Safety alumni meet in Denver

More than 30 Southeastern occupational safety alumni joined 4,000 occupational safety professionals in Denver, Colo. in June as part of the 101st annual convention of the American Society of Safety Engineers.

SE alumni in attendance included William Johnson of Kiewit Construction, Matt Ginn of Nestle, Justin Dow of KBR International Paper, Carlos Owens of Baylor Medical Center, Brody Webster of Cabot, Dustin Payne of Anadarko Petroleum, Brandon Neill of Liquid Environmental Solutions, Charlie Gaither of Poly Pipe and Stephan Hamilton of Gerdau Steel. Dr. Wayne Jones, chair of the SE Department of Occupational Safety and Health, was also in attendance.

CIS hosts OU IT professionals

A collaborative effort of Mike Morris of Computer Information Systems, Karl Frinkle of Mathematics and Rhonda Richards of Accounting resulted in a visit by two prominent information technology professionals from the University of Oklahoma, who came to SE to visit with students and faculty who are curious about computer technology careers.

The talks were titled “A Day in the Life of an Information Technology Professional” with Zane Gray, data and telecommunications manager specializing in the area of networking, and Chris Mallow, security and forensic analyst.

About 100 students and several faculty members from various disciplines including CIS, CS, Mathematics, Accounting, Business and Safety were represented in the audience. The event was primarily funded by the National Science Foundation under the State of Oklahoma’s NSF EPScOR (Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research) CyberConnectivity Grant.
**School of Arts and Sciences**

**Department**

- Applied Research
- Academic Accreditation
- Related Funding
- Provides Resources for Scholarship

**American Society of Safety Engineers**

- Generates Foundation
- Established by and in partnership with the West Chapter Roy Kinslow Scholarship.

**Birdsong, a senior from Lane, won the $1,000 South-Basin Chapter Endowment for Safety.**

**William Birdsong (sponsored by the Texas Safety Foundation); Ashley Madden won the $2,000 Ann Music Streetman HSE Scholarship.**

**Brian Lauer, a senior from Aubrey, Texas won the $5,000 Nebraska Safety Intern Scholarship.**

**Three SE Occupational Safety students were named as recipients of the Foundation of the American Society of Safety Engineers’ 2012 National Scholarships.**

**Brian Lauer, a senior from Aubrey, Texas won the $2,000 Ann Music Streetman HSE Scholarship (sponsored by the Texas Safety Foundation); Ashley Madden, a senior from Wayne, won the Permian Basin Chapter Endowment for $1,000; and William Birdsong, a senior from Lane, won the $1,000 South-West Chapter Roy Kinslow Scholarship.**

**The American Society of Safety Engineers Foundation, established by and in partnership with the American Society of Safety Engineers, generates funding and provides resources for scholarship, applied research, academic accreditation and related academic initiatives in order to advance the safety, health, and environmental profession.**

**Theatre management major interns in New York**

Theatre Management major Taylor Donaldson is on an internship in New York City working for Blackbyrd Entertainment. The company is managing the Off-Broadway show “Fuerza Bruta.” Donaldson met the founder and manager of Blackbyrd Entertainment when he worked for the national touring production of “The Wizard of OZ” and asked Donaldson if he would like intern for the company.

Donaldson said he has already learned a lot this summer. “Right now I’m seeing what it takes to rebrand a show and publicize enough to get people interested in your show,” said Donaldson. “I’m able to get hands on experience on things that I’ve learned in the classroom and see what it takes to keep a show popular for such a long period of time.”

**Occupational Safety students win national scholarships**

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- Ashley Madden, a senior from Wayne, won the Permian Basin Chapter Endowment for $1,000.
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**Occupational Safety students win national scholarships.**

**John Hazel, science teacher at Durant High School, brought two groups of students to the Human Anatomy laboratory in the Department of Biological Sciences on April 13 and April 20. The students came for an anatomy lesson utilizing the same two human cadavers used by Southeastern Biology majors who take the Human Anatomy course.**

**Chase Dennis and Kelen Osborn, two of the Human Anatomy laboratory teaching assistants, assisted the students under the supervision of Dr. Judy Williams, the Human Anatomy instructor.**

**The high school students examined the major muscles of the body followed by information and viewing of the internal organs of the body.**

**Hazel applied to the State Anatomical Board for special permission to bring his students to view the cadavers. The State Anatomical Board regulates the cadaver program and must grant permission before students not enrolled in the Southeastern Anatomy course may view the cadavers.**

**Rice participates in AAAS meeting**

Dr. Stanley Rice, professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, participated in the 2012 meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science Southwest and Rocky Mountain Sectional meeting at the University of Tulsa the first week of April. Rice was a participant in a symposium, held Saturday, March 31, that examined the interaction of science and religion. He presented a paper and was a participant in the panel discussion that followed.

**Rice also organized a symposium, Endangered Species of Oklahoma, in which speakers from the University of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Biological Survey, Northeastern Oklahoma State University, University of Central Oklahoma, the University of Tulsa and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service participated. Speakers told the stories of such interesting species as the seaside alder, the American burying beetle, the prairie mole cricket, the interior least tern, rare ferns and rare river mussels.**
Students recognized by Society of Professional Journalists

Five Southeastern students were recognized for their journalistic achievements by the Society of Professional Journalists Oklahoma Pro Chapter. The students received six awards, including three first place honors. The SPJ Awards recognize professional journalists from across the state of Oklahoma. The 2012 SPJ Awards Banquet was held April 21 in Oklahoma City at the Jim Thorpe Museum.

Senior writing and English major Brandi Bunch earned two awards, first place for use of graphic illustration and second place in arts criticism. Senior staff writer and English major Dani Norton won first place in arts criticism. Senior managing editor and Safety major Lornna Bates won first place in headlines. Senior Graphic Design and Visual Media major Kacy Hammock won second in story/photo essay, and 2011 Journalism graduate Alisha Loyd-Norton placed third in story/photo essay.

The students competed in the Newspaper Division B category, which includes newspapers with a circulation of less than 25,000.

Faculty, students attend Oklahoma AIHA Spring Conference

Students from the Department of Occupational Safety and Health recently attended the annual American Industrial Hygiene Association Spring Conference, sponsored by the Oklahoma Section of the AIHA. The day-long conference addressed occupational health and safety professionals from academia, industry and government.

Faculty attendees included Dr. Chris Bradshaw, Dr. Hal Poovey, and Dr. Thomas Hall. Students attending the conference included Lornna Bates, Jamey Farmer, Michael Claborn, and Dani Norton.

Spring Conference was held at the Francis Tuttle Technology Center in Oklahoma City on April 3. Those attending included Dr. Chris Bradshaw, Dr. Hal Poovey, undergraduates Lornna Bates and Jamey Farmer and graduate student Michael Claborn. Bradshaw was presented a plaque during the conference for his service as treasurer of the Oklahoma section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association. The students’ conference fees were paid by anonymous donors. This conference gave students the opportunity to meet and network with occupational health and safety professionals from academia, industry and government.

Graduate students participate in practical lab

Master of Science graduate students from Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Arizona and Washington gathered on the SE campus for their weekend practical lab April 14-15. This hands-on lab is required for the completion of the Industrial Hygiene II course and includes scenarios in chemical hazard recognition and evaluation.

Students, having conducted virtual sampling with the virtual laboratory software throughout the semester, were required to develop and execute a sampling strategy for simulated industrial sites. This included the planning, collection and analysis of the samples as well as determining the actions necessary based on the sampling results. Students have stated that the hands-on session helps them understand the problems associated with actual sample collection and analysis.

The weekend included 17 students and was led by Dr. Hal Poovey with invaluable assistance provided by Dr. Chris Bradshaw.

Two Safety students awarded scholarships

Two Safety students awarded scholarships at the OK AIHA Spring Conference on April 3, both to SE students. Lornna Bates, a senior Occupational Safety and Health major, received the James Folsom Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship, and Michael Claborn, an Occupational Safety and Health master’s student, received the Glen R. Williamson Memorial Graduate Scholarship.

Both students were recognized and presented their $500 check for the James Folsom Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship by Anissa Geiger, chair of the scholarship committee for the Oklahoma AIHA. The scholarships were open to undergraduate and graduate students pursuing degrees in the area of Occupational Safety and Health or Industrial Hygiene throughout the state of Oklahoma.
Professor, students participate in Alpha Chi convention

The super-regional convention of Alpha Chi was held in Baltimore, Md., March 22-24.

Three Southeastern students and one faculty sponsor represented the Oklahoma Theta chapter at the super-regional convention of Alpha Chi, the national college honor society. March 22-24 in Baltimore, Md.

SE professors participate in Inventors Congress

Members of the Durant Oklahoma Inventors Congress watch as Richard Arnold of Arnold and Partners, a consulting firm in McKinney, Texas presents “Design to Cost” at the group’s March 31 meeting. Left to right are Don Halsey from Arnold and Partners, OIC member Danny Clark, OIC Durant Chapter Chair and Assistant Professor of Occupational Safety and Health Richard Braley, chapter member and Associate Professor of Computer Science Ming-Chan Su and chapter member David Hill. The purpose of the OIC is to facilitate inventors in moving their invention from the concept phase to the marketplace in Oklahoma. The meeting was held in the Oklahoma State Small Business Development Center on SE’s Campus.

CIS program assists with Technology Fair

The SE Computer Information Systems program collaborated with the Texoma Association for Public School Improvement to assist with their annual Technology Fair on March 8.

TAPSI is an association of school districts working with the School of Education and Behavioral Sciences at Southeastern to improve education at all levels and implement cooperative networking among its member districts. The Technology Fair hosted about 25 educational industry exhibitors and several presenters which allowed school district decision-makers to receive information about technological advances that can enhance student learning, administrative efficiency and communication.

For the third year, Mike Morris cooperated with fair organizers and provided procedural support for the more than 30 vendors and others involved. The cooperation has evolved into some peculiar aspects, as Clay Julius, a senior in the CIS program, performed all of the fair’s emcee duties for his third consecutive year with Morris’ team. Dr. John Love of Southeastern’s Education, Instruction and Leadership department directed the event.

SE students attending the conference were Brian Lauer, Chris Moore, Shana Alberty, Jonathan Huggins, Taylor Marshall, William Lohrman, Ashley Madison, Rhonda Stinson and Carne Williamson. The trip was sponsored by Dr. Wayne Jones.

Newspaper staff recognized at state competition

The Southeastern newspaper staff displayed the awards won at the OCMA competition. The 2012 newspaper staff include (seated, left to right) Jerreck McWilliams, Steven Dixon, Kendra Germany, Lornna Bates; Sarah Tarver, (standing, left to right) Allison Roberts, Laura Tomah, Tiffany Lough, David Reagan, Brittani Young, Nick Gowall, Advisor Jeni Maple, Andrea Georgescu, Brandi Bunch and Chrsy Dill.

The staff of the Southeastern student newspaper earned 21 individual awards and three overall newspaper awards in the annual Oklahoma College Media Association competition. The students were recognized during the OCMA conference and awards banquet held March 30 at Oklahoma State University.

The Southeastern was awarded first place honors in front page design and interior page design, as well as second place for overall newspaper.

Lornna Bates, a senior Occupational Safety and Health major, received six individual awards: second place for general news reporting, editorial writing and column writing, third place for reporting portfolio and honorable mention for editorial writing and feature writing.

English major Brandy Bunch was awarded first place in advertising display, third place in reviews and editorial writing and honorable mention in column writing.

Alisha Loyd-Norton, a Journalism graduate now employed at Flora Photography in Shavnee, placed first in feature photography, third place for portfolio and honorable mention in news photography.

Samantha Perera, a Journalism graduate now employed at The Lindsay Letter, received second place accolades in news photography and reporting portfolio.

Additionally, Journalism major Jerreck McWilliams won first place in column writing; Broadcasting major Nick Gowall won first place in reviews; English major Dani Norton won second place in reviews; Journalism major Kendra Germany received honorable mention in reviews; Journalism major Chrsy Dill placed third in general news reporting; and Broadcasting major Steven Dixon received an honorable mention in advertising display.
Broadcasting student receives award

The Oklahoma Broadcast Education Association gave out its Outstanding Achievement in Student Broadcasting Awards March 9 at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. Among several winners from the state’s largest public universities, regional universities, community colleges and private colleges was Southeastern’s own senior Broadcasting major Jessica Gann.

Gann received $2,000 from the Mark Rawlings Scholarship, for which she was recognized by the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters’ President Vance Harrison.

Also attending the day’s events were Southeastern senior Broadcasting majors Sergio Lopez and Nick Growall, as well as instructor Jeni Maple and office assistant Sandy Burngamer, who toured the Oklahoma History Center and attended the broadcasting job fair, which took place before the awards festivities and featured news and radio stations from all over Oklahoma and Texas.

Occupational Safety and Health receives donation

The Department of Occupational Safety and Health recently received a donation of air sampling pumps and batteries from Sid A. Edgar, CSP, senior manager of environment, health and safety for AT&T Services, Inc. The estimated value of the donated materials is approximately $30,000.

The donation consisted of 20 air sampling pumps, model HFS 111A, 32 spare batteries, 17 individual pump chargers and two multipurpose charger stations, 14 boxes of colorimetric sample tubes, an Accuflow 2000 and three flow calibrators.

This gift is particularly timely as pumps currently used in the Industrial Hygiene laboratories had reached the end of their service life and were in need of replacement. Generous gifts like this from the safety community and alumni enhance the department’s ability to enrich the students’ learning experience.

Morris attends Oklahoma Computing Consortium

Mike Morris, Computer Information Systems, represented Southeastern at the Seventh Annual Meeting of the Oklahoma Computing Consortium.

This year’s conference was held at the Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology in Okmulgee on March 2. More than 30 professors met to exchange ideas on a variety of topics but primarily the dilemma of how to attract, instruct and retain first-year majors in the programs. The mission of the OCC is to provide a forum where CS and CIS educators from around the region can gather to discuss educational issues and provide innovative solutions to identified problems, including those in the classroom, in administration and in the curriculum.

Morris is on the Board of Directors for the OCC and, along with Dr. Rhonda Richards, hosted the consortium’s annual conference at Southeastern in 2009. The 2013 OCC Conference will be held at Northwestern in Alva and is likely to return to SE within the following two to three years.

Theatre students promote play at Lions Club, Rotary Club

Theatre at Southeastern’s cast of “Xanadu” performed at the February meeting of the Durant Lions Club. The cast performed two numbers from the show, “All Over the World” and “Xanadu.” Both cast and club members enjoyed the performance.

On Feb. 14, Boomer Lowrie, Taylor Donaldson and Dustin Curry attended the Rotary Club of Durant’s meeting and performed “Don’t Walk Away.” The play’s cast included Julia Castro as Chio/Kira, Boomer Lowrie as Sonny Malone, Dustin Curry as Danny Maguire, Rebecca Sparks as Melpomene and Minda Roche as Galileo.


“Xanadu” ran Feb. 23-25 in the newly renovated Montgomery Auditorium.

Student Publications staff attends Oklahoma Sunshine Conference

Nine members of the SE Student Publications staff attended the Oklahoma Sunshine ’12 Conference in Oklahoma City March 10.

The theme of the conference was “Forging a Commitment to Open Government” and included various sessions about Oklahoma open records and open government laws.

SE students who attended were managing editor Lornna Bates, news editor Sarah Tarver, yeardisc editor Laura Tomah, yeardisc assistant editor Mika Knight and staff writers Jessica Breger, Kendra Germany, Jerreck McWilliams, Dani Norton and Allison Roberts.

Student Publications Adviser Jeni Maple served as the group’s sponsor.

Left to right are Broadcasting students Sergio Lopez, Jessica Gann, Nick Growall and instructor Jeni Maple at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City.

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Theatre major attends national auditions

Theatre at Southeastern senior Aaron Rains ventured to the Marriott Hotel in Memphis, Tenn. for the United Professional Theatre Auditions on Feb. 2.

The UPTA not only holds summer job opportunities for many actors, but it also presents year-round employment for actors, directors, designers and technicians. The UPTA auditions are truly unique in that they require those auditioning to either hold a college degree or have professional credits on their resume. Once in Memphis, Rains went through three holding rooms and the general audition process with 700 other hopefuls. After being filtered through by the initial audition, actors then had to watch for bulletins of ever-changing callback lists from the 120 companies present that weekend.

Rains said he wasn’t as nervous as he anticipated but the ongoing process definitely kept him on his toes. Rains described the three-day audition process as “a hectic but important experience” for the start of his professional acting career.

Bradshaw attends agricultural advisory board meeting

The External and Internal Advisory Committees, principal investigators and staff of the Southwest Center for Agricultural Health, Injury Prevention and Education convened their 2012 Advisory Board Meeting held in Ardmore.

Among the participants was Dr. Chris Bradshaw of SE’s Occupational Safety and Health Department.

The group discussed new horizons and strategies for the next funding cycle. The mission of the SW Ag Center is to improve the safety and health of agricultural, forestry and fishing workers through research, intervention and education projects that build and leverage a network of strategic partners who represent the diversity of the workforce and range of agricultural production in the region.

Southeastern goes to Washington

Southeastern students David Batton, Brenner Billy, Dustin Curry, Twahna Kemp-Finley, Tanner Risner, and Chantelle Standerfer performed an SE original play “To Us, It Wasn’t Code” at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma commissioned Southeastern to create a theatrical piece for the 2nd Annual Choctaw Days in Washington, D.C., June 19-23.

“Was it, It Wasn’t Code” is the one-act play written by faculty Dr. Randy Prus and Kathleen Hardgrove, honoring the original Choctaw Code Talkers of World War I. The play, directed Hardgrove, was further enhanced with actual war footage, audio, video, music, film and historic photographs edited into a multi-media design by Southeastern student Nathan Lamb. “It was an honor to perform at the Smithsonian and to teach others about the Choctaw Nation and the Smithsonian Institute was a fantastic opportunity, a great chance to be surrounded by professionals, and to become a part of this tightly knit group of artists.”

SE hosts Native American Symposium

The featured speaker at the Ninth Native American Symposium and Film Festival was the distinguished Cherokee scholar and educator Dr. Henrietta Mann, currently president of the new Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal College.

The theme of the symposium, held at SE Nov. 3-4, 2011, was “Where No One Else Has Gone Before.”

In her keynote address, Mann reminisced about her career and highlighted her lifelong dedication to inspiring young Native Americans to set the highest goals for themselves, so that like her they too can go “where no one else has gone before.”

Some 50 other scholars, researchers and students delivered presentations on Native American topics and issues in history, literature, film, music, dance, religion, education and the social sciences.

The film festival portion of the event showcased several documentaries, including “Reel Injun: On the Trail of the Hollywood Indian,” “Our Spirits Don’t Speak English: Indian Boarding School” and “River of Renewal.”

Mann’s appearance was made possible by a grant from the Cultural and Scholarly Lectureship Fee Fund.

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**Choctaw artist utilizes family experiences as inspiration**

Artist Janie Umsted is very proud to have been one of the chosen few to show her Native American artwork at the National Museum of the American Indian. “It is such a great honor for me to be chosen by the Choctaw Nation to be one of the Choctaw artists to travel to Washington, D.C., this summer,” said Umsted; however, this was not the first time Umsted visited this particular museum. “I was so fortunate to be able to be with the Choctaw delegation at the grand opening of the museum several years ago,” she said. “I thought my heart would burst with pride to be a part of such a beautiful display of pride in our heritage of the first Americans.”

Umsted said to return to the Museum of the American Indian and share her art is unbelievable. She exhibited a number of her paintings and displayed some small sculptures during the event. Overall, her artwork reflected her theme of “A Military History of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma,” which was inspired by men in her family who have served in the military.

Through her art, Umsted demonstrated the great pride she has for her Choctaw tribe; in doing so, she showed many museum visitors how tradition-oriented the great Choctaw Nation is and the respect its tribal members hold for its culture. “To have the opportunity to display my artwork at the Museum of the American Indian is one of the highlights of my career and my life,” she said.

**Red River Drum & Auxiliary Camp holds tenth annual camp**

The 2012 Red River Drum & Auxiliary Camp was held again this summer at Lake Murray State Park in Ardmore. The week-long camp, under the direction of SE Music Professor Dr. Marc M. White, provides instruction for drumline, colorguard and drum major students, grades 6-12. According to White, “The camp began in 2003 with an enrollment of 65 members and has grown to nearly 300 participants representing 70 schools across Oklahoma and Texas.”

The students participate in a variety of education and recreation activities throughout the week. Drum students/percussionists are trained in musicianship, performance techniques, music reading, drill commands, instrument care and tuning, along with learning new literature and unique compositions for a final performance. Colorguard members receive instruction in motion fundamentals, choreography, visual routines and prepare complete arrangements for a final performance. Drum majors/conductors participate in sessions on score study, rehearsal techniques, vocal techniques, leadership training, conducting and preparing literature for a final performance.

Also offered are separate sessions dedicated to working with each school’s drumline members, private lessons for individual students and staff clinics and performances. Staff members for the 2012 camp consist mostly of Southeastern alumni. “We utilized 19 staff members and 14 of them have direct connections to Southeastern,” White said. The 2012 staff included the following former students and alumni: Dr. Marc M. White, director; co-director Jack Francis, Tony Tiger, both former students; Chris Dickson, current student and alumni Nichole Bowen, Ryan Emrick, Derek Fleeman, Alan Gray, Jerime Harris, Angela Neal, Matt Neal, Geri Smith, Jesse Speer and Justin Vaughan.