Change in Leadership in the JMSB

Dr. Lucretia Scoufos is the Dean of Instruction at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Prior to her appointment as Dean of Instruction this past semester, she was the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences for three years, after serving as chair of the Department of Communication and Theatre since 2003. Having joined the Southeastern faculty in 2001, Dr. Scoufos holds the rank of Professor of Communication. She earned a B.A. Degree in Education at East Central University, an M.A. in Human Relations and a Ph.D. in Communication at the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Scoufos is the first woman to be appointed Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences of Southeastern Oklahoma State University, and the first woman to be a dean over the John Massey School of Business. As Dean of Instruction, Dr. Scoufos is the academic dean, the proverbial “right hand knowing what the left hand is doing” offers a far reaching advantage. Subsequently, not only are faculty better able to integrate, but they have already begun to incorporate their knowledge, resources, talents, creativity, experiences, ideas, and expertise from their respective disciplines. Hence, we create a broader and higher quality education for SE students. And, after all, as Dean Scoufos frequently states, “Students are our business.”

Dr. Kitty Campbell has been named Interim Chair of the Business Department in the John Massey School of Business, succeeding Dr. Jane Licata who served as Chair of the Management & Marketing Department, and Dr. Theresa Hrncir, who served as Chair of the Accounting and Finance Department. Dr. Campbell is a Professor of Management and has taught

“Students are our business”

Dr. Lucretia Scoufos

According to Dean Scoufos, her new position is challenging and energizing. As a result of the schools having only one academic dean, the proverbial “right hand knowing what the left hand is doing” offers a far reaching advantage. Subsequently, not only are faculty better able to integrate, but they have already begun to incorporate their knowledge, resources, talents, creativity, experiences, ideas, and expertise from their respective disciplines. Hence, we create a broader and higher quality education for SE students. And, after all, as Dean Scoufos frequently states, “Students are our business.”

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at Southeastern for 20 years. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Texas A&M University, a master’s degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University, and a doctorate from Texas A&M University-Commerce. Her primary research interests are in the areas of entrepreneurship, employment law, and human resource management. Dr. Campbell served as president of the Association for Small Business & Entrepreneurship in 2005 and 2009, and as co-editor of the Journal of Business & Entrepreneurship. She has also served as a consultant for the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, and the Oklahoma Small Business Development Center. In addition, Dr. Lawrence S. Silver has been named Director of the MBA Program in the John Massey School of Business. Dr. Silver joined the faculty at Southeastern in 2006, and is Associate Professor of Marketing. He earned his B.A. degree from Tulane University and M.A., M.B.A. and D.B.A. degrees from Louisiana Tech University. Dr. Silver has presented at numerous professional conferences and has published extensively in academic journals. Prior to working in academia, Dr. Silver served in the United States Navy and owned and managed an independent property and casualty insurance agency. Dr. Silver also has the Chartered Property/Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) and Chartered Property/Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) designations.

Story Continued from previous page

Ten Freshmen” at Southeastern this last fall. Smith

Shacole Smith

Ms. Shacole Smith was named one of the “Top Ten Freshmen” at Southeastern this last fall. Smith

is a Management major from Durant. She was a member of the President’s Leadership Class and is a volunteer for numerous campus activities including the Dr. Martin Luther King Day service, Block Party, and SE Live. A Savage Storm leader, she was elected as Senator to the Student Government Association, where she served on several committees including the Homecoming Committee, Safety & Beautification Committee, and the Civic Engagement Committee. Ms. Smith earned a departmental scholarship in the John Massey School of Business.

Despite her busy schedule, Shacole enjoys her daily workout with Hip-Hop Cardio. In the summertime, she enjoys going to the lake in summertime and riding a jet ski. Although her career plans are not yet definite, she would prefer supervising people and will be looking for a job in a large company when she graduates, possibly in financial services.

Several students from Dr. Martin Bressler’s Entrepreneurship & New Venture Management class are working with the Oklahoma Small Business Development Center located at the southeastern campus. Dr. Debra Haley is a senior management major from Paris, Texas. Shelby is working on a project with the OSBDC that she hopes she will actually be working with when she graduates from Southeastern. She is researching the human resource departments of the seven universities that OSBDCs are located on, researching something that an organization can offer an employee including health and retirement benefits, vacations/sick leave, holidays, employee assistance programs, and training and development. In addition, she is researching the policies and procedures the universities operate with. When her research is complete, she will take the research and create a checklist of human resource topics that new businesses can use to make sure that they have a well-developed Human Resources department as they begin to hire employees. Shelby hopes that the OSBDC can use the checklist as they help serve small businesses in the state of Oklahoma.

Alejandro Argumedo is a student-athlete who has achieved rankings such as #1 in El Salvador, #1 in Central America and #339 in the International Tennis Federation ranking. Alejandro will be completing a marketing degree in May and moving to New York City. His goal is to complete a master’s degree in Entrepreneurship and start a business. Alejandro is conducting a feasibility study in the athletic apparel business, and looking into designing NCAA apparel in the United States, manufacturing it in China and sell the products around the United States.

Szu-Yu Cindy Lin is a Music Major with a Minor in Business here in the John Massey School of Business at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Cindy is originally from Taipei, Taiwan and plans to continue her education at Texas Woman’s University for Music Therapy. The project she is working on for the Oklahoma Small Business Development Center is reconstructing an assessment questionnaire that surveys Oklahoma’s small business community. The questionnaire will help to determine the needs and challenges that small businesses face. The most recent survey was taken from a government survey that is very generic and not targeting specific to small businesses. The goal of my project is to create a detailed questionnaire that is focused on the small business aspect, and hopefully will enhance the services that Oklahoma Small Business Development Center can offer to the Oklahoma Small Businesses.

The class is working directly with C.J. Washington, Executive Director of Sheltered Work Opportunities, which has visited the class three times to work with the students. The class has also visited the Sheltered Work Opportunities location.

Ms. Washington enjoys her job as Executive Director of Sheltered Work Opportunities in part, because of the opportunity to serve an amazing population of individuals, and the ability to work with great individuals who love what they do. Sheltered Work Opportunities of Bryan County has served Bryan County for 33 years and is located at 3324 Enterprise Boulevard in Durant.
JMSB Alumni in the News

JMSB Alumni Opens New Businesses In Downtown Durant

Justin Scott is what we refer to as a “serial entrepreneur”. Justin opened his first business, a landscaping business in the Sherman area, at age 14. Justin owned that business for about ten years, and by the time he sold it, he employed six people. Within the last year Justin opened a Farmers Insurance agency on Main Street in Durant, and Cornerstone Coffee directly across the street.

With the help of his wife, Paige, also Southeastern alum, Cornerstone Coffee is not only a great place to relax and have a cup of coffee, it is a beautifully decorated and comfortable place to relax for a few minutes of a busy day to meet friends or meet with business associates. In addition to a variety of coffees and specialty drinks, Cornerstone Coffee offers several tasty breakfast items, Panini sandwiches for lunch, and cupcakes for anytime you want a tasty treat.

The idea for the coffee shop came one night when Justin and Paige were coming out of a nearby restaurant. Justin remarked to Paige “that would be a great location for a coffee shop”. The Cornerstone Coffee shop is the only downtown location to sit and relax while having a cup of coffee. The building was constructed around 1905 and Justin wanted to keep the traditional appearance to Cornerstone Coffee. With a handcrafted coffee bar and period furniture, a visit to the coffee shop is almost like a trip back in time to an elegant café. The name for the coffee shop is based in part due to the corner location of the business and the stone design of the building, but also has biblical connotations.

When asked, Justin commented that the most difficult things about starting and running the business is that you need to think long-term, as it takes a while to build up your business clientele. In addition, he and his wife are not “hands on” business owners as he is more directly involved with his insurance agency and his wife has a full-time commitment serving as a field representative for Senator Tom Coburn.

Besides running a business and going to school when he could, Justin only completed his degree in December and will receive his diploma in May. As a “serial entrepreneur”, we’ll all be watching Justin for more business ventures in the future.

JMSB Alumni Named Partner in Area Accounting Firm

Debra Wilder

The accounting firm of McClanahan and Holmes, LLP, is pleased to announce the promotion of Debra Wilder, CPA, as a partner to the firm effective January 1, 2012. Debra is a certified public accountant licensed in Texas who graduated summa cum laude from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in 2002 with a Bachelors of Business Administration degree in accounting. She joined the firm shortly after her graduation.

Debra is based in the firm’s Bonham office and is responsible for the preparation of income tax returns for individuals, partnerships and corporations; the auditing of for profit and non-profit corporations; and advising individuals and small businesses in the areas of accounting, tax planning, and small business consulting. Debra is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants. Debra and her husband Dwayne reside in Ector with their son, Ryan.

McClanahan and Holmes, LLP, Certified Public Accountants has served Northeast Texas and Southeast Oklahoma since the firm’s creation in 1952 and has grown to a 6 partner firm with offices in Bonham, Paris, and Denison, Texas. Steve Mohundro, the partner in charge of the firm’s Bonham office, along with the firm’s other partners, congratulate Debra on this career milestone.

Alumni on the Move

• Jimmy Fernandez was named President of the First United Banking Center in Colbert several months ago. Mr. Fernandez commented that he especially likes working with people; both his customers and his co-workers. In his spare time, he enjoys being with his wife, Angela, and their three sons, Chandler, Parker, and Carter.

Mr. Fernandez was a Finance major at Southeastern and said the best financial advice he ever heard was something he read about Warren Buffet, one of the wealthiest men in the world who lived in the same house for more than 30 years. This has helped teach Fernandez that to him what is most important in life is not the material things, but rather, we should be satisfied with what we have and not try to “keep up with the Joneses”. His favorite day off pastime is trout fishing with his boys.

• First United Bank CEO, Greg Massey, recently announced that Daniel Abbott was promoted to Assistant Vice President in the bank’s Corporate Accounting Department. Abbott, a Calera native, has been with First United for the past 6 years. He has worked in the Accounting department since his employment. He began as an Accounting Clerk and was soon promoted to Corporate Accountant I. Daniel is a graduate of Calera High School and holds a B.S. degree in Accounting from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. In his spare time, Daniel enjoys spending time with his son, Skyler, and watching him play sports.
Aviation News

Southeastern recognize aviation partnership with ribbon-cutting event

A ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the partnership between the Southeastern Oklahoma State University Aviation Science Institute and Rose State College was held Wednesday.

The event took place at the Tom Steed Community Learning Center at Rose State (Midwest City).

Rose State President Terry Britton said the institute’s proximity to Tinker Air Force Base at the college would make for a natural fit for aviation education.

“We welcome Southeastern to eastern Oklahoma County. We think they will find the people next door. We’re right here, next to Tinker Air Force Base, to sustain this program and help this program grow,” Britton said. "Let’s promote and develop the aviation industry throughout Oklahoma."

Last year, Southeastern received approval to offer its aviation program at Rose State. Aviation courses will continue to be offered at Southeastern’s Durant campus, Tinker Air Force Base (Midwest City) and Oklahoma City Community College, according to Southeastern president Larry Minks.

The aviation industry continues to grow in Oklahoma, Minks said. "Working with Rose State College to add this delivery site will complement our existing initiatives for accessibility, affordability and contributing to the state’s economic and growth potential."

Officials, including faculty and staff from Rose State, Southeastern, and Tinker Air Force Base personnel, attended the event. Also in attendance were representatives from Tinker’s workforce development office, which is located at Rose State.

Using a pair of gold-plated scissors and flanked by well-wishers, Minks and Britton together cut a ceremonial blue ribbon stretching before the podium.

Dr. David Conway, who serves as director of the Southeastern Aviation Sciences Institute, said Southeastern has worked for some time with Rose State on Tinker Air Force Base, but that the program there was closed to management.

The Business Option is designed for those who want to develop their business background but one that is focused on the specific needs of the aviation industry.

The Maintenance Management Option is for those who want to manage aviation maintenance operations.

The Safety Option is for those who want a business background but focused on the specific area of safety in the aerospace workplace.

The Security Option is for those who want a business background but focused on the quickly evolving area of security in the aerospace field.

According to the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission, Oklahoma’s aviation and aerospace industry is one of the state’s largest employers, resulting in approximately 144,000 jobs statewide. The industry yields an annual industrial output of $12.5 billion and generates an annual payroll of $5 billion.

In one Oklahoman, engineers from the aviation and aerospace industry have an average salary of nearly $55,000 compared to about $30,000 for the average Oklahoman.

Aerospace companies in Oklahoma are beginning to scale back operations due to the economic downturn, though some companies, such as Tinker Air Force Base, continue to enjoy favorable growth.

The event was held at the Tom Steed Community Learning Center at Rose State’s Midtown campus.

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Professor Deborah Combs teaches accounting in the John Massey School of Business. In addition to teaching business majors the basics of Managerial Accounting, students in her Income Tax II class are required to volunteer in the Volunteers in Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. VITA is a program of the Internal Revenue Service and administered locally through Big 5 Community Services.

VITA provides a service for taxpayers with incomes less than 50 thousand dollars per year. The revenue return to the community from refund money is in the millions of dollars per year that then cycle back into our local economy. The program teaches students how to interact with a client, how to prepare the client data form, and how to actually engage in the electronic filing process.

Participation in the program requires students to volunteer a minimum of 15 hours outside the classroom. Before participating in the VITA program, students must have passed Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced Accounting. In addition, students spend 6 hours on a Saturday learning the IRS software package which they will use to prepare client tax returns. In total, Professor Combs and her students typically volunteer more than 1300 hours to the community through the VITA program.

Students volunteering through the VITA program include James Ball, Brooke Brooks, Brooke Cooper, Jonathan Evans, Morgan Graham, Aimee Hounsou, Timothy McReynolds, Adriana Mercado, Philip Mixer, Vy Nguyen, Agnes Oyouwe, Jesse Pierce, Kelsey Redding, Julie Smith, Barry Tally, Nancy Walker, Tia Wetherill, Bonnie White, and Hole Whitfield. Students deliver the VITA program at facilities in Ardmore, McAlester, Durant, and the Choctaw Center.

Professor Combs is uniquely qualified to oversee this program as she earned a Master of Science in Accounting degree with a concentration in Tax Accounting. She joined the Southeastern faculty in 2008, and in addition to her teaching, she directs the VITA program at Southeastern.