Southeastern celebrates Founders’ Day

Southeastern Oklahoma State University celebrated Founders’ Day March 6 with a number of special activities on campus.

Founders’ Day is an annual event that highlights the foundation of Southeastern’s identity – historical, political, cultural and academic.

The Founders’ Day program began in historic Montgomery Auditorium with a performance of “The Hymn To The Gold And Blue” by the Southeastern Chorale.

Vicki Hudson, chair of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department, offered welcoming remarks.

Dr. David Norris, Distinguished Former Faculty and author of “A History of Southeastern Oklahoma State University Since 1909,” spoke on the founding of Southeastern Normal School. Also offering comments was Southeastern president Larry Minks.

Durant mayor Jerry Tomlinson made remarks and then presented President Minks with a proclamation from the city of Durant.

The Chorale closed the program with the singing of the Alma Mater.

Since Southeastern opened in 1909 in a former peach orchard, the Peach Cook-Off has now become a favorite event of the Founders’ Day celebration.
Professors publish research on family business trend

As a small business owner, would you want your mom to work for you?

That’s one topic explored in a study conducted recently by three professors at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Their findings (“The reverse family business: an emerging trend in entrepreneurship?”) have been accepted for publication in The Academy Entrepreneurship Journal.

Under the traditional family business model, children often work for their parents. But, according to research, this may be changing today, as more parents are being hired by their children, who also happen to be small business owners.

There are several contributing factors, according to Dr. Martin Bressler, professor of marketing and management in the John Massey School of Business. Bressler, along with Dr. Kitty Campbell, Massey Professor and Chair of the Department of Management & Marketing (John Massey School of Business), and Dr. Brett Elliott, professor of mathematics, published the paper.

As part of their study, the professors developed a questionnaire that was distributed via email to small (less than 500 employees) business owners across the United States. This included such industries and enterprises as construction, energy, farm/ranch, manufacturing, retail, and service.

Of the 828 respondents, 113 (13.9%) reported one or both parents working in their business.

The survey results indicated several reasons why parents are working for children, including: parent business expertise/financial backing; parent relationship with customers/suppliers; parents wanting to maintain a role in the company; and additional income for parent.

The results also indicated that it was more common for fathers to work for their children than mothers. With that being said, the survey showed that nearly as many small business owners reported both parents working in their business.

Another area explored by the questionnaire regarded the impact of work and family relationships. Small business owners were asked whether they believed their parent working in the business resulted in a closer relationship. Half (50.3%) of the respondents indicated there was no impact on the relationship; 32% said that their relationship with their parents became closer; and 17.6% found that their relationship became more difficult.

“The reverse family business has benefits for both the child and the parent,” Campbell said. “The payoff for the child is having a trusted employee. And it can give a retired parent a new sense of purpose as well as more income.”

Even though research is limited on this subject, the results could be significant, according to Bressler.

“The relationship baby-boomer parents have with their kids today is much stronger than the relationship they had with their parents while they were growing up,” Bressler said. “This seems to help fuel this trend (parents working for children) and I think it will continue to grow. At this point in time, I would guess it is probably more common in rural areas than in urban areas.”

The survey was distributed to five regions of the United States: Northeast, Southeast, Midwest, Southwest, and West.

Statistically, the survey results revealed that the northeast region of the country is most likely to have one or more parents working for a child, while the Midwest is the least likely.

And if, in fact, it is a growing trend, the benefits could, indeed, be very positive.

“It could actually improve the success rate for start-up businesses,” Bressler said. “This, in turn, would help employment and the overall economy.”
The Southeastern Oklahoma State University Alumni Association hosted a very successful “Denim and Diamonds” Gold and Blue Scholarship Gala and Auction on March 1.

The event, with proceeds going to student scholarships, attracted a crowd of 100 to the Visual & Performing Arts Center.

The evening included casino games, live and silent auction, dancing, and live music provided by Party On!, a band from the Dallas area.

Three scenes from the Denim & Diamonds event, clockwise, from above: The wide variety of auction items drew a great deal of interest from the attendees; alumni association board members Mary Frank and Janie Umsted enjoyed the festivities; and band “Party On!” provided musical entertainment.
Freshman Success reception held March 4

Southeastern Oklahoma State University freshmen with a grade-point average of 3.25 (first-time freshmen completing at least 12 hours) or above during the Fall 2013 semester were honored March 4 with a reception in the Southeastern Ballroom.

University president Larry Minks offered his congratulations and each student was presented with a gift. Students, faculty, and parents attended the 13th annual event, sponsored by the Office of Freshman Programs.

Career Management to host Teacher Job Fair

Schools from throughout Oklahoma and Texas will be visiting with prospective teachers at the Southeastern Oklahoma State University Education Job Fair.

The event, sponsored by the Southeastern Career Management Center, is scheduled for Thursday, April 24, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Magnolia Room on campus.

Southeastern education majors will be attending, and the job fair is also open to the public.

Band clinic attracts area schools, guest artist

The Department of Music at Southeastern Oklahoma State University hosted the second annual Southeastern Invitational Band Clinic on March 1.

This initiative invites select exemplary band programs from schools throughout the region to participate in a day of workshops and rehearsals with Southeastern faculty and renowned guest artists.

The clinic concluded with a Finale Concert featuring the invited ensembles and The Southeastern Symphonic Winds. The featured guest artist for this year’s clinic was Dr. Sarah McKoin, Associate Professor of Music and Director of Bands at Texas Tech University. This year’s clinic also featured the Denison (Texas) High School Symphonic Band, under the direction of Paul Onspaugh.

Spring break scheduled for March 17-21

Southeastern Oklahoma State University will be closed for spring break March 17-21.

The University will re-open and classes will resume on Monday, March 24.

Calendar of Events

March
1 Alumni Association Gold & Blue Scholarship Gala, Visual & Performing Arts Center, 7 p.m.
4 Freshman Success reception, Ballroom, 3:30 p.m.
6 Founders’ Day, Montgomery Auditorium, 3 p.m.
17-21 Spring Break
27 Curriculum Contest

April
10 President’s Leadership Class new student orientation
12 Aviation Alumni golf tournament and fish fry
18 Easter holiday
22 Honors Program graduation reception, Magnolia Room, 5:30 p.m.
24 Education Job Fair, Magnolia Room, 10:30 a.m.
24 Rhetoric Center Recitations, Ballroom, 7 p.m.

May
5 President’s Leadership Class graduation reception
6 Tri-County Honors, Visual & Performing Arts Center, 5:30 p.m.
10 Spring Commencement

June
13 Presidential Golf Classic, Chickasaw Pointe

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