor of the Science Building, have been cleared out to allow for the removal of the ceiling tiles, which was done on March 5, and the demolition of the old benches and hoods completed over spring break.

The second floor hallway of the Science Building will be blocked off as a construction zone from mid-March until approximately August, so plan your dashes to classes appropriately.

Pictured are CIS/CS students, faculty and staff who visited the Choctaw Casinos’ IT department last year. The department is planning a similar trip for current juniors and seniors on March 23.
Morris attends HPC conference

For the second year Mike Morris, assistant professor in computer information systems, was invited to attend “Super Computing 10,” an international conference that was held in New Orleans last fall. This event centers on HPC, or High Performance Computing. The conference is sponsored by two of the largest and most prestigious computing organizations in the world, the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

At this conference, educators from around the world collaborated on the latest developments and trends in supercomputing.

Morris sponsors Southeastern’s Computer Club and has mentored the club members’ project of building a very small supercomputer for experimental programming. Although the club’s “cluster” is small and relatively low-powered, it demonstrates the concept of high performance computing and uses the same techniques of a larger supercomputer.

SE hosts math symposium

The SE Mathematics Department hosted the seventh annual Texas/Oklahoma Regional Undergraduate Symposium (TORUS) in the new General Classroom Building on Saturday, Feb. 26.

The symposium is geared toward undergraduates majoring in mathematics or mathematics education. Approximately 60 people attended the conference representing universities from Oklahoma and Texas.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Alejandro Aceves from SMU whose talk was titled “The Really Big and the Really Small: The Mathematics and Applications of Multiple Scales.”

Other events at the symposium included a special invited hour-long presentation on “Special Angles” by Southeastern’s Dr. Chris Moretti, presentations by students from a variety of universities, a panel on “Going to Graduate School in Mathematics: What to Expect” and the always popular Math Jeopardy contest, which this year was won by the University of North Texas.

Next year’s symposium will be held on the campus of the University of Central Oklahoma. Partial funding for TORUS is provided by NSF grant DMS-0846477 through the MAA Regional Undergraduate Mathematics Conferences program. Southeastern’s Dr. Brett Elliott is the principal investigator for the grant.
Music Department hosts independent singer/songwriter

Austin Hartley-Leonard, a Los Angeles-based singer/songwriter, was in residence on the SE campus on Feb. 25.

Sponsored by the Department of Music, Hartley-Leonard spent the morning talking to students about his music-writing process and entry into the music industry. In the afternoon, Hartley-Leonard provided a "songwriters symposium," working with several Southeastern students on songs they had written.

ASSE scholarships awarded

Two American Society of Safety Engineers scholarships were recently awarded to SE students at the OSH Industry Advisory Board meeting Thursday, March 4 at SE’s Department of Occupational Safety and Health.

The 2011 ASSE James “Skipper” Kendrick Scholarship was awarded to Brittney Newton, a second degree occupational safety and health student from Farmersville, Texas.

The 2011 ASSE Fort Worth Professional Chapter Scholarship was awarded to Corey Darr, a senior occupational safety and health student from Tishomingo.

SE faculty, students tour Johnson Space Center

SE Chemistry, Computer and Physical Sciences faculty members Dr. James Britton and Jo Ann Poindexter, along with SE students Stephen (Joshua) Hightower and Derek Rollins, joined other representatives from the Oklahoma NASA Space Grant Consortium on a “VIP tour” of NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, Jan. 10-14.

The group spent two days touring the historical and research areas at JSC and also had a long session with NASA personnel to learn more about valuable undergraduate internship opportunities.
Theatre students compete in auditions

On Feb. 4, Southeastern seniors Josh Harris and Skyler Leader traveled to Memphis, Tenn., to participate in the Unified Professional Theatre Auditions (UPTA).

The two students, both majoring in musical theatre and acting/directing, competed with 1,200 other performers in what has been called “the most respected audition in the country” by Curt Wollan, producer of Troupe America/StageWest.

The UPTA is a three-day combined audition where actors from across the country perform for a chance to be cast in national repertory and touring companies. Approximately 80 companies from across the United States are represented at UPTA annually.

Actors at UPTA often do not hear about casting and contracting until long after their audition. However, Harris has already been contracted to work for the Charleston Stage Company in Charleston, S. C., as a resident actor for one year. He will appear in all of the company’s repertory shows, as well as teach theatre classes to area children throughout the year.

Leader has also been asked to attend a call back session for the Israel-based a cappella/beat box performance company Voca People.

Where are they now?

David Self (1994, art) is a ceramics teacher at Wichita Heights High School in Bel Aire, Kan. and an adjunct faculty member at Friends University in Wichita.

Robert Ostman (2006, art) is an art teacher at Madill Elementary School.

Brandon Beaver (1998, biology/interdisciplinary medical sciences) is a dentist at Westside Dentistry in Durant.

Mark Brown (1997, biology/interdisciplinary medical sciences) is a physical therapist in Oklahoma City.

Micah Sampson (2008, biotechnology) is a part-time research technician and joined the U.S. Air Force in spring 2010.

Amanda Brock (2009, biotechnology) is in the Ph.D. program in biomedical sciences at OU-HSC in Oklahoma City.

Aaron Mullens (2007, Spanish education) teaches Spanish at Pottsboro High School and is completing a master’s degree at Southeastern in school administration.

Katheryn Bell (2007, English) is a law student at the University of Oklahoma.

JoAnn Poindexter (2004, environmental science) is an adjunct faculty member at SE and is working on her M.S. at SE.

Tiffany Craig (2009, musical theatre) teaches dance at the Starlighter’s Dance Studio in Nixa, Mo.

Kevin Faulk (2004, mathematics) entered the full-time Ph.D. program in mathematics at OU this year and served as a panelist at the recent TORUS math conference held at SE on Feb. 26.

Ray Gaston (2000, occupational safety and health) is safety director at Peterbuilt Truck Company in Denton, Texas.

Craig Rice (2009, occupational safety and health) is branch safety manager at Anheuser-Busch Company in Tulsa.

Natalie Weaver (2003, musical theatre) is currently teaching a musical theatre audition master class for CYT, a theatre arts group in Durant, and serves on the Kansas City Actor’s Equity Liaison Committee. She will also be playing the Narrator in the New Theatre’s production of “Joseph...Dreamcoat” this summer.