Southeastern Oklahoma State University held Fall Commencement on Saturday, December 14, 2013, in Bloomer Sullivan Arena. In photos, clockwise, from right: Mr. Scott Crain, a 1984 graduate of Southeastern, was the guest speaker; Regent Jeffrey Dunn from the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents offered welcoming remarks; a graduation cap is decorated with a sparkling SE design; Regent John Massey of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education also welcomed the graduates and their families; Southeastern president Larry Minks congratulates graduate Stephanie Gardner of Durant.
Bo Atterberry named head football coach

On Dec. 4, Bo Atterberry was introduced as the 19th head football coach in Southeastern Oklahoma State University’s 100-plus year history.

Atterberry makes the move from assistant head coach and defensive coordinator and takes over the reins of a program for the second time in his career.

“It is an honor to become the head coach at Southeastern,” said Atterberry. “This is a special place to me and it is a big reason that I’m even in the position to take this job. I’m excited to have the opportunity to give back to a place that has given so much to me.”

He joined the Savage Storm coaching staff prior to the 2013 season for his second stint as defensive coordinator for his alma mater.

Prior to spending this past season in Durant, Atterberry spent six successful seasons at Texas A&M-Kingsville.

“We are excited about the future of the Southeastern football program,” said Southeastern President Dr. Larry Minks. “Our goal is to be competitive in all areas at the University, including intercollegiate athletics. With his background and experience, we believe coach Atterberry will do an outstanding job in his new role as we move forward. Finally, I want to acknowledge Keith Baxter and the search committee for their hard work in the hiring process.”

“It is an exciting time for Southeastern,” said Director of Athletics Keith Baxter. “Bo is a great fit for this program and he brings a passion for the game and for this University. He has played and coached here at Southeastern and has been a winner at both levels. He is also a proven head coach with a conference championship and a pair of NCAA post-season trips at Texas A&M-Kingsville.”

After taking over the Javelina program in 2007 he went on to compile a 41-28 record over his tenure while guiding TAMUK to a Lone Star Conference Championship in 2009 as well as back-to-back NCAA Division II Playoff appearances. He earned AFCA Regional Coach of the Year honors in 2010, and was a finalist for the Liberty Mutual National Coach of the Year in 2009. Over his tenure he coached 22 first team All-LSC selections, 16 all-region honorees and 11 All-Americans.

This is Atterberry’s second stop as a coach at SE after having served as the team’s defensive coordinator from 2004 through 2006.

He is a 1998 graduate of Southeastern.

Southeastern Oklahoma State University is seeking comments from the public about the University in preparation for its periodic evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. Southeastern will host a visit February 24-26, 2014, with a team representing the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. Southeastern Oklahoma State University has been accredited by the Commission since 1949. The team will review the institution’s ongoing ability to meet the Commission’s Criteria for Accreditation.

The public is invited to submit comments regarding the institution to:
Third Party Comment on Southeastern Oklahoma State University
The Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604-1411

The public may also submit comments on the Commission’s Web site at:
www.ncahlc.org.

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing.

All comments must be received by January 24, 2014
Traditional Candlelighting ceremony held on December 13

In keeping with tradition, Southeastern Oklahoma State University noted the holiday season with the 92nd annual Candlelighting and Concert on December 13 in historic Montgomery Auditorium.

Candlelighting was originally scheduled for December 9, but was postponed due to the winter weather.

This year’s Candlelighting concert — Carols and Confections — featured the Southeastern Symphonic Choir, Natalie Reitz, conductor, presenting major works from the vast repertoire of Christmas music. All works were accompanied by Robert McFadden.

The Southeastern Brass Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Ben Shaffer, joined in for the traditional carol sing. Cardinal Key and Blue Key Honor Societies served as acolytes in the candlelighting portion of the evening.

Southeastern senior named finalist in Norton poetry competition

Southeastern Oklahoma State University senior Sally Pickens was named one of four finalists in the 2013 Norton Anthology international poetry-reading contest.

Pickens is a graduate of Durant High School, a member of the Southeastern Chorale and a student of Skip Robinson’s unique Center for Rhetoric and Professional Development. She is majoring in music and English. Her plans include traveling and possibly teaching.

Norton has been the gold standard for literary anthologies for almost a hundred years, containing the greatest literature of the world, along with introductions by the leading scholars of our time.

College and high school students were invited to submit an original video recitation of selected works. The works selected by the Norton editors were Sonnet 43 (“How Do I Love Thee?”) by Elizabeth Barrett Browning; Sonnet 130 (“My Mistress’ Eyes”) by William Shakespeare; “Lift Every Voice and Sing” by James Weldon Johnson; and “Because I Could Not Stop for Death” by Emily Dickinson.

Pickens was a finalist in Sonnet 43 (“How Do I Love Thee?”) in the Elizabeth Barrett Browning Division. The poem is often considered the most romantic in literature. Pickens was assisted in her recitation by Southeastern student Tucker Brown.

Southeastern student Allen Fritts won the 2012 contest with his recitation of the poem, “Annabel Lee” by Edgar Allan Poe.

Annual Gold & Blue Alumni event scheduled for March 1 at VPAC

Southeastern Oklahoma State University has scheduled the Alumni Gold and Blue Scholarship Gala and Auction for 7 p.m. March 1.

The prestigious event – “Denim and Diamonds” – will be held in the Visual and Performing Arts Center (VPAC).

The Gold and Blue Gala is sponsored by the Southeastern Alumni Association and all proceeds will benefit student scholarships.

Tickets are priced at $75 per person for a full evening of casino games, live and silent auctions, dancing and heavy hors d’oeuvres. Live music will be provided by Party On of Dallas. Denim casual is the dress of the evening.
University hosts emergency management training for area

Southeastern Oklahoma State University and Durant/Bryan County Emergency Management co-sponsored a three-day training course in cooperation with the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA).

The training sessions were held on the Southeastern campus Dec. 17-19.

The course, “Multi-Hazard Emergency Planning for Higher Education,” is designed to provide Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) with knowledge and planning strategies to protect lives, property, and operations more effectively within the context of comprehensive emergency management.

Approximately 60 people attended the training course. Representatives were in attendance from Southeastern, local and state emergency management groups, the health department, independent school districts, Grayson College, Chickasaw Nation, and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

Jim Reseburg (Chief Executive Officer) and Bob McKibben (Chief Operations Officer) of Emergency Planning Solutions, LLC conducted the course.

“There are a lot of similarities with this type of training and our National Incident Management System (NIMS) training which we’ve been cycling through the past four-five years,” said Southeastern president Larry Minks.