Blackwood performs at music, art festival in Italy

Jeremy Blackwood, instructor of voice, participated in the Amalfi Coast Music & Arts Festival in July. This festival is based in Vietri sul Mare, Italy, with the collaboration of the Center of Musical Studies of Washington, the Accademia Jacopo Napoli of Salerno, Italy, and Artis International.

Blackwood, in his fifth year of teaching at SE, sang the role of Sarastro in Mozart’s “Die Zaubernacht” under the direction of Maestro Joseph Walsh, conductor of Virginia Opera.

While at the festival, Blackwood performed staged opera scenes under the direction of Roger Riggle and vocal coach Stephen Sulich. Rogelio Riojas-Nelasco, conductor and vocal coach from Berlin, Germany, also served as Blackwood’s vocal coach in preparations for a vocal recital.

Blackwood is currently in the process of completing his doctorate in musical arts in voice performance with a related field in vocal pedagogy at the University of North Texas.

Su presents, chairs session at international conference

Dr. Ming-Shan Su recently attended the ACM International Wireless Communications & Mobile Computing Conference in Caen, France, where he chaired a session and presented research.

The theme of this year’s IWC-MC, held June 28 through July 2, was “Innovative Communications for a Better Future,” and the focus was on almost all aspects of wireless networks.

Su and his co-author Danny Phelps presented their paper, “Distributed Testing and Diagnosis in a Mobile Computing Environment.”

Su also served as session chair for the “Performance Modeling and Analysis & Upper Layer Designed” session in the Mobile Computing Symposium.
Where are they now?

- **Thomas Faulkenberry** (2000, mathematics) is the Director of the Math and Science Teacher Preparation Program at Texas A&M-Commerce.
- **Jason Martin** (2001, mathematics) is a postdoctoral scholar of research and innovation in mathematics and science education at Arizona State University.
- **Natalie Weaver** (2003, musical theatre) works for the American Heartland Theatre in Kansas City.
- **Sarah Sherrill** (2001, environmental science) is the Durant Compliance Administrator.
- **Melissa Morales Holder** (2002, environmental science) works for the Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge.
- **Kristin McCoy** (2006, environmental science) works for Sherman Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- **Blake Bullard** (2002, biology/interdisciplinary medical sciences) is a dentist at Westside Dentistry in Durant.
- **Marc Patrick** (1997, biology/interdisciplinary medical sciences) is a dentist at All Smiles in Idabel.

Three new chairs named in Arts and Sciences

Dr. Randy Prus begins his 20th year at Southeastern Oklahoma State University while he was an undergraduate and master's student. Prus holds a Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Prus earned his bachelor's from Arkansas University and his master's from New York University. Prus began his 20th year at Southeastern as the new chair of the Department of English, Humanities and Languages. He has published three chapbooks of poetry, and his poetry has recently appeared in the journals House Organ, Sugar Mule and Big Bridge. As a scholar, he has published essays on Frederick Douglass and has one forthcoming on the poet John Clarke. Prus holds a Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Prus earned his bachelor's from Arkansas University and his master's from New York University. Prus began his 20th year at Southeastern as the new chair of the Department of English, Humanities and Languages. He has published three chapbooks of poetry, and his poetry has recently appeared in the journals House Organ, Sugar Mule and Big Bridge. As a scholar, he has published essays on Frederick Douglass and has one forthcoming on the poet John Clarke. Prus holds a Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Prus earned his bachelor's from Arkansas University and his master's from New York University. Prus began his 20th year at Southeastern as the new chair of the Department of English, Humanities and Languages. He has published three chapbooks of poetry, and his poetry has recently appeared in the journals House Organ, Sugar Mule and Big Bridge. As a scholar, he has published essays on Frederick Douglass and has one forthcoming on the poet John Clarke. Prus holds a Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Prus earned his bachelor's from Arkansas University and his master's from New York University. Prus began his 20th year at Southeastern as the new chair of the Department of English, Humanities and Languages. He has published three chapbooks of poetry, and his poetry has recently appeared in the journals House Organ, Sugar Mule and Big Bridge. As a scholar, he has published essays on Frederick Douglass and has one forthcoming on the poet John Clarke. Prus holds a Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Prus earned his bachelor's from Arkansas University and his master's from New York University. Prus began his 20th year at Southeastern as the new chair of the Department of English, Humanities and Languages. He has published three chapbooks of poetry, and his poetry has recently appeared in the journals House Organ, Sugar Mule and Big Bridge. As a scholar, he has published essays on Frederick Douglass and has one forthcoming on the poet John Clarke.

Dr. Stacy Weger, new chair for the Department of music, is also director of choral activities at Southeastern, where he serves as conductor for the Southeastern Chorale Symphonic Choir. Under his direction, the Southeastern Chorale has become a recognized ensemble of excellence, having performed at Carnegie Hall, the St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans and in over 100 high schools in the region. Weger received his B.M.E. and M.M.E. from the University of Southem Mississippi and his D.M.A. in choral conducting from University of Texas at Austin.

Bruce Johnson, recently named chair of the social sciences department, has taught at Southeastern for the past 34 years. For most of this time, he has been the sponsor of the national political science honor society Pi Sigma Alpha and the sponsor of the Southeastern Pre-Law Society. Johnson also has served on a host of university committees and through the years has been an especially active member of the Faculty Senate. Johnson is a Durant native who graduated Summa Cum Laude from Southeastern with an undergraduate degree in social studies education. He then attended the University of Missouri at Columbia where he received an M.A. in political science. He also completed three additional years of graduate work at the University of Missouri in the political science discipline with collateral academic work in history and sociology.

Math professor co-authors textbook

Dr. Karl Frinkle worked with Dr. Kenneth Shiskowski of Eastern Michigan University to publish a new textbook titled “Principles of Linear Algebra with Maple.” The text was published by Jon Wiley & Sons in 2010 and is now available for purchase. Frinkle will use the textbook in his linear algebra course this spring. Shiskowski was Frinkle’s math professor at Eastern Michigan University while he was an undergraduate and master’s student. Frinkle and Shiskowski are currently working on a version of the textbook for a second popular computer algebra system, Mathematica, appropriately titled “Principles of Linear Algebra with Mathematica.” This text should be available by this time next year.
CIS faculty active in curriculum development

Dean Lucretia Scoufofs recognized the high priority that our federal government has placed on the subject of Electronic Medical Records (EMR) and realized that Southeastern’s regular classes generally do not address this important topic in any significant detail. CIS faculty members Rhonda Richards and Mike Morris were asked for a response to this concern. The two began researching the issue and discovered drastic changes occurring in the health care industry relating to EMR. Surprisingly, only about a third of our medical clinics are using any of the 160+ available computerized systems while the rest are still using pencil and paper.

In 2004, President Bush set a goal of 100 percent usage of EMR by 2014, and President Obama has recently agreed to maintain this goal.

Incentives are in place for clinics that use or want to convert to EMR while penalties are threatened for those who insist on staying with paper. Because there is a need for educating interested parties about EMR, two new courses have been added to the CIS curriculum. These courses are being offered this fall as block courses, in sequence.

The first, taught by Richards, is CIS4613: Health Information Systems and is a theory course covering detailed aspects of EMR, benefits and problems, privacy and ethical issues and other related issues.

The second, taught by Morris, is CIS6613: Electronic Medical Records and is a hands-on course that uses the “Medical Manager” software package which is recognized in the industry as generally meeting standards set forth by the 50-year-old group, the Health Information Management Systems Society.

The CIS department plans to expand their curriculum to include more related courses and offer a health information systems emphasis to the existing CIS major program. Richards is currently in the dissertation stage of her Ph.D. and her topic is privacy concerns of patients utilizing EMR.

Student presents poster at national symposium

Dr. Teresa Golden, assistant professor of biological sciences, and Rebekah Ritchie, a senior biology and chemistry double major, attended the Third Biennial National IDEA Symposium of Biomedical Research Excellence, where Ritchie presented a poster updated with her recent research conducted in Golden’s lab. The conference, which took place on June 16-18 in Bethesda, Md., is the national conference supported by the National Institutes of Health IDeA program. Golden and Ritchie’s trip to the conference was funded by the Oklahoma INBRE program from which Golden recently finished an awarded mini-grant for $29,016 titled “The Role of Protein Phosphatase 5 (PP5) in Hypoxic Stress and Cancer.”

Occupational safety receives donation of lab equipment

The department of occupational safety and health recently received laboratory and ancillary equipment.

As part of the conference, Golden and Ritchie were also taken on a tour that visited active biomedical research labs in the National Institutes of Health facilities in Bethesda as well as the National Library of Medicine.

CIS students study Spanish in Saltillo, Mexico

“Summer in Saltillo” immersion program. Katie Allen, Brody Haddock, Randi McAtee, Jessica Miller and Martin Person attended classes at the Instituto Universitario Valle de Santiago, where they spent their mornings studying advanced Spanish grammar and Mexican culture/ history and honing their verbal skills in an intensive conversation class. All classes were taught in Spanish by Mexican educators. Afternoons were spent doing arts and crafts and sightseeing with Mexican tutors/guides.

Weekends were spent on excursions to the mountains and small villages surrounding Saltillo. They also lived with non-English-speaking host families.

In 1998, Southeastern signed an articulation agreement with the Secretariat of Education of the Mexican state of Coahuila, thus creating an official immersion program for students of the Spanish language. Students earn three hours of Southeastern credit for the three-week program. Most participants are Spanish/Spanish education majors or Spanish minors, though the program is open to any interested student who has successfully completed a minimum of three semesters of college-level Spanish or the equivalent.

SE students study Spanish in Saltillo, Mexico

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Braley joins occupational safety faculty

A milestone will be reached with the conclusion of the fall 2010 semester as the department of occupational safety and health at Southeastern exceeds 1,040 graduates with 1,040. The program began as a traffic and general safety department in the 1960s and 1970s but was converted to its present focus of worker safety in the industrial, manufacturing, transportation, insurance and construction industries in 1989 with the addition of Dr. Robert Semonick as department chair.

Since that time the program has seen steady growth and now averages over 70 graduates each year at the bachelor’s and master’s levels. Over 500 students were enrolled in at least one occupational safety course during the spring 2010 semester, making the program one of the largest in the United States.

In addition, the American Society of Safety Engineers student chapter consistently places among the nation’s best and accumulates thousands of dollars in scholarships each year for Southeastern occupational safety students.

In 2007, the program experienced two major milestones with the creation of the master’s program and an OSH building renovation which doubled the academic spaces and added significant lab spaces.

Dozens of Fortune 500 companies recruit from the department every year, and several companies come back year after year for Southeastern occupational safety graduates. Over a dozen program graduates are currently working on the Gulf oil disaster on vessels at the well site as well as supervising the clean-up on shore.

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Dr. Richard Todd Braley was recently hired as an assistant professor of occupational safety and health at Southeastern.

Previously, he served as the provost for Murray State College, associate dean of the College of Education at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, professor and chair of the department of technology at Cameron University, assistant professor of industrial safety at the University of Central Oklahoma, technology instructor at Eastern Oklahoma State College (where he served as a consultant for the Oklahoma Miner Training Institute on a grant to provide job safety analysis training), chair and instructor of the electronics department at Carl Albert College, advanced technologies instructor at Texas State Technical College in Waco, Texas, and served one year as the high school principal of Mason Public Schools in Okfuskee County.

Braley is a trained security specialist who performed funded research assignments at Tinker Air Force Base in Midwest City as a CASI (Center for Aircraft Systems/Support Infrastructure) researcher. He was the keynote speaker at the International Conference for Security and Safety Management at WuFeng University in Chiayi, Taiwan, and was assigned international involvements in Saltillo, Mexico, where he worked with the Coahuila State Department of Education.

On the executive board of the South Central Oklahoma Workforce Investment Board (SCOWIB), he was sent to Fort Campbell, Ky., in September 2001 in an attempt to secure a $9.1 million grant, and he was present with the 101st Airborne when the twin towers were attacked. His research assignments at Tinker Air Force Base after 2001 stemmed from his knowledge of industrial safety and security, with a specialization in information/communications/computing and personnel security issues.

His non-academic work includes service as a covert investigator with the Arkansas State Police, patrolman with the Norfolk Virginia Police and as an industrial manager. He is a combat veteran with two tours of duty as an operations specialist at the Naval Support Facility Detachment in Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam (April 1969 to November 1970). Braley earned his B.S. degree at Southeastern in 1978, master’s at the University of Oklahoma in 1988 and doctorate at Texas A&M University-Commerce in 1994.

Recently Mike Morris, assistant professor specializing in computer information systems, offered a Special Studies seminar to students interested in programming cell phones. Students learned that like personal computers, phones are controlled by a software “operating system” and wrote several applications for Windows-based phones.

The student programs included a Southeastern faculty/staff address book which could be totally customized, unlike the typical contact list included with a phone. Other applications included a Durant restaurant finder, a mini-teleprompter and a campus mapping system.

“We just wanted to demonstrate that writing phone software was very similar to what we already knew how to do for personal computers,” said Morris, “and we did just that!”

The CIS and CS programs strive to keep abreast of rapidly-changing digital technology and maintain a current curriculum by offering various seminars.

CIS students write cell phone applications

Michele Diggs, a 2010 graduate with a master’s in biology from Southeastern, recently co-authored and published two peer-reviewed journal articles with her adviser, Dr. Doug Wood of the biological sciences department. Her thesis work titled “Prothonotary Warbler (Protonotaria citrea) Post-Flood Response at Tishomingo National Wildlife Refuge, Oklahoma” was published in the Proceedings of the Oklahoma Academy of Sciences. She also published a manuscript titled “Do Female Prothonotary Warblers Exhibit Site Fidelity after a Major Flood” in the Journal North American Bird Bander.

After completing her degree at Southeastern, Diggs earned a position as a full-time biology instructor at Murray State College in Tishomingo.

Avard active in OCWP

Dr. Margaret Avard, professor of earth and environmental science, was selected to participate in the three-day Oklahoma Academy Special Town Hall on Water. This was the culmination of three years of local, regional and state meetings, special topics seminars and strategic planning workshops.

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board and the Oklahoma Water Resources Research Institute have been directing these meetings as part of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan (OCWP).

Avard was an active participant in drafting the “citizen engagement” portion of the water plan. Participants included personnel from county, state and federal agencies, university faculty members, rural water district managers, agribusiness members and other interested stakeholders. Each participant was selected based on background, area of interest and viewpoint.

The OCWP is a 50 year plan by which the state will manage its water resources once it gains legislative approval.

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Sparks gear up for exciting year

The Southeastern Sparks held two training camps in August, refreshing their skills in hip-hop, jazz and modern dance for the upcoming season.

In preparation for the first training camp this season, which was held the first week of August, the team put together eight different dances.

SE alumna Lani Toomer also hosted a dance boot camp for the team on Aug. 21. Toomer is a former Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival alum who currently works for the Louis and Company Ballroom Dance Studio in Overland Park, Kan.

The team has been at SE for five years, and their performances vary from dancing at basketball games, football games and the big homecoming celebration at SE.

Drum camp boasts successful eighth year

The 2010 Red River Drum & Auxiliary Camp was held again this summer at Lake Murray State Park in Ardmore, July 12-16.

The week-long camp provides instruction for drum-line, colorguard and drum major students, grades 6-12, under the direction of Dr. Marc M. White, SE music professor. Staff members for the 2010 camp consisted mostly of SE alumni.

A special highlight of the camp this year was a visit from the professional drum and bugle corp “Revolution” from San Antonio, Texas.

According to White, “the camp began in 2003 with an enrollment of 65 members and has grown to over 300 participants representing 70 schools across Oklahoma and Texas.”

The camp developed out of the need for quality percussion and auxiliary (colorguard and drum major) instruction in southern Oklahoma.