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Dean Walter “Buddy” Gaster, 1939-2011

Dr. Walter Dickson “Buddy” Gaster passed away September 4, 2011 after a long illness. Buddy was born in Monticello, Arkansas and he lived the majority of his younger years in West Monroe, Louisiana. Dr. Gaster received a Bachelor of Science degree in business and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Louisiana in Monroe, Louisiana. Dr. Gaster received his doctorate degree from Louisiana Tech University in Ruston, Louisiana. Prior to being named Dean at Southeastern in 2001, Dr. Gaster held positions of Director, Center for Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Graduate Studies as well as Marketing Professor. Prior to coming to Southeastern, Dr. Gaster was a faculty member and department chair in the School of Business at East Central University. While at ECU, Dr. Gaster received faculty of the month awards five times and was named the S.C. Boswell professor four times.

At Southeastern, Dr. Gaster was awarded the outstanding teaching award from Region 6 of the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs. Some of Dean Gaster’s notable achievements include establishing an annual Career Opportunities Day for students in the business school, establishing a summer entrepreneurship camp with the Chickasaw Nation, and overseeing the process for the John Massey School of Business to earn accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

JMSB Student Advisory Council

Members of the John Massey School of Business Student Advisory Council members met with Regent John Massey to hear of his vision for the Massey School of Business. Student Advisory Council members assist with recruitment, seminars, school projects and maintaining the website. Members pictured with Mr. Massey are: Riley Brooks, Jacob Boydstun, Trista Hall, Gwen Simmons, Janee Slawson, Shelby Tucker, and Justin Workman. Not included in the photo are SAC members Angel Brooks, Ben Kenagy, Tim McReynolds, Vy Nguyen, Dawn Percer, Wendy Renfro, and Matt Unger.
Edmund Martin, Massey Lecture Guest Speaker

Edmund O. Martin, Chairman of Ackerman McQueen advertising agency, was keynote speaker at the 13th Massey Family Endowed Lectureship in Business and Public Policy on April 19. Ed Martin joined Ackerman McQueen as President in 2001 and in June of 2004 he was promoted to Chairman. Martin's career began at The Daily Oklahoman in 1970 as a Retail Account Executive. Martin returned to Oklahoma City as Director of Operations and was named General Manager in 1987. On March 10, 1987, he was elected Vice President of The Oklahoma Publishing Company. After 31 years, Martin left The Oklahoma Publishing Company in 2001.

The lectureship was established in 1994 by a gift from the John Massey family, which was matched by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Endowment Fund Program. John Massey is chairman of the board of First United Bank and Trust, headquartered in Durant, Oklahoma. In addition, he serves on the board of directors of the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence and the Oklahoma Heritage Association. Massey has been a tireless advocate for higher education, and is currently serving his third nine-year term as a member of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

Regent Massey earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in 1960. In 1984, Massey received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Southeastern; in 2005, the School of Business was named as the John Massey School of Business. Massey has established seven endowed chairs and four professorships at Southeastern.

JMSB students awarded scholarships

Thirty-four students from the John Massey School of Business received scholarships at the annual Honors & Awards Night recognition Dinner. Tuition Waiver Scholarships were awarded to Jackie Angela Arend, Alison Marie Ball, Whitney Butler, Randi Annette Cahill, Kim Corley, Barbara Cox, Luke Craig, Nathan Crede, Bregan Mitchell Heitz, Daniel James Hendrickson, Robbie Maple, Kimberly Ann Moss, Miranda Pogue, Breeanna Nichole Robberson, Christina Ryan, Mary Catherine Wood, Cara Deann Workman, Marlin Vaught.

In addition, Kylie Morgan Bedene was awarded the Oscar & Nettie Relle Gellein scholarship; Daphnie Boyle, a Sonic Gift Scholarship; Jerod Wayne Brinkman, the Presidential Partner Scholarship; Jasmine Carter, the Justin Pittman Memorial Scholarship; Trista Hall, the Management & Marketing Faculty Merit Scholarship; Kayla Harrell, a Sonic Gift Scholarship and the Dr. & Mrs. Henry Bold Scholarship; Bregan Mitchell Heitz, the Joe Wallace Gibson Scholarship; Matthew Leahey received the Carter Scholarship, the Robert “Bob” Scivally Accounting Scholarship, and the Oscar & Nettie Relle Gellein scholarship; Boyle Lee, Management & Marketing Faculty Merit Scholarship; Chad Mitchell, the Oscar & Nettie Relle Gellein and a Sonic Gift Scholarship; Hunter Phelan, the Leonard A. Campbell Memorial Scholarship; Tiffany Pierce, the Amanda Whorton Scholarship; Kaitlin Rogers, the Management & Marketing Faculty Merit Scholarship; Angel Brooke Smith was awarded the Fremont Hamilton Scholarship and the Amanda Whorton Scholarship; Julie Diane Smith received the Accounting Faculty Merit Scholarship, AACE-Accounting Alumni Community scholarship; Denise Taylor, the Chief Pyle Scholarship; and Alan Williams, the Amanda Whorton Scholarship.
Dr. Stevenson Smith awarded Fulbright

On July 18, 2011, Dr. G. Stevenson Smith, Ph.D., CPA, CMA and the John Massey Endowed Professor of Accounting returned to Durant after completing a five-month trip to Croatia as a Fulbright Scholar. The Fulbright program was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by Arkansas Senator J. William Fulbright.

Dr. Smith’s business background includes working at the Securities and Exchange Commission. He has published numerous articles and ten books dealing with accounting issues. His most recent book, Cost Control for Nonprofits in Crisis (ALA 2011) is published by the American Library Association.

While in Croatia, he worked with accounting colleagues at the University of Pula and the University of Rijeka to help develop curriculum related to forensic accounting as well as making a number of presentations on forensic accounting for law enforcement personnel, auditors, faculty, students, and attorneys. Commerce Clearing House, a Wolters Kluwer business, the publisher of Dr. Smith’s textbook Forensic and Investigative Accounting (CCH 2011) sent more than $2,000 worth of the textbooks to be used in these seminars and presentations. Faculty members told Dr. Smith that his efforts help them to find a focus for forensic accounting in their graduate program.

Dr. Smith has received letters from Senators Coburn and Inhofe congratulating him on his receipt of a Fulbright Award. He was only one of two business professors in the State of Oklahoma selected to be a Fulbright Scholar in 2011.

JMSB Faculty receive awards

Several faculty members were recognized with awards at the spring annual Faculty-Staff Banquet. The Professor of the Year award went to Dr. Kitty Campbell of the John Massey School of Business. Campbell, professor of management and marketing, joined the SE faculty in 1997. She earned an Ed.D. at Texas A&M – Commerce, her master's at Southeastern, and her bachelor's degree at Texas A&M University. In addition, Faculty Senate Awards went to Deborah Combs, Accounting Instructor received the Outstanding Service Award and Dr. Larry Prather, John Massey Professor of Finance, received the Outstanding Teaching Award and the Outstanding Scholarship Award.

MBA Program offers new PREP Program

Jacob Hartin, a graduate student in the John Massey School of Business (JMSB) Master of Business Administration Program was among the first students to utilize the new MBA Preparatory Program. Jacob has a communication’s degree but realizes the career potentials having an MBA degree can offer. This past summer, Jacob utilized the Preparatory Program to complete all of the business prerequisite courses needed to fulfill the MBA admission requirements.

What is the MBA Preparatory Program? It is a non-credit program designed to assess and, if necessary, augment a non-business degree student’s skill set in preparation for entering the MBA Program. Students must provide proof of readiness through satisfactory completion of coursework or through the use of skill assessment exams. PREP program courses are self-paced and delivered completely online. The average completion time for each course is about 15-25 hours, depending on the course and the student’s background. For more information on the MBA Preparatory program and/or the MBA Program, please contact Mr. Robert Howard, MBA Coordinator by email at rhoward@se.edu or by phone at 580-745-2042.
Business students making a difference in the community

Students in Dr. Debra Haley’s Principles of Marketing class not only worked for a grade, but came up with a class project to help the local community. The marketing students developed a proposed business called “Priceless Books, which would be a completely run student business to work with St. Catherine’s House Food Bank on First Avenue in Durant to help feed the hungry. The student team included Caleb Cochran, Pranab Kaushik, Brittney Laner, Trevor Matlock, and Ashli Starr.

The mission of the business is stated as “To provide the students of Southeastern Oklahoma State University with an affordable way of obtaining needed books and an easy and charitable method of donating books, while at the same time, contributing to the community of Durant, Oklahoma.”

According to the group, “The Marketing Project really helped us realize how much of a need there is in Durant and surrounding areas and that students can actually help make a difference and at the same time, earn their education at Southeastern.”

Beta Gamma Sigma inducts eight new members

Students (standing from left) Renee’ Cagle, Kelli Ostman, Tammy Quick, and (seated from left), James Hall, Kayla Harrell, Brooke Brooks, Whitney Malott, and Mayra Leal were spring inductees into Beta Gamma Sigma, the international honor society recognizing business students. The Mission of the International Honor Society Beta Gamma Sigma is to encourage and honor academic achievement in the study of business, to foster personal and professional excellence, to advance the values of the Society, and to serve its lifelong members. Graduate students in the top 10% of their class and undergraduate students in the top 20% of their class are invited for membership in Beta Gamma Sigma.

Beta Gamma Sigma has inducted more than 650,000 outstanding students into membership since its founding in 1913. These 650,000 members have served in corporate, government, non-profit, educational, and other management positions at every level of responsibility. Members currently reside in all 50 U.S. states and more than 160 countries around the world. Beta Gamma Sigma has established 500 collegiate chapters in all 50 U.S. states and 19 countries and territories at schools accredited by AACSB International.
Aviation News

Aviation program now offered in four locations in Oklahoma—Southeastern and Rose State College have forged a new partnership starting fall 2011 with the offering of aviation undergraduate and graduate programs on the Rose campus. Although Rose State and Southeastern have worked together for many years though the Oklahoma City Aviation Education Alliance on Tinker AFB this is the first time aviation classes have been offered on the Rose campus. The aviation program has established offices staffed with faculty and a program coordinator at the Tom Steed Center. The first two classes offered the first eight weeks were at near capacity within one week of the announcement. The addition of Rose State College location makes the aviation classes available in three locations in the Oklahoma City area as well as the main campus in Durant.

Faculty on the move—Dr. Stan Alluisi was recently elected by his peers to serve as the Secretary for the University Aviation (UAA) Board of Trustees. UAA is the voice of Collegiate Aviation and is actively involved in shaping the future for aviation professionals. Dr. Alluisi was also selected as a member of the 2011-2012 Leadership Durant. Leadership Durant is for professionals who desire to learn more about their community and develop or further enhance their leadership skills. Individuals exit the class having identified and molded their specific leadership skills. Dr. David Conway was reappointed by Governor Brad Henry to serve as an Oklahoma Aeronautics Commissioner and was elected to be Vice-Chair of the Commissioners. The Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission's mission is to promote aviation, which includes fostering the growth of the aerospace industry and ensuring that the needs of commerce and communities across Oklahoma are met by the state's 113 public airports that comprise the state’s air transportation system. Professor George Jacox and Professor Kyle Thomas were selected as Summer Fellows to attend Vanderbilt University Peabody’s Institute. The institute’s design is grounded in the intellectual core of Peabody College’s Department of Leadership, Policy and Organizations, which takes human learning as its central focus with connections to social, financial, and political capital; organizational dynamics; leadership; instruction; curriculum; and decision analyses. Dr. David Conway was selected to be a (HPDP) facilitator and Professors George Jacox & Kyle Thomas were selected to participate in the HPDP. The Harvard Professional Development Program is an initiative by President Minks to develop the next generation of leaders at Southeastern.

Aviation is preparing for reaffirmation—The Aviation Accreditation Board International sent notice to the SE aviation program this summer that their accreditation was due for reaffirmation. The self-study report is being aggregated and due to AABI by the end of October 2011. The accreditation team visit is scheduled for the first week of March 2012 with the results announced July 2012. Southeastern’s aviation program is one of 30 accredited aviation programs internationally and the only program to have three locations accredited by AABI.

Aviation program receives an education grant from the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission—Commissioners approved a $13,383 grant for Southeastern Oklahoma State University’s “Take Flight – Aviation Science Camp” that will be held in June 2012 in Durant. The grant will help cover flight costs, materials and meals for the approximately 25 students in grades 5-7 who are expected to attend the camp.

Flight team prepares for competition in Omaha—Southeastern’s flight team has been very busy raising money to compete in the 2011 National Intercollegiate Flying Association Region IV hosted this year by the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The team will arrive Oct 16th and complete all events by Oct 20th. The fund raisers varied from hosting a successful fly-in here in Durant to washing airplanes, cookouts, and cleaning buildings. Professor Kyle Thomas will take the 12 member team to Omaha for the competition.

Robert Jacobs receives the President Partner Scholarship—Robert Jacobs was selected to receive the President Partner Scholarship 2011. Robert is currently an airman in the Tulsa Air National Guard 138th Fighter Wing as well as the Flight Team Captain. The federal mission of the 138th Fighter Wing is to maintain combat forces ready for mobilization, deployment and employment as needed to support national security objectives. Additionally, the state mission is to support the governor of the state of Oklahoma with units organized, equipped and trained in the protection of life and property, and preservation of peace, order and public safety under competent orders of authority.
The John Massey School of Business

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the John Massey School of Business is to be a premier business program. We will prepare our business and aviation students to meet the global challenges in a competitive and ever changing environment by providing an excellent and continuously improving learning atmosphere that emphasizes both academic and applied knowledge. We will be a responsible partner in the economic development and quality of life of the region by providing the effective application of knowledge.

Southeastern alum addresses graduates

Civic leader and businessman Joe Chow ('80) was the commencement speaker at Southeastern Oklahoma State University's Spring Commencement where he also received an honorary doctorate. Chow moved from Taiwan to the United States in 1979 and completed his Master of Administrative Studies degree at Southeastern in 1980. He is currently completing his third and final term as Mayor of Addison, Texas. Chow was elected Mayor of Addison in May of 2005, was first elected to the City Council in May of 2002, and served as Mayor Pro Tempore in 2004. After working for several businesses in the restaurant industry, Chow opened his own restaurant, May Dragon, in 1986. He also holds a real estate license and is Agency Owner for Allstate Insurance.

In May, 433 students graduated, including 54 business and aviation graduates, received Bachelor degrees and 30 received Master’s degrees. In addition, 86 students completed graduation requirements during summer session, including 15 business and aviation students earning Bachelor degrees and 3 earning Master’s degrees. Chow is involved in numerous activities, including the Dallas Assembly, the Addison Business Association, and serves on the Board of several community organizations.

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