Music alum serves in Airborne Band

Ryan Nabors, a 2009 Southeastern graduate with a B.A. in music, is putting his talents to use in a very different way. He currently serves as a member of the 82nd Airborne Band, holding the rank of Specialist. Nabors joined the 82nd Airborne in January 2011 after completing training at the AIT Army School of Music Virginia Beach, Va. He plays euphonium and studied with Dave Begnoche and Jason Oliver while at Southeastern.

In September 2011, Nabors was deployed with the 82nd Airborne to Kandahar, Afghanistan for one year. The band is currently performing at different military bases in Afghanistan.

Ryan’s father Matt Nabors, also a Southeastern alumnus, reports that Ryan and other band members are also teaching Afghan children how to play some of the instruments, the first time they have seen or heard these Western-styled instruments.

The work of the 82nd Airborne, including the band, has recently been featured on ABC News.

Frinkle publishes second textbook

Dr. Karl Frinkle recently published his second mathematics textbook, Linear Algebra with Mathematica. Frinkle co-authored the text with Kenneth Shiskowski of Eastern Michigan University.

The undergraduate text, published by John Wiley & Sons, explores the algebra of matrices using a computer algebra system called Mathematica.

This spring semester, Southeastern is offering MATH 4133: Linear Algebra, which is being taught by Dr. Christopher Moretti using Frinkle’s newly published textbook.

Moretti was a reviewer for the text, and he encouraged Frinkle to write the text after he reviewed their first textbook, Linear Algebra with Maple.

Maple and Mathematica are the two main competitors for computer algebra systems.
Master’s students complete HAZMAT course

Students were required to respond to an emergency incident involving a chemical release. The response included an incident command structure with the commander, information officer, safety officer and response personnel. This exercise has been repeatedly praised by students for helping them understand the problems associated with an emergency response. The weekend included 29 students and was led by Dr. Chris Bradshaw with assistance from Dr. Hal Poovey.

The weekend of Nov. 19-20 saw a large number of Master of Science graduate students gather on the SE campus for their weekend practical lab. This hands-on lab is required for the completion of the HAZMAT II course (with HAZWOPER 40-hour card). The lab included scenarios in hazardous materials recognition, preparedness, mitigation, recovery and rescue.

Students in the HAZMAT II course respond to the site of the emergency incident during the hands-on lab required for completion of the course.

Students rescue a victim as part of the emergency response.

The Southeastern Symphonic Winds recently completed a landmark Oklahoma tour that saw the group travel from Durant to Bartlesville, culminating in a successful performance as a 2012 Honor Ensemble at the annual conference of the Oklahoma Music Educators Association in Tulsa on Thursday, Jan. 19.

"Just to be selected to perform here is a triumph for our program," said Dr. Jacob Wallace, Southeastern’s director of bands. The tour brought the group to the high schools of McAlester, Eufaula, Bartlesville and Owasso as they prepared for the final concert at the Tulsa Convention Center, and these performances all featured the talents of Southeastern faculty and guest artists.

The group opened the program with a world premiere of a piece composed specifically for the Symphonic Winds by Alabama-native composer Rusty Banks, who worked with the ensemble throughout the week. Dr. Brian Walker, instructor of trumpet and music theory, and Dr. Jason Oliver, adjunct instructor of low brass, were featured soloists on the tour. The selection of the group to perform at OMEA’s annual winter conference was the Southeastern Symphonic Winds first in its history.

Students rescue a victim as part of the emergency response.

Biological Sciences students attend Oklahoma Research Day

The Biological Sciences Department had four students involved in research work with Dr. Teresa Golden attend Oklahoma Research Day at Cameron University on Nov. 4.

Prabesh Shakya, a senior biology major, presented a poster about his work using extracts from different types of watermelon. He was involved in cancer-promoting and cancer-preventing activities.

Cori Brannock and Patricia Pace with the research poster they presented at Oklahoma Research Day.

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Receives fourth book

Dr. Stanley Rice, professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, has just published his fourth book. Encyclopedia of Biodiversity was released by Facts on File in January 2012. This full-color, 360,000-word hardback is intended primarily for libraries and is written at the college freshman level. The book includes numerous photographs taken by the author as well as others. “Biodiversity” refers to all of the species of organisms in the world. In addition to introductory and topical essays, Rice has included entries about all the major groups of organisms; the major ecological communities on the planet (such as deserts and deciduous forests); the major species of each of the geological periods; biographies of people who have been important in the study of biodiversity; and ecological concepts. Rice’s Amazon.com homepage is https://www.amazon.com/author/stanleyrice.

Braley, Bradshaw provide workshop on workplace violence

Dr. Richard Braley and Dr. Chris Bradshaw of the Occupational Safety and Health Department presented a Violence-in-the-Workplace Workshop for the Southeastern Organizational Leadership Development (SOLD) program.

A handout was provided, and the two presenters were introduced by Dr. Wayne Jones, the chair of the OSH Department. The workshop presentation included identifying the characteristics of a violent prone individual; a violent prone work place; and, intervention concerns and intervention techniques to use when a violent event emerges. The violent prone person’s profile came from retired FBI Special Agent Dan Vogel. The violent prone place profile was identified from training materials Braley received as part of a funded research activity. Violence-in-the-Workplace will be presented to the SOLD group attending a repeat session in the spring 2012 semester.

American Chemical Society student chapter honored

Dr. Nancy Paiva, faculty adviser of the American Chemical Society student chapter at SE, and the students of the ACS-SA were selected to receive an Honorable Mention Award for activities conducted during the 2010-11 academic year. Over 330 reports were submitted nationally, and Southeastern’s student chapter was one of 107 to receive this award. The ACS student chapter will be listed in the Chemical & Engineering News publication and will be honored at the 243rd ACS National Meeting in San Diego, Calif. on March 25.

Safety students attend Chicago leadership seminar

Two occupational safety students attended the American Society of Safety Engineers Future Safety Leaders Conference in Chicago Nov. 2-4.

Southeastern ASSE student chapter president Chris Moore and vice president Brian Lauer attended the invitation-only event. Students were required to submit an essay and application to the national ASSE office where a committee determined who would be invited. Only 120 students were selected nationwide. At the conference students were put through an intense schedule of leadership classes taught by occupational safety industry leaders. In addition to safety profession-specific courses, participants were also exposed to classes in resume preparation, interview skills, positive leadership and attitude and planning for success.

SE men invited to Women in Science event

Dr. Stanley Rice

Dr. Stanley Rice

Mike Morris (left) and Dr. Karl Frinkle (right) explain to students how current computers solve more complex problems by utilizing multiple processors, which are now called “cores.”

Mike Morris of SE’s computer information systems programs and Dr. Karl Frinkle of the mathematics program were invited to conduct a hands-on program at the annual Women in Science event, held at the Science Museum of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City.

The event is sponsored by Oklahoma Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), which was established by the National Science Foundation in 1985 to strengthen Oklahoma’s exploration and growth in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. Frinkle and Morris gave a demonstration titled “Parallel Programming with Many Cores” in which students were directed to break a jigsaw puzzle into several sections, assigning one student to each section. The well-received exercise showed how breaking a large problem down into smaller pieces made the solution faster and more practical—just like multi-core computers currently do.

Theatre students work with ‘Wizard of Oz’ tour

Three Theatre at Southeastern students were nominated by department staff to take a working part in the first performance of The Wizard of Oz National Tour’s 2011-12 run. Junior Taylor Donaldson, sophomore Jordan Hammock and senior Darrin Wade spent a week at the Robson Performing Arts Center in Claremore assisting in the many preparations a professional traveling show requires. The students worked long days during their stay, usually from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m., but Hammock said, “It was fun to see what we were made of and to see how a professional company is run.” Donaldson described the event as “a great experience to be able to work with such skilled actors and crew members.” For these theatre majors bound for a career in “showbiz,” this experience was, as Wade called it, “a chance of a lifetime.”

The debut of “Parallel Programming with Many Cores” was a highlight of the Women in Science event.

School of Arts and Sciences
Southeastern Oklahoma State University
1405 N 4th Street Durant, OK 74701
Student team competes in computer programming contest

Faculty and students from the SE Computer Science program attended the Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest at East Central University on Oct. 29. This annual event is supported by ACM and IBM, and the two programming languages allowed in the contest are C++ and Java.

The SE team, coached by Dr. Lie Qian of the Chemistry, Computer and Physical Sciences Department, has three members: Adam Grant, Michael Tilles and Keith Pearce. At ECU, the team competed in the South Central USA Regional, which covers Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana. The winner of the region will go to the world final in May, which will be hosted by the University of Warsaw in Poland. In this event, the students practiced and challenged their programming and problem solving skills.

SE hosts 100th meeting of Oklahoma Academy of Science

The Oklahoma Academy of Sciences recently held its 100th annual conference, and Southeastern was selected as the venue. On Nov. 11, the meeting brought in approximately 160 scientists and science students from universities and agencies across Oklahoma and featured presentations in 14 concurrent sections, each representing a specific scientific discipline. Disciplines included biological sciences, chemistry, social sciences, computer sciences and many others.

Wood presents paper

Dr. Doug Wood presented a paper titled “Tree Swallow Nest Success, Site Fidelity and Seasonal Movement Patterns at Red Slough Wildlife Management Area 2009-2011” at the Oklahoma Ornithological Society Technical meeting Oct. 22. He co-authored the paper with Southeastern graduate student Ross Anderson and Southeastern senior David Eason, who also attended the meeting.

The paper examined the nesting ecology of this declining Nearctic-Nearctic migrant bird species. This project is a collaboration between Southeastern, the U.S. Forest Service and the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

Occupational Safety and Health receives donation

The Department of Occupational Safety and Health recently received a variety of multi-gas air sampling equipment and crane training manuals from Anadarko Petroleum Corporation EHS Representative Dustin Payne, CSP. Payne is a 2007 graduate of the Southeastern Occupational Health and Safety program. According to Dr. Wayne Jones, OSH department chair, Payne is constantly seeking ways to donate equipment and hire Southeastern occupational safety students.

“He’s a shining example of what many safety alumni do in giving back to our program,” said Jones. “Generous gifts like this from our alumni enhance our ability to enrich the students’ learning experience in the field of Occupational Safety and Health.”

Rice elected president of OAS

Dr. Stan Rice, professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, was named president-elect of the Oklahoma Academy of Sciences. He will serve his term starting in November 2013.

The Oklahoma Academy of Sciences has represented researchers and educators from all branches of science, math and engineering in Oklahoma. The first Academy president took office in 1910. Rice will be the 90th president of the Academy when he begins his term in 2013.

The Academy hosts an annual technical meeting with oral paper presentations and posters. The November 2011 meeting at SE was the 100th technical meeting and was organized by Dr. Tim Patton. Numerous SE students assisted with registration and with guiding lost visitors among the buildings.

The Academy also hosts field meetings each spring and fall, usually at state parks, which include numerous field trips as well as evening presentations by guest speakers.

Walker presents at R. E. Lee

Dr. Jeri Walker, professor in music education, represented Ouachita Baptist College and presented at Robert E. Lee Elementary School in Durant as a part of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

Dr. Jeri Walker works with students at Robert E. Lee Elementary School in Durant as a part of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. Dr. Jeri Walker, professor in music education, represented the Department of Music at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service event organized by Dean of Students Camille Phelps. Phelps arranged for all volunteers to read a book about King to Durant elementary students. Walker’s team traveled to Robert E. Lee to read and talk about the contributions King made.
Braley holds meeting for inventors

Citing an interest in the creation of a Durant Chapter of the Oklahoma Inventors Congress, Dr. Richard Braley in the Department of Occupational Safety and Health instituted the inaugural meeting of the OIC Durant Chapter, which was Feb. 25 at the Oklahoma Small Business Development Center.

The OIC’s purpose is to guide Oklahoma inventors in protecting their inventions, determining if products are marketable and taking inventions from concept to market. The OIC publishes the OIC Handbook which is included in the $25 membership fee for anyone joining the OIC.

The OIC invites the curious—the person who wants to investigate both a new “thing” and a way of taking that “thing” from concept to market—into the realm of being an “Oklahoma Inventor.”

SE students visit NASA Space Center

Bailey Wallace and Chelsea Nwankwo, two SE chemistry students, recently visited the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

The trip was organized by Dr. Mo Chehbouni, SE chemistry associate professor, and hosted by Dr. Kenol Jules. Jules is a lead scientist in nanotechnology for energy and life science at Johnson Space Center. During the visit, Chehbouni and his students toured several facilities and explored state-of-the-art instruments used by NASA researchers. Furthermore, Chehbouni and Jules discussed potential collaboration on the dispersion of nanoparticles. The research project will be of interest to both NASA and Oklahoma.

The trip was sponsored by Oklahoma NASA EPSCoR in form of a travel grant awarded to Chehbouni.

Safety student, alumni place in golf scramble

Left to right are Chelsea Nwankwo, Bailey Wallace and Dr. Mo Chehbouni during their trip to the NASA Johnson Space Center.

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Safety student, alumni place in golf scramble

The Southeastern Occupational Safety department was well represented at the Denison Kwikset Company United Way golf scramble on Nov. 12, 2011.

Three Southeastern occupational safety alumni, Scott Clark, Rusty Dye and Drew McCarthick, as well as current safety student Kevin Jordan placed third in the event.

Frinkle, Morris attend supercomputing symposium

A popular HPC technology is the stuffing of a storage container with powerful computing equipment and power generation, resulting in a supercomputer that can be deployed anywhere. Hewlett-Packard has displayed its version of these “pods” at the OU Supercomputing Symposium.

Dr. Karl Frinkle of SE’s mathematics program and Mike Morris of the computer information systems program recently collaborated on a supercomputing project that is destined to span several disciplines. As part of this collaborative venture, Frinkle and Morris took nine computer science and computer information systems students to the OU Supercomputing Symposium, an annual event presented by OSCER, the OU Supercomputing Center for Research and Education. This is a popular event in the HPC (High Performance Computing) arena, and it attracts attendees from many states and several countries. At the event Frinkle and Morris and the students enjoyed demonstrations of HPC, interesting lectures and several breakout sessions. The students were also asked to help Frinkle and Morris demonstrate their portable supercomputer that was awarded them earlier in the year.

Craigie, McFadden featured in recital

Craige, McFadden featured in recital

Wood gives presentation to Wildlife Club

Dr. Doug Wood of the Department of Biological Sciences gave a presentation titled “Balkan Birding Conservation” to the SOSU Wildlife Club Sept. 28.

Wood’s presentation covered his trip to Bulgaria to study the European avifauna and their conservation in the Balkans. His trip was in association with the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds and the United States chapter of the Friends of the Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds. His talk included bird photographs and discussion about their natural history, ecology and conservation efforts. Bulgaria is an important bird area for both endangered raptors as well as a major stopover site for migratory birds in Europe. Students and faculty attended the lecture and enjoyed pizza provided by the Wildlife Club.

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Debate students place at tournament

The Southeastern Speech and Debate Team kicked off the 2011-12 season with a tournament at Tarrant County College Northeast.

Other participating teams included Texas Southern University and Southern Methodist University. Members Callie Henderson and Brooke Taylor made their debut on the college speech and debate scene, competing in parliamentary debate, extemporaneous speaking, persuasive speaking and impromptu speaking.

Henderson placed seventh in persuasion, and Taylor took fourth out of 36 speakers in impromptu. “What an incredible start to these students’ collegiate competition career,” said Dr. Lacinda Brese, director of forensics.

Walker attends educators conference

Dr. Jeri Walker, Donna Massey professor in music education, recently attended the Organization of Kodály Educators Regional Convention in San Antonio, Texas, Jan. 26-28. Walker served as the southeastem Oklahoma regional representative at the conference. While there, she attended conference sessions and meetings with regional attendees.

Safety students attend seminar

Students from the Department of Occupational Safety and Health attended the Annual North Texas Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Mine Safety Conference (OSHA) North Texas Local Section and the U.S. Department of Labor/OSHA.

The all-day conference, held at the Texas Star Conference Center in Euless, Texas, allowed students to hear from the Fort Worth and Dallas OSHA staff concerning present activities within OSHA and their latest initiatives. Those attending included graduate students Michael Claborn and Les O’Riley; undergraduate students Lorna Bates, Chelsey Cooksey and Wamsutta Brown; and sponsor Dr. Chris Bradshaw.

The conference also gave students the opportunity to meet and network with occupational health and safety professionals from government, academia and industry.

Students present safety training programs

In the Occupational Safety and Health Department’s Safety Training and Instructional Techniques class, students learn all of the necessary components inherent in managing a safety training program. Their learned motto is: We prepare workers to be confident that they are competent to perform a task, safely.

The culminating proof of the student’s grasp of the course competencies consists of a safety presentation with handouts for the trainees (class members) and a lesson plan.

To improve the trainer’s self-awareness and self-management components of Emotional Intelligence, an evaluation also must be distributed to the learners in the classroom or later in an industrial setting.

Zach Curtis presented a training program designed to prepare the learners to put on Personal Protective Equipment. Curtis taught them how to properly put on the jumpsuit, protective shoe coverings and respiratory protection. Dr. Richard Braley teaches the class.

Walker presents ‘Lighting Talk’ at conference

Dr. Jeri Walker presented a Lighting Talk at the College Music Society National Conference in Richmond, Va., Saturday, Oct. 22. Walker’s talk “A Stalemated Non-Profit Organization” was given in conjunction with five other talks under the heading of “Cultural Responses to Economic Challenges.” Walker also attended sessions on SmartMusic, a tool for teaching and learning sight-reading, assessment and documenta-

Walker attends conference

Dr. Jeri Walker at the Orff Institute in Salzburg, Austria.

Walker recently returned from a conference celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Orff Institute in Salzburg, Austria. During her trip, she attended lectures, workshops and professional sessions in both the University Mozarteum and Orff Institute with about 700 musicians from over 40 different countries.

Math welcomes new secretary

The Department of Mathematics welcomed Amy Anderson as the new department secretary in the fall 2011 semester. Anderson, a new addition to the Southeastern community, replaced Susan Hodson as the secretary for the department. Hodson is now working in the recruiting office.

Students present safety training programs

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Fifty occupational safety students recently completed fire suppression training with instructor Doyle Brown assisted by Dr. Wayne Jones.

Each of the students was required to put out a fire using the new Symtron P2000 Fire Suppression system purchased by the Department of Occupational Safety and Health. The system uses propane and a digital display system to simulate various types of fire and is much safer to use than the old “diesel and match” system.

The fire suppression training is part of the Introduction to Fire Science course required of all occupational safety majors.

Music students participate in singing conference

DJ Bailey, Cynthia Estrada, Essie Jefferson, Duncan Kovash, Kristen Morgan, Nicholas Vance and Aaron Williams attended the 61st Texoma Regional National Association of Teachers of Singing Conference at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee Nov. 3-5.

These students, in addition to their voice instructors Jeremy Blackwood and Dr. Jammieca Mott, attended recitals/research seminars presenting new music, a Masterclass led by Master Teacher William McGraw from the University of Cincinnati – Conservatory of Music and a recital by Grammy Award-winning and Metropolitan Opera soprano Leona Mitchell.

The students also had the opportunity to participate in student auditions where they performed repertoire based upon their classification, competing with universities from Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico. Duncan Kovash, a student of Blackwood, advanced to the semi-finals.

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