University celebrates Founders’ Day

More than 100 people turned out in historic Montgomery Auditorium March 5 as Southeastern Oklahoma State University and the community celebrated Founders’ Day.

Dr. Stacy Weger and the Southeastern Chorale opened and closed the event with “Hymn To The Gold And Blue” and the “Alma Mater.” Dr. David Norris, historian and Professor Emeritus, discussed the founding of Southeastern Normal School.

Dr. Douglas McMillan, Vice President for Academic Affairs, spoke to the vision and future of Southeastern, filling in for president Larry Minks, who was ill.

Durant mayor Jerry Tomlinson read a Proclamation from the City of Durant and spoke of partnership with Southeastern over the years.

Gary Sherrer, Secretary of Environment for the State of Oklahoma and nephew of Durant City Councilman and restaurant owner Leon Sherrer, recalled his days as a student at Southeastern before delivering a Commendation from the Governor’s Office.

Vicki Hudson, Chair and Assistant Professor of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, served as master of ceremonies of the event.

The event then moved to the Glen D. Johnson Student Union Loft for the Peach Cook-Off contest. Judges were Kenneth Furtado, chef of Sodexo, Southeastern Homecoming Queen Amanda Scott and Leon Sherrer, Life Member of the Oklahoma Restaurant Association.

Dr. David Norris, standing in photo at left, historian and Professor Emeritus, offers remarks about the history of Southeastern during the Founders’ Day celebration at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. In photo above, Mr. Gary Sherrer, Secretary of the Environment, makes a point. He later presented a Commendation from the Governor.
Four new department chairs named

Four faculty members have recently been named department chairs at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

The group includes Dr. Kitty Campbell, Department of Management & Marketing in the John Massey School of Business; Dr. Vivian Guarnera, Department of Educational Instruction & Leadership, School of Education & Behavioral Sciences; Dr. G. Stevenson Smith, Department of Accounting and Finance, John Massey School of Business; and Dr. Chunmei Yoe, interim chair in the Department of Social Sciences, School of Arts & Sciences.

“The role of the department chair is vital to the educational enterprise,” said Dr. Douglas McMillan, vice president for academic affairs. “I have the utmost confidence in each of the new chairs and I look forward to working with them.”

Scheduling, curriculum review, program review, budget management, and advocacy for their departments are among the duties of the chairs.

Campbell joined the Southeastern faculty in 1997. She earned her doctorate at Texas A&M – Commerce and her bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Texas A&M (College Station) and Southeastern.

Guarnera received her doctorate and master’s degrees at the University of Florida and her bachelor’s at Oklahoma State. She also has been a faculty member since 1997.

Smith, a member of the Southeastern faculty since 2006, earned his doctorate at the University of Arkansas. He received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Ball State University and Michigan State University.

Yoe earned her doctorate and master’s at Duke University and her bachelor’s at the Beijing Foreign Language Institute. She joined the Southeastern faculty in 1997.

Native American student conference

Rev. Jay Mule, a minister and educator, offers remarks at the Oklahoma Native American Students in Higher Education (ONASHE) Conference February 22-23. The event was hosted by Southeastern Oklahoma State University. The goal of the conference was to provide opportunities for Native American students and professionals from various institutions across the state of Oklahoma to continue to develop and strengthen their leadership skills by interacting with current tribal leaders, participating in workshops relevant to contemporary student and leadership issues, and creating powerful networks promoting higher education for Native American students.

Plaque of appreciation

Gary Batton, Assistant Chief of The Choctaw nation of Oklahoma, above left, makes remarks after receiving a plaque of appreciation from Southeastern president Larry Minks. The recognition was in honor of the Nation’s gift to the University to upgrade the lighting and theater rigging systems in historic Montgomery Auditorium. The presentation was made February 22 in the auditorium prior to a theatrical performance of “Sweeney Todd.” A similar plaque will be permanently displayed in the foyer of the building.
Southeastern looks to expand program at Grayson

Thanks to a new agreement signed February 25, Southeastern Oklahoma State University may soon be expanding many of its academic programs to Grayson College in Denison and Van Alstyne, Texas.

In 2005, Southeastern established a higher education teaching center at Grayson’s main campus in Denison. Through this means, Southeastern has offered its Elementary Education program, allowing students to earn four-year degrees from Southeastern while attending the classes in Denison. The courses are taught by Southeastern instructors.

Under the terms of the new agreement, Southeastern may expand the program by offering a number of courses of study at Grayson’s south campus (Van Alstyne). Occupational Safety & Health is among the proposed course offerings.

Grayson president Jeremy McMillen and Southeastern president Larry Minks were both present to sign the new agreement, as well as take part in the groundbreaking ceremonies for GC’s South Campus Technical Center.

“This is a great day for the communities along the southern edge of Grayson County,” Dr. McMillen said. “With the addition of this new Technical Center and the expanded partnership with Southeastern, citizens now have immediate access to a comprehensive community college as well as a university, right here in Van Alstyne.”

“We are excited about this expanding collaboration between Southeastern and Grayson,” said Dr. Minks. “It’s a win-win situation for the institutions, but more importantly, for the students. Dr. McMillen and his staff at Grayson are tremendous partners and we look forward to a bright future working together.”

The new agreement is pending final approval from the higher education governing boards in Oklahoma and the Higher Learning Commission.

Southeastern president Larry Minks, left, and Grayson president Jeremy McMillen sign the new and expanded agreement between the two institutions on Feb. 25 in Van Alstyne, Texas. The signing took place at Grayson’s south campus.

Save the Date!
Southeastern Homecoming is October 4 & 5, 2013
Gold & Blue Gala
The Southeastern Alumni Association held its annual Gold & Blue Scholarship Gala and Auction February 9 in the Visual & Performing Arts Center. The event, known as Denim and Diamonds, raised more than $14,000 for scholarships.

Storm Ready
Rick Smith of the National Weather Service makes a graphic point about the dangers of lightning during the Storm Ready presentation at Southeastern Oklahoma State University on February 20. The two-hour program offered storm safety tips to the University community and general public. It was one in a series of programs offered through the Southeastern Organizational Leadership Development (SOLD) series.

Calendar of Events

March
5  Southeastern Founders’ Day Celebration
12  John Massey School of Business reception, Magnolia House, 1-3 p.m.
12  School of Education and Behavioral Sciences reception, Magnolia House, 3-5 p.m.
18-22  Spring break
28  Curriculum Contest
29  Good Friday Holiday

April
6  Aviation Alumni Reunion/Golf/Tournament/Awards presentation
15-27  SE BrainStorm
17  SE Education Job Fair, ballroom, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
17  Student Teacher Return Day
22  School of Arts and Sciences reception, Magnolia House, 2-4 p.m.
23  Rhetoric Center recitations
29  Faculty/Staff Banquet, Visual & Performing Arts Center
30  Tri-County Honors, Visual & Performing Arts Center, 5:30 p.m.

May
11  Commencement

June
14  Presidential Golf Classic, Chickasaw Pointe Golf Club