SE Alumna Named Finalist for OK State Teacher of the Year

Southeastern Oklahoma State University graduate Karen Watson Lewis was named one of 12 finalists for the 2011 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year award. Lewis teaches eighth grade English and Reading at Plainview Middle School. She earned both her Bachelor of Science ('73) and Master of Education ('81) degrees at Southeastern. Lewis has 35 years of teaching experience, including 30 years in Plainview and five in Idabel.

As part of her teaching philosophy, Lewis said: “I think that the learning environment must be inviting and stimulating. It should be one that is conducive to learning and also one that inspires creativity.”

Six state regional committees comprised of teachers and parents each selected two of the 12 finalists.

"Ms. Lewis exemplifies the caliber of teacher produced at Southeastern," said Dr. William Mawer, Dean of the School of Education and Behavioral Sciences. "She is an outstanding representative of the teaching profession. We are very proud of her nomination and believe that she is very deserving of the state award."

Karen Lewis represented Region III, a 17 county area in southwest Oklahoma that is bound by Interstate Highways 35 and 40, the Red River, and the Texas Panhandle.

Current Graduate Student Named Teacher of the Year by Foundation

Terri Cloyde, graduate student at SOSU, has been chosen as a Teacher of the Year award winner by the Teacher Grants Committee of the Kids In Need Foundation. The Teacher of the Year awards are sponsored by Fibre-Craft Materials, a long time supporter of the Kids In Need Foundation.

Ms. Cloyde’s award was presented on Wednesday, September 29, at the Kids In Need Foundation Gala, “Education Celebration,” held at The Depot in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Ms. Cloyde teaches 5th grade at Madill Elementary School in Madill, Oklahoma.
New Faculty Member Joins EIL

The Department of Educational Instruction and Leadership welcomes Dr. Robin Plumb, new assistant professor, to our faculty.

Dr. Robin Plumb joined Southeastern Oklahoma State University’s faculty in 2010 after working for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education where she was the Director of Academic Programs. She holds a B.S. in Elementary Education from Southeastern Oklahoma State University, a Master of Education from East Tennessee State University, and an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis from East Tennessee State University.

Robin’s research interests include nontraditional students, geographic education and leadership in higher education. Dr. Plumb was Program Coordinator for the Ardmore Higher Education Center and served as Academic Coordinator for East Central University. Previous to her tenure in higher education, Dr. Plumb taught middle school at Healdton Middle School in Healdton, Oklahoma and in the Oklahoma City Public Schools.

Dr. Plumb lives in Sulphur with her husband, Dr. Gregory Plumb, who is Professor and Chair of the Department of Cartography and Geography at ECU. They have two daughters, Tina and Amber. Dr. Plumb’s hobbies are traveling, reading, walking, and enjoying her two grandchildren, Savanah and Jarrett.

Lacie Lowing, recent SE graduate, Featured in Herald-Democrat

Lacie Lowing, a recent SE graduate in elementary education was featured in the Sherman-Denison Herald Democrat at the beginning of this school year. “I’m nervous, but excited,” said Ms. Lowing. She is a new kindergarten teacher at Mayes Elementary in Denison, Texas. Ironically, Lacie now teaches in the very same classroom in which she once attended kindergarten classes. A Denison High School graduate, Ms. Lowing said it was the simple things that had her on edge. However, she reports her studies at Southeastern have prepared her well for the challenges of her classroom. According to Lacie, the best part of teaching is watching her students’ excitement grow as they learn.

Drs. Hill and McClanahan Attend Grant-writing Institute

During the week of July 26-30, Drs. Nancy Hill and Barbara McClanahan attended the Advancing Oklahoma’s Grantmanship Institute, offered by the Oklahoma State Regents of Higher Education. The Institute is in its seventh year. Organized by Dr. Linda Mason, the Institute featured mentors who coached the participants in writing actual grants in their particular areas of interest. Southeastern’s own Paul Buntz was one of the mentors, and Dr. Hal Poovey and Dr. Teresa Gold of Southeastern also attended.

The week-long Institute was previewed in May in a three-hour introduction which was attended via TV hookup. At this time, participants began formulating and drafting their grants. The next two months were spent compiling necessary data and developing various components of the grant in draft form, emailing them to the mentor, receiving feedback, and revising.

During the Institute itself, participants had opportunities to hear numerous speakers on various aspects of grantmanship, including Dr. Glen D. Johnson, Chancellor of OSRHE; Dr. Kelvin Druegemeier, Vice President for Research at OU; Dr. Darrin Akins of the National Institutes of Health; and Dr. Elizabeth Albro, Associate Commissioner at the National Center for Education Research.
Dr. William Fridley Co-authors Article

Dr. William Fridley has co-authored an article entitled “Some Problems and Peculiarities with the Learning Styles Rhetoric and Practice” which was published in the most recent volume of the Journal of Philosophy and History of Education. Dr. Fridley’s co-author is his wife, Carolyn Althoff Fridley.

The Fridleys argue that “the rhetoric and practice of learning styles rest upon the fallacious conceptual leap from the fact that people learn things in a variety of ways to the mistaken and unsupported conclusion that there are … different styles of learners.”

The authors examine learning styles theory, particularly the VAK model, in terms of predictive value, reliability, and validity. Problems with using VAK in instruction and the effects of its use are discussed. The Fridleys argue that too often teachers depend on learning styles theory at the expense of the content that should be taught and the students’ development levels and needs.

In concluding, the authors assert that good teachers view students as “complex, multidimensional individuals” and not merely examples of a pre-defined learning style.

The article is available online at:
http://www.journalofphilosophyandhistoryofeducation.com/jophe60.pdf

Dr. John Love Makes Presentation at State Conference

Recently, Dr. John Love presented a paper entitled Practical Steps to Becoming a Professional Learning Community at The Oklahoma State School Boards Association and the Cooperative Council for Oklahoma School Administrators 2010 Conference and Exposition. Held August 27 – 29, at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City, this combined, state-wide meeting of school administrators and school board members is the largest professional educational meeting in Oklahoma. Board members and administrators of elementary and secondary schools from all across Oklahoma attended.

Using his experiences as a principal, Dr. Love shared the methods, and mindset involved in personally growing from a supervisor and evaluator into a fellow learner – who happened to have the authority and resources to support and empower the other learners on his campus.

Dr. Love explained his experiences led him to understand that students want to learn and be competent; teachers want to be the unforgettable difference makers; and parents want to be respected and involved. Effective, imbedded staff development that is built on personal goal setting is the heart of the process. As individual teachers grow into a synergistic unit they affect a powerful learning environment that students and parents want to be a part of. All the requirements of traditional supervision and evaluation are still met – just more effectively.

Dr. Robin Plumb Attends Conferences, Named to Committee

Recently, Dr. Robin Plumb attended the Oklahoma State Regents’ Course Equivalency Project for Child Development at UCO on Thursday, September 23rd. This group of faculty members from across the state meet to determine which courses in their particular area of study will transfer to other institutions in the state. Dr. Plumb was elected Chair of the committee for this year. Southeastern’s PSY 3123 course was placed on the transfer matrix. This will help students who are transferring from other colleges to SOSU.

Dr. Plumb also attended the National Council for Geographic Education conference in Savannah, Ga., from September 30 through October 3rd. She presented a workshop entitled “How to get your Lesson Plans Published in the Newspaper.”
We’re on the web: homepages.se.edu/eil/

Calendar of Upcoming Events

November
3 Mentor Teacher Return Day 4-6 pm, SOSU Ballroom
3 Public Forum (held in conjunction with Mentor Return Day)
10 Mentor Teacher Return Day, Denison ISD Administration Building.
12 Last Day to Drop a Class
17 Student Teacher Return Day, begins at 8:30. Room 213, Student Union.
20 Last Oklahoma Certification Test Day for 2010. Regular registration deadline for this test administration is Oct. 15. Late registration is available until Oct. 29.
24-26 Thanksgiving Break

December
1 Deadline for Teacher Work sample and submission of Module IV items for portfolio.
6-10 Final Exam Week
10 Graduation Practice (3 pm in Bloomer Sullivan Arena)
13 Graduation

January
12 Spring classes begin
17 Martin Luther King, Jr.

19 Last Day to enroll in or add a class,
Last day to drop a class with no record
Last day to drop a class with a refund/no charges

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