Beach Receives Governor’s Arts Award

Dr. Gleny Beach, director of Art at Southeastern, received the prestigious Governor’s Arts Award. She was honored by Governor Brad Henry at the 34th Annual Governor’s Arts Awards ceremony, October 20 at the State Capitol.

“When someone is nominated for such an award, it somehow does not seem real when you actually receive a telephone call telling you that you have won,” Beach said. “I just couldn’t believe it. It is such a humbling experience. I’m very proud of the students that I have been able to perhaps influence in a positive way and very proud of what we do in the support of the arts at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.”

“This is a tremendous honor for Dr. Beach, the University and the community,” said Southeastern interim president Larry Minks. “She has distinguished herself in her field, while at the same time, encouraged others to appreciate the arts. Dr. Beach is very deserving of this recognition and we are proud that she is a member of the Southeastern family.”

Previous Governor’s Arts Awards recipients from Southeastern have included Dr. Molly Risso, Max McLeod and Dr. James Wintle.

Something Spooky was Brewing in the Physical Sciences Lab

An entity identified as “Dr. Poindexter” appeared during all Physical Sciences lab periods October 28-30 to conduct mysterious experiments in a festive setting. (The entity did resemble Mrs. Joann Poindexter, an adjunct Physical Sciences instructor in the Department of Chemistry, Computer and Physical Sciences.)

According to Dr. Nancy Paiva, “Students enjoyed learning about the synthesis of slime, glow-in-the-dark chemicals, and various experiments with dry ice and fog.”

SE Homecoming Royalty

Interim President Dr. Larry Minks with this year’s Homecoming royalty, Brett Moss and Leslie Chandler (to left of Minks) and former royalty Jodi Buswell and Jake Hembree. Chandler and Moss are Communication majors at SE.
Edited by: Mr. Ray Gaskin, Journalism Instructor and Student Publications Adviser
Layout by: Mr. Jack Ousey, Visual Arts Assistant Professor

### Chairs and Office Assistants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School of Arts and Sciences</th>
<th>Dean:</th>
<th>Administrative Assistant to the Dean:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art, Communication and Theatre</td>
<td>Mr. Dell McLain</td>
<td>Sandy Bumgarner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td>Dr. Diane Dixon</td>
<td>Mary Pickens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry, Computer, and Physical Sciences</td>
<td>Dr. Jerry Polson</td>
<td>Sandy Kirven</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English, Humanities, and Languages</td>
<td>Dr. John Mischo</td>
<td>Teresa Anderson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Dr. Charles Matthews</td>
<td>Susan Hodson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Dr. Steven Emge</td>
<td>Jan Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Safety and Health</td>
<td>Dr. Wayne Jones</td>
<td>Deanna Moody</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Sciences</td>
<td>Dr. Kenneth Chinn</td>
<td>Karen Prus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Morris Presents at Super Computing Conference

Computer Information Systems assistant professor Mike Morris recently gave a presentation at the SC ‘09 (Super Computing ‘09) Education conference in Portland, Oregon. One of the conference goals was to provide unique opportunities for interaction among scientists, technologists, educators and students from government, academia, industry and business located across the globe.

Participants were challenged to expand their knowledge and use of computational science tools to advance scientific discovery and in turn to share what they learned with others, especially students, upon returning home.

Morris’ presentation focused on the impact that HPC (High Performance Computing) is having on the curriculum in SE’s Computer Information Systems program, especially the assistance provided by OSCER (the Oklahoma Supercomputing Center for Education and Research) at Oklahoma University in Norman.

### Southeastern ACS Chapter Receives National Recognition

Dr. Jerry Polson, chair of the Chemistry, Computer and Physical Sciences Department, has received notification that Southeastern’s student chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS) has earned an Honorable Mention Award for its activities during the 2008-09 academic year.

Dr. Thomas H. Lane, president of the American Chemical Society, said, “Professors Gordon Eggleton and Nancy Paiva, faculty advisors of the chapter, deserve special commendation. Few faculty members are willing to make the great commitment of time and energy that a successful chapter requires. Their efforts certainly represent the best in undergraduate science education and mentoring around the country.”

Lane went on to say, “We extend our warmest congratulations to the students and Professor Eggleton and Professor Paiva for setting such a fine example for other chapters and being exemplary chemistry ambassadors.”

### Students Attend Academy of Science Meeting

Dr. Tim Patton, Doug Wood, and Erica Corbett from the Department of Biological Sciences took four students to the annual Oklahoma Academy of Science meeting, held this year at East Central University in Ada, on November 6.

All four students gave oral presentations on wildlife research projects they are conducting under the mentorship of Dr. Patton and Wood. The student’s research projects include work with fish, turtles and birds in southeastern Oklahoma.

Dr. Wood also gave a presentation in the Science Education section of the meeting, with the three faculty members as co-authors. The meeting provided a great opportunity for students in the sciences to give presentations in front of their peers, but also in front of scientists. All seven of SE’s attendants stayed through the afternoon for a workshop on the challenges of science education.

From left to right, Dr. Tim Patton, Ross Anderson, Dr. Doug Wood, Joseph McAllister, Christina Newman and Dr. Erica Corbett. Not shown is Clayton Porter.
Wood Leads Technical Meeting at Northeastern

Doug Wood, associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, organized and ran the Technical Meeting of the Oklahoma Ornithological Society as part of his duties as President-elect of the Society.

The meeting was held at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, October 23-25. Participants from Oklahoma and surrounding states attended the meeting, which consisted of a technical paper session, guest speakers and a field trip to the Nickel Preserve.

Two of Dr. Wood's graduate students presented the results of their first year of research during the technical session. Tina Newman presented her paper titled “Second Year Post-Flood Response by Prothonotary Warblers (Protonotaria citrea) at Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge, Oklahoma.”

Ross Anderson presented his paper, “Tree Swallow (Tachycineta bicolor) Nest Box Use and Reproductive Success at Red Slough Wildlife Management Area, Oklahoma.”

Samantha Meyer, a Southeastern undergraduate student and secretary for the SOSU Wildlife Club, attended the meeting and assisted with meeting operations.

Student is Darwin Essay Contest Winner

Chris Baroody, a Conservation major at Southeastern, was one of the cash award winners of a Darwin essay contest sponsored by the University of Oklahoma. The topic of the contest was why Darwin remains important today. Baroody's essay was about how evolutionary science and religion should complement one another so that society can address important environmental issues.

The awards were presented at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History on the OU campus. He was the only winner from the Regional Universities of Oklahoma. The year 2009 is the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of the “Origin of Species,” Darwin's most famous book.

Dr. Stanley Rice, a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, accompanied Baroody to Norman. He was one of the presenters during OU's “Darwinathon” November 2. Rice’s topic was “Darwin never knew how right he was.” He gave the presentation in his Darwin costume.

Theatre Assists with Holiday Food Drive

Theatre at Southeastern has brought back dinner theatre with Agatha Christie’s murder mystery, “The Mousetrap,” with performances at the VPAC, December 3-5.

There’s a charitable twist to the holiday production. Theatre at Southeastern is working with Families Feeding Families, a non-profit organization, in a canned food drive to help those in need during the holidays.

Patrons bringing in two cans of food for each individual ticket purchased in advance receive $2 off. The special applies to individual pre-sales only.

OSH Course Involves Civic Engagement

With the passage of a new criterion by the Higher Learning Commission, colleges and universities are now required to provide evidence of student involvement in civic activities.

There are numerous examples of civic learning and engagement already being incorporated into classes at Southeastern.

One of them involves a Department of Occupational Safety and Health course, Legal Liability in Safety and Health Legislation. Each semester a mock trial is held based on an actual court case in which several maintenance workers at the infamous “Area 51” in Nevada filed a lawsuit against the U.S. government seeking compensation for past medical expenses. The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the case based on grounds of national security.

The trial examines the question: “which is more important, worker safety or national security?” Students play the roles of attorneys, witnesses, bailiff, court reporter, jury and television reporters.

Trial proceedings include opening statements and examination of plaintiff witnesses, examination of defense witnesses, closing statements and jury deliberation, reading of the jury verdict, and a presentation of original facts from the actual case.

For over 56 years, Agatha Christie’s “The Mousetrap” has been thrilling audiences in London’s West End, earning a spot in the “Guinness Book of World Records” as the longest running play in the history of theatre.
Travel Grant sends SE Representatives to NASA

Quinn from the NASA Center. Quinn, an environmental engineer and a NASA Hall of Fame member, is the inventor of eight patents and first author of numerous articles. Her research on groundwater treatment has won KSC the NASA’s Government Invention of the Year and Commercial Invention of the Year recognition.

During the visit to KSC, the students and Chehbouni toured the NASA facility, discussed a potential collaboration with Dr. Quinn, and watched NASA researchers analyzing probes from the Moon (brought from Apollo 14) using a Scanning Electron Microscope instrument (SEM).

Chehbouni, Pardue, and Mahdy had hoped to watch live the launch of the Ares I-X, the world’s largest rocket at present, which was scheduled for the morning of October 27 from Kennedy Space Center. Unfortunately, due to the bad weather, the launch was postponed to the following day.

Chehbouni and Quinn decided to collaborate on Emulsified Zero-Valent Iron for treatment of heavy metals. The project is of great interest to NASA and the Chemistry Department at Southeastern.

The visit to the NASA center has enabled Dr. Mo. to be eligible to compete for a Research Initiation Grant which may be awarded in early January, 2010.

Southeastern Percussion Ensemble

Southeastern Percussion Ensemble were hosted by Dr. Jacqueline W. Pardue and Ali Mahdy, visited chemistry students, Daniel Chehbouni and two senior members, was awarded the Oklahoma assistant professor at Southeastern.

Dr. Mo. Chehbouni, a chemistry assistant professor at Southeastern, was awarded the Oklahoma NASA EPSCOR Travel Grant to visit the NASA Kennedy Space Center (KSC) in Orlando, Florida. Chehbouni and two senior chemistry students, Daniel Pardue and Ali Mahdy, visited the center October 25-27, and were hosted by Dr. Jacqueline W. Pardue and Ali Mahdy.

Members of the Southeastern Percussion Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Marc M. White, were all smiles as they prepared to perform in concert November 19 in the Fine Arts Recital Hall.

Computer Students compete in Regional Contest

Southeastern computer programming students attended the South Central Region International Collegiate Programming Contest November 7 at ECU.

The yearly event is supported by the Association for Computing Machinery and IBM. C+ + and Java are the two programming languages allowed in the contest.

SE had two teams this year with three students in each. Team Ctrl-Alt-Elite consisted of Joshua Arrington, Trey Davis and Robert Nordmark. Team Southeastern Thunder was made up of Brent Odell, Andrew Smith and Kevin Bush.

The students practiced and challenged their programming and problem solving skills.

Dr. Lie Qian said, “Even though we didn’t win any award, I believe such experience will help our students to have better understanding of solving problems with programming language and will motivate them in their future computer related study.”

First Annual Red River Sing-Off is Big Success

Texas won bragging rights as the winner of the first annual Red River Sing-Off held in October on the Southeastern campus. Ten high school choirs from Oklahoma and Texas faced off in head-to-head competition in five divisions.

Stacy Weger, director of Choral Activities at Southeastern, said, “We planned this event to showcase the best of the best in high school choral music in this region.

The performances by these choirs exceeded even our highest of expectations. For these directors to have prepared their students at this level this early in the school year was astounding.”

The awards ceremony, held in Montgomery Auditorium in historic Morrison Hall, was full of students and energy as award presentations were made. Dr. Larry Minks, interim president of Southeastern, Dr. Lucretia Scoufos, dean of Arts and Sciences and Dr. Steven Emge, chair for the Department of Music were in attendance at the ceremony, as well as members of the music faculty.

Division winners and runner-ups were announced by Weger, and presented by Steven Emge. Winners were Celina (Texas), Durant, Bartlesville, Norman and Hebron (Texas). The Runners-up were Vian, Gainesville (Texas), Wichita Falls Rider (Texas), Grandbury (Texas) and Mustang.

Norman North High School won the Grand Champion award as the choir with the highest point total for the event. The trophy was presented to Norman North by Dr. David Childs, Director of Choral Activities at Vanderbilt University.

School of Arts and Sciences
Southeastern Oklahoma State University
1405 N 4th Street
Durant, OK 74701
www.SE.edu  580.749.3400

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Durant, OK 74701
KSSU Holiday Festival Schedule

SE’s KSSU radio is producing “The KSSU Holiday Festival”. The Program will air on Sundays from 7:00am until 12:00am from November 29 to December 27. A variety of radio selections from Old-time Christmas radio shows to classic pops will be presented.

The 88th annual Holiday Festival will feature “Candlelighting,” one of SE’s oldest traditions will be held on Monday, December 7th at 7:30pm. KSSU will present a live broadcast from Montgomery Auditorium and will tape the performance and will air again the following Sunday, December 13th. Dr. Stacey Weger, director of University choral programs and director for “Candlelighting,” will be the guest commentator.

Following that evening’s performance, KSSU will air the classic tale of Charles Dickens’, “A Christmas Carol.” This program is produced by Starlight Radio Theatre and co-produced by KSSU and Theatre at Southeastern. This holiday favorite will feature the voices of guest artists Jack Haggard, Dell McLain, Dana Ayers, Aaron Umsted, Katy Morris, the late Dr. Robert Henderson, Gray Morrison, Sherry Quaid, and Jose Chavez.

Chorvettes perform at SE Homecoming

The Chorvettes gave a lively performance in front of the Student Union as part of Southeastern’s Centennial Homecoming festivities in October.