Jan. 24 event celebrates student success, ribbon-cutting

Dignitaries from throughout Oklahoma are expected to be in attendance at Southeastern Oklahoma State University Jan. 24 for “The Celebration of Student Success Through Partnerships” event.

This event will highlight “Oklahoma’s Complete College America” initiative with examples of successful programs and partnerships in place at Southeastern. Oklahoma State University. A reception will be held at 3 p.m. in the Glen D. Johnson Student Union loft. The program will begin at 3:30 p.m. in the atrium of the Student Union.

Scheduled to be on the program with Southeastern president Larry Minks are Oklahoma Chancellor Glen D. Johnson, State Regent John Massey, Regional University System of Oklahoma Regent and Chair Terry Matlock, Chief Gregory Pyle of The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, and Governor Bill Anoatubby of the Chickasaw Nation.

Following this event, a ribbon-cutting for the Center for Student Success building, located in the old Campus bookstore, will be held. These events are open to the public.

Commencement

Dr. Cordell Adams (’82) was the guest speaker at Southeastern Oklahoma State University’s Fall Commencement. Two ceremonies were held on December 15 in Bloomer Sullivan Arena.

Adams, shown in photo at right with Southeastern president Larry Minks, is a board-certified practicing ophthalmologist in Dallas. In 2009, he was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus of Southeastern.

In addition to the ceremonies, a reception was held in the Visual & Performing Arts Center.
Southeastern Oklahoma State University’s Office of Freshman Programs hosted the Top 10 Freshmen Awards Ceremony Nov. 30 in the Glen D. Johnson Student Union.

The Top 10 Freshmen were selected by a committee of representatives from faculty, student government and University administration. The honorees have a collective grade-point average of 3.85 and are involved in numerous activities and leadership roles across campus.

The goal of the Top 10 Freshmen Award is to recognize, celebrate and nurture the success of first-year students. All students meeting the minimum requirements were invited to submit an application.

To be eligible, students had to be first-time freshmen in summer/fall 2011; enrolled at Southeastern in fall of 2012; complete a minimum of 24 hours in fall 2011 and spring 2012; and have a 3.25 cumulative GPA.

The 2011-12 Top 10 Freshmen honorees are listed below by hometown and field of study:

Kayl Bryant, Antlers, Okla., Medical Sciences; Barbara Bullard, Indianola, Okla., History; Kathy Jo Daniel, Coleman, Okla., Nursing; Amanda Gomes, Durant, Okla.,

Indiana Chapter of Alpha Chi national honor society recently inducted 28 students into lifetime membership.

Dr. Brett Elliott, Professor of Mathematics, delivered the introduction. Participating in the 30th annual induction ceremony were chapter sponsors Elliott; Dr. Charla Hall, Professor of Psychology; Dr. Jennifer Hicks, Associate Professor of Behavioral Sciences; Dr. L. David Norris, History Professor Emeritus; and Southeastern president Larry Minks, who delivered remarks.

Alpha Chi, a national college scholarship honor society, was founded in 1922 and has more than 400,000 members from more than 300 college and university chapters in 45 states and Puerto Rico. The society provides tens of thousands of dollars annually in scholarships and fellowships for members and alumni.

Members of Alpha Chi, identified and elected by the faculties of their schools as ranking in the top 10 percent of juniors and seniors, represent the best undergraduate scholarship in all academic fields at their institutions.

Twelve of the 28 inductees are from Durant: Kenza

Brooks Beall, Stillwater; Christopher Burns, McAlester; Rachel Calliccoat, Atoka; Rebekah Clowers, Idabel; Sara Djenno, Dallas, Texas; James Alan Grimes, Duncan; Ronald Fuquay, Van Alstyne, Texas; Sheridan Hill, Ardmore; Bree Lambeth, Wilson; Brea McMillan, Dickson; Markie Meadows, Atoka; Lacey Morgan, Antlers; Helen Moore, Denison, Texas; Sarah Roberts, Lone Grove; Jeffery Stephens, Pottsboro, Texas; and Jonathan Yuan, McKinney, Texas.
Traditional events highlight holiday celebration

Southeastern Oklahoma State University and the community celebrated the holiday season December 3 with a number of traditional events. This included receptions at the Magnolia House, a visit from Santa Claus, story readings, the lighting of the tree on the front lawn, and the Candlelighting event in Montgomery Auditorium.

Historic Montgomery Auditorium was the site of the 91st annual Candlelighting ceremony.

Treelighting was held on the front lawn of campus.

Professor Dell McLain reads stories to children gathered on the front steps of the Magnolia House.

SE junior takes top prize in Norton poetry reading contest

Southeastern Oklahoma State University junior Allen Fritts has earned first place honors in the Norton Anthology Publishing Group’s world-wide oral interpretation (poetry reading) contest.

In the competition, Fritts was one of three finalists with his recitation of Edgar Allen Poe’s “Annabel Lee.” The other finalists were from Elmira (NY) College and Western Michigan University.

The contest was opened to a world-wide on-line vote with the Norton Group making the final decision.

Fritts is a junior pre-med major from Mililani, Hawaii, Oahu High School. He was selected Outstanding Freshman and Top General Chemistry student in 2010 and awarded the Kaiser Scholarship Award in 2011.

“This is a great honor for Allen and the entire University,” said Southeastern president Larry Minks. “This type of recognition reflects the quality of work produced by our students, faculty, and staff. Everyone who contributed deserves our congratulations on a job well done.”

A student in Skip Robinson’s Center for Rhetoric and Professional Development, Fritts volunteered to enter the contest outside of his class.

“As much hard work as I put into this, there are five other groups of people who deserve recognition for this great honor,” Fritts said. “First are all the people who supported me verbally and through voting. Second are my wonderful collegiate level speech teachers, professor Robinson and Dr. (Lacinda) Brese-LeBron, who greatly improved my confidence and ability when speaking in public. Third is Dr. (Meg) Cotter-Lynch for suggesting this contest. Fourth is my mother, who taught me everything during my entire pre-collegiate learning career and encouraged me throughout this whole process. Finally, and this is perhaps the most important of all, recognition and all praise go to Christ, who made me with an ability to speak. Without Him, I am nothing.”

Allen Fritts is a talented, hard-working young man who deserves such a high honor,” Robinson said. “He accepted this challenge in addition to a demanding pre-med academic schedule. The University administration, faculty, staff and students share in his accomplishment through mentoring, filming and transmission of video (Wayne Williamson and Dina Roman), and voting.

College and high school students were invited to submit an original video recitation between Sept. 15 and Nov. 1. Eligible submissions were judged by W. W. Norton in-house editors, who selected finalists for each of the works.
Staff Association makes donation to senior citizen project

The Southeastern Staff Association (SSA) held its Fall Luncheon recently. Because of the efforts of the SSA Executive Team, the SSA Hospitality Committee and the campus staff, approximately $615 was raised and donated to the SODA Area Agency on Aging’s Surprise a Senior Project.

The purpose of the Southeastern Staff Association is to enable non-faculty employees to participate effectively in the achievement of the goals of Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

Serving as SSA officers this year are Stephanie Makke, president; Jason Hicks, president-elect; Dana Bell, treasurer; Thomas Wines, secretary; Michael Stout, past-president and historian; Karen Vazquez, professional representative; and Dyanna Bowen, secretarial/clerical representative.

Members of the SSA present a donation to the SODA Surprise A Senior Project. Front row, left to right, Penny Bridwell, Amy Ramos, Karen Vazquez, SODA representative Debbie Odom, Stephanie Makke, Lyndi Standefor-Scarberry, and Heather Smiley. Back row, Dana Bell, Thomas Wines, and Jason Hicks.

Gold & Blue alumni event set for Feb. 9

Southeastern Oklahoma State University’s Gold and Blue Scholarship Gala and Auction has been scheduled for February 9, 2013.

The event, Denim and Diamonds, is sponsored by the Southeastern Alumni Association and will be held in the Visual and Performing Arts Center.

Show time is 7:30 p.m. and all proceeds will benefit student scholarships.

For more information, call 580-745-2288, visit alumni.SE.edu, or email alumni@SE.edu.

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Calendar of Events

January
14 First day of Spring classes
15 Southeastern Regional Legislative Tour, Krebs, Oklahoma, 11:30 a.m.
21 Martin Luther King, Holiday -- no classes
23 Southeastern Organizational Leadership Development program on “University Financial Fundamentals and Current Economic Conditions,” presented by president Larry Minks and vice president Ross Walkup, 2 p.m.
24 Celebration of Student Success through Partnerships, Glen D. Johnson Student Union, 3 p.m. (reception), 3:30 p.m. (program)
24 Center for Student Success Ribbon Cutting, 4 p.m.
28 Freshman Success Reception, Visual & Performing Arts Center, 3 p.m.
28 Student Government Association Forum on Campus Beautification, Glen D. Johnson Student Union Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.

February
6 SE Live, Montgomery Auditorium, 9 a.m.
9 Super Saturday – Music Audition Day
9 Gold & Blue Gala, Visual & Performing Arts Center
12 Higher Education Day, Oklahoma City
16 Scholarship Competition Day (Honors and President’s Leadership Class)
21-22 Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents meeting

March
5 Southeastern Founders Day
18-22 Spring break
28 Curriculum Contest

May
11 Commencement

Southeastern Oklahoma State University, in compliance with Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246 as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and other federal laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices, or procedures. This includes but is not limited to admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services. This publication is issued by the Southeastern Oklahoma State University Office of University Communications and was printed by SE Printing Services of Durant, Oklahoma. One-hundred-fifty copies have been prepared for distribution at a cost of $120 to the taxpayers of the State of Oklahoma.

Update Editor
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Director
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