On March 11, 2010, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, in conjunction with the Texoma Association for Public School Improvement (TAPSI) and the Southeastern Center for Regional Economic Development, hosted its first annual Educational Technology Fair. The purpose of the fair was to bring information regarding technological advances to faculty and to local area school district teachers and administrators. More than 100 educators from school districts throughout Southeastern Oklahoma and far north Texas attended the event.

A number of door prizes, with values up to $3000, were donated by the technology vendors. According to the comments made by attendees, the fair was well-received, and planners intend to make this an annual event.

NCATE Review Team Recommends Continuing Accreditation for Southeastern

Southeastern’s teacher education program recently received preliminary approval for continued accreditation of its programs. Teacher Education faculty and administrators hosted a Review Team from NCATE the week of March 28. Team members visited with current and former students, faculty, and administrators; in addition, several board members visited area schools to visit with current Southeastern student teachers. The team will recommend to the NCATE Board of Examiners that Southeastern has met all 6 NCATE Standards.
On September 24, 2009 Dr. William Fridley co-presented a paper (co-authored with Carolyn Althoff Fridley, EIL adjunct faculty) at the Society of Philosophy and History of Education conference in St. Louis, Missouri. The paper, entitled “Farcical Features of the Learning Styles Rhetoric,” critiques the theory and practice of learning styles proponents.

The Fridleys’ work explored psychological, philosophical, and educational sources, including the work of learning styles critic Dan Willingham, to critique the theory and practice of learning styles in teaching and learning. The model primarily examined was the visual/auditory/kinesthetic schema (known by the acronym VAK) and, to a lesser extent the multiple intelligences theory of Howard Gardner. At the heart of their critique is the contention that just because people learn in a variety of ways does not lead to the conclusion that there are different types of learners.

In October Dr. William Fridley presented a paper at the Critical Questions in Education Conference (sponsored by The Academy for Educational Studies) in St. Louis, entitled “Bernard Mehl’s Prediction about Soul in Education: What Would Its Fulfillment Look Like?” Mehl concludes his book Classic Educational Ideas with a prediction that “the educational system which takes a chance and incorporates blackness, soul into its being, will revolutionize the world.” Dr. Fridley’s work explores the question, “What would this involve?”

Carolyn Altoff Fridley published an article “The ‘Wants and the Gimmes’: Social Implications of Entitlement, a Cautionary Tale” in The Journal of Philosophy and History of Education. Dr. Fridley published “Does Stanley Fish’s Call to Academicize College Teaching Apply to Foundations of Education?” in the same journal.

Two More Teacher Education Programs Earn National Recognition

Two more teacher education programs at Southeastern have earned national recognition. The National Council for the Social Studies has granted National Recognition to the social studies education program. This program is jointly administered with the Department of Social Sciences.

The physical education program has been granted similar recognition by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education.

Southeastern now has 9 teacher education programs that have been nationally recognized. Others include elementary education, special education, English education, math education, music education, science education, and educational administration (graduate program).

Dr. John Love Presents at Kappa Delta Pi International Convocation

Dr. John Love, assistant professor and Coordinator of Field Experiences, recently gave a presentation entitled “Classroom Management With A Focus On Student-Teacher Dialogue” at the International Biennial Convocation of Kappa Delta Pi. The convocation was held October of 2009 in Orlando, Florida.

Drawing on 27 years experience as a K-12 teacher and administrator, Dr. Love presented practical applications of the work of William Glasser, Harry Wong, Ruby Payne, and Jim Fay to classroom management. Participants reviewed the components required to establish a nurturing, stimulating classroom environment and delved deeply into the dialogue that helps maintain such an environment.
Graduate Student Gives Presentation at International Conference

Beth Bean, current graduate student and teacher at Northwest Heights Elementary School in Durant, recently presented “No Teacher Left Behind: Surviving Your First Years of Teaching” at the International Convocation of Kappa Delta Pi. Ms. Bean’s presentation offered practical tips to use in the classroom, including examples of lesson plan formats, parent surveys, and ideas of how to communicate with parents. There was also a focus on educating the entire child and participants took part in an activity where each group created their own “child”. The groups then talked about the individual needs of each child and what strengths/weaknesses they may bring to a classroom setting. The presentation was very well-received and Ms. Bean has received e-mails from some of the participants thanking her for the presentation.

Native American Visitation Day Held on McCurtain Co. Campus

Drs. Cathy Stewart-Lightsey and Barbara McClanahan, EIL faculty members at Southeastern’s McCurtain County campus recently hosted the 8th Annual Native American Visitation Day.

The keynote speaker was Sgt. Phillip Billy (USAF), a 1984 graduate of Broken Bow High School. Participants were introduced to Southeastern’s teacher education program, and Eastern Oklahoma State College’s nursing program.

Support for the event was provided by the Choctaw Nation, Chief Gregory Pyle, Bruce King, Associate Dean of Southeastern’s McCurtain County Campus, Tim Boatmun, Director of Southeastern’s Advising Center, and Chris Wesberry, Director of the SE Native American Center for Student Success.

Center for National Board Certification Prepares for 2010 Conference

The Center for National Board Certification, a project of the EIL Department is preparing for its annual workshop for teachers from across the state who are pursuing National Board certification. This year’s workshop, planned for June 2-3 will assist participants to pursue National Board Certification in a variety of areas.

More information is available online at the following websites:
http://www.ok.gov/octp/National_Board_Certification/index.html
http://www.nbpts.org/
http://homepages.se.edu/eil/external-partnerships/cnbc/

“Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education. The human mind is a fundamental resource.”

John F. Kennedy
Dr. Sheila Barnes and graduate students Michelle Hall and Cynthia Bell presented a project entitled “Project S.E.R.V.I.C.E.: Providing Interventions for Children with Exceptional Learning Needs in Public Schools” at the Third Annual Oklahoma Service Learning Conference on March 1, 2010 at Langston University in Langston, Oklahoma.

Service-learning is a “course-based, credit-bearing educational experience that allows students to (a) participate in an organized service activity that meets identified community needs and (b) reflect on the service activity in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of civic responsibility” (Bringle & Hatcher, 1995, p. 112).

Graduate students Michelle Hall and Cynthia Bell explained how they designed and implemented a successful “Response to Intervention” learning environment that measurably increased cognitive skills of learners with special needs, summarized and interpreted daily, weekly, and periodic assessment data including results from standardized tests, progress monitoring, informal reading inventories, and curriculum based measurements.

The project took place at various public school locations in southeastern Oklahoma. Candidates worked collaboratively with Dr. Barnes to identify evidence-validated intervention strategies, implement the interventions, collect and analyze data, and share results. Ms. Hall and Ms. Bell explained how the teacher candidates in their advanced program benefited (and continue to benefit) from the initiative by engaging in a structured process of critical reflection on the ethical, intellectual, and civic aspects of their experiences as Dr. Barnes coached them within public school settings. They described how they worked with Dr. Barnes preparing daily written reflection papers that provided insights as to how strategies were implemented, concerns about implementation, and hypothesis about the data/findings in each daily, weekly, and periodic assessment. They also described the required summary paragraph that described what was learned from the project and how the information could assist other professors and teachers in implementing projects like this in their universities and public school teaching settings in the future.

Dr. Barnes, Ms. Hall, and Ms. Bell received wonderful feedback. Many professors and deans personally praised Ms. Hall and Ms. Bell for their presentation. They also received positive written feedback from the conference coordinator, Elicia Pollard, Assistant Professor Langston University School of Physical Therapy.

Left to Right:  
Dr. Sheila Barnes, Michelle Hall, and Cynthia Bell
ELED Majors Present Author Study

ELED Majors Kelby Johnson, Matt Morris, Ashleigh Langford and Ashley Cook recently presented an author study in their ELED 2213, Foundations of Literacy course. The purpose of this assignment is to help students to become familiar with major authors of children’s literature.

The Cast:
Cat: Kelby Johnson
Thing 2: Ashley Cook
Thing 1: Ashleigh Langford
Dr. Seuss: Matt Morris

Drs. McClanahan and Morrison work on Edited Book

Drs. Barbara McClanahan and Susan Morrison have recently completed their work on a two-volume work, was released in Spring 2010 by the College Reading Association. Published to celebrate the CRA’s 50th Anniversary, this work contains a history of the organization, many Presidential and Keynote Addresses made at more recent annual meetings and a collection of Oral Histories of 41 CRA award winners,

The Oral History of Timothy Rasinski, entitled “Timothy V. Rasinski, CRA President 1997-1998, Laureate Award 2006, A. B. Herr Award, 1996” was written by Dr. Susan Morrison, associate professor of elementary education at Southeastern.

Dr. Barbara McClanahan, assistant professor of elementary education, served as editor of one section. Dr. Wayne Linek of Texas A & M University, Commerce served as the Senior Managing Editor.

Dr. Mayers Presents Two Papers on Education Law

Dr. Stewart Mayers, associate professor, presented papers at two different international conferences last fall. In October, Mayers traveled to Louisville, Kentucky to present a paper entitled “Chasing Change: Technology and Students’ Right to Free Speech” at the 55th Annual Conference of the Education Law Association.

Mayers’ paper examined case law pertaining to schools’ authority to regulate student speech in areas such as instant messaging, MySpace pages, e-mail, and blogging. This is an emerging area of case law difficult for students and school officials alike to navigate.

In November, Dr. Mayers presented a paper on “Legal Issues for Beginning Teachers” at the 47th Biennial Convocation of Kappa Delta Pi held in Orlando, Florida. Dr. Mayers’ co-presenter was Dr. Mike Desiderio, former faculty member in the EL department and currently a professor at Texas A & M, Kingsville, TX. The presentation addressed a variety of areas including tort law, speech, dress codes, religion, academic freedom, and search and seizure.

“The teaching is the greatest act of optimism.”
-Colleen Wilcox

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“I have come to the frightening conclusion that I am the decisive element in the classroom. It’s my daily mood that makes the weather. As a teacher I possess a tremendous power to make a child’s life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or humor, hurt or heal. In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or de-escalated and a child humanized or dehumanized.”

-Haim Ginott

We’re on the web: homepages.se.edu/eil/

Calendar of Upcoming Events

May
10-14 Finals Week
15 Commencement

June
2 - 3 National Board Certification Workshop
7 Summer Session Begins
9 Last Day to Enroll in Summer Classes

July
1 Last Day to Drop a Summer Class with an Automatic “W”

Last Day to Apply for Graduation.
5 Independence Day Holiday
15 Last Day to Drop a Summer Class
30 Summer Session Ends

August
16 Fall Semester Begins
20 Last Day to Enroll in Fall Classes
15 Last Day to Drop Fall Classes with No Grade Record/with Refund