Southeastern Oklahoma State University officials gathered with students and community members Sept. 5 to introduce the school’s new mascot, the bison. The introduction was made during a pep rally style event in the packed atrium of the Glen D. Johnson Student Union.

“We’re thrilled to announce that we’ve selected a new mascot for the University,” said Dr. Larry Minks, president of Southeastern. “Our mascot will become demonstrative of the pride, resilience, and strength we believe personifies Southeastern and the Savage Storm. People will have the opportunity to not only see the mascot at athletic events, but at many other events within the University, community and Durant area.”

The reveal included the unveiling of the official university mascot imagery and logo, a preview of the bison as a life-size cutout, videos, and remarks by President Minks, Student Government Association president Joseph Baden, Savage Storm football player Coby Ragsdale, Alumni Association president Rob Piearcey, Director of Interactive Marketing/ Director of External Athletic Operations Luke Willman, and alumnus-Savage Storm public address announcer Mark Webb.

To further engage the Southeastern Oklahoma State University community, there will be a “Name Your Mascot” contest taking place from September 5 – September 21. Participants will have two weeks to submit a name they feel best represents Southeastern and its bison. Suggestions will be accepted online at www.se.edu/mascot.

The top names will be disclosed prior to homecoming in order for students, faculty, alumni and community members to submit their final vote on the mascot name. The winning name will be announced during homecoming festivities October 4-5.

In 1921, the ‘Savage’ became the official mascot for Southeastern in honor of the area’s native people. By 2006, the nickname became the ‘Savage Storm’ to comply with a new NCAA policy.

With more than 90 years of history behind the names ‘Savage’ and ‘Savage Storm,’ the University has no desire to change its name, but to preserve its tradition through a revamped visual identity. In order to determine what best represented the ‘Savage Storm,’ a mascot committee was developed.

The committee was comprised of students, student-athletes, faculty, staff, administration, athletic department personnel, alumni, and community representatives.
Wilkerson named Brad Henry International Scholar

Demetra Wilkerson of Southeastern Oklahoma State University is one of 10 students from Oklahoma’s regional universities to be designated as a Brad Henry International Scholar for the 2013-14 academic year. These students will spend a semester participating in an international study abroad program at Swansea University in Wales.

The international study program, which was established by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in June 2008, provides a $10,000 stipend for students to participate in a semester-long study abroad program affiliated with Swansea. Academic credit for these programs will be awarded by Oklahoma regional universities. Students are nominated for the program by their institutions.

Wilkerson is a senior majoring in English and communication and plans to pursue a master’s in English. Wilkerson has served as president of the Student Government Association and as a member of the Honors Program, Student Senate, Alpha Chi, and Lambda Pi Eta. She also worked as the editor-in-chief of the honors publication. Wilkerson has been on the president’s and dean’s honor rolls and is a Nigh Leadership Academy Scholar.

“Demi has demonstrated her leadership abilities over the past year as SGA president,” said Southeastern president Larry Minks. “She is an excellent choice for the Brad Henry Scholar Award and will use this opportunity to further her educational pursuits.”

“Serving as a Brad Henry International Scholar gives students the opportunity to gain new experiences and a practical understanding of today’s global economy,” said Chancellor Glen D. Johnson. “We congratulate each of these students for this honor and recognize the academic achievements and leadership skills that will make them outstanding representatives of our colleges and universities.”

Wilkerson, who is from Durant, is the fifth student from Southeastern to be named a Brad Henry Scholar.

Faculty Symposium encourages exchange of ideas

As the start of the Fall semester approached, faculty members gathered for the two-day Southeastern Faculty Symposium in the Fine Arts Recital Hall. The symposium was held Aug. 13-14, with classes beginning on Aug. 19.

Among the many presentations were “Writing Across the Curriculum,” “Putting Faces into Online Teaching,” “Academic Freedom in the Classroom,” “Best Practices of Teaching Gen Ed,” “Promoting Undergraduate Research,” and “Speaking Across the Curriculum.”

Dr. Lucretia Scoufios, Dean of Instruction, and the Academic Department Chairs offered welcoming remarks to begin the symposium.
For all your Homecoming information visit alumni.SE.edu #SEStormcoming

Southeastern Oklahoma State University

STORMCOMING
Homecoming 2013
October 4 and 5

Thursday, October 3
SE “Night at the Museum”
Enjoy an evening full of surprises as the Durant Historical Society hosts a “Night at the Museum.” The Southeastern Hub for Arts Resources in Education (SHARE) will showcase local artisans’ work. The proceeds of the art sale will benefit southeast Oklahoma schools in the areas of art, music, and theatre. Refreshments will be provided throughout the evening.

Three Valley Museum; 401 W. Main, Durant
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Friday, October 4
27th Annual Whang Bang Golf Tournament
Register online at alumni.SE.edu
Silverado Golf Course
Registration – 8:00 a.m.
Shotgun start – 9:00 a.m.

Distinguished Awards Banquet
Introduction of 2013 Distinguished Alumni and Distinguished Former Faculty
Visual and Performing Arts Center
5:30 p.m.

Houston Debate Reception
Join your fellow debaters and communication majors past and present for a reception to honor a remarkable teacher and debate coach.
Massey Building; 200 W. Main, Durant
8:00 p.m.

True Blue Rally
Amphitheater
8:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 5
Coffee & Conversation with Savage Legends
Former athletes gather to visit with fellow Southeastern greats, AD Keith Baxter, and President Larry Minks

Bloomer Gymnasium
8:00 a.m.

Homecoming Parade
Main Street, Downtown Durant
10:00 a.m.

Alumni Tailgate Party
Alumni Alley; Across from Paul Laird Field
11:00 a.m.

Southeastern Marching Band Enters
Paul Laird Field
1:45 p.m.

Pre-Game Ceremony
Introduction of Distinguished Alumni
Paul Laird Field
1:50 p.m.

Kickoff: Southeastern vs. Texas A&M University - Commerce
Paul Laird Field
2:00 p.m.

Discover Durant ‘A Market Fair’
Alumni and friends of Southeastern are invited to enjoy an evening of food, live music, arts and crafts hosted by Durant Young Professionals.
Downtown Durant
6:00 p.m.
Freshman Convocation

Freshman Convocation was held Saturday, Aug. 17, in Montgomery Auditorium at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Following a short program, incoming freshmen and their parents enjoyed a cookout on the front lawn. Fall classes began Monday, Aug. 19.