The clinical mental health counseling master’s degree program at Southeastern Oklahoma State University recently received accreditation from the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

Southeastern is one of two universities in Oklahoma with CACREP accreditation and the first school in the state to earn the prestigious accreditation for a “Clinical Mental Health Counseling” (CMHC) master’s degree program.

The accreditation was based on the CACREP board’s extensive review of self-study documents, the visiting team’s report, and Southeastern’s response to that report. The eight-year accreditation period extends through October 31, 2020. Eight years is the longest period of time for which a program can receive accreditation.

One of Southeastern’s major strategic goals is to promote academic excellence by achieving and maintaining specialized accreditation for degree programs. CACREP accreditation adds to numerous other specialized accreditations held by Southeastern, including the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (undergraduate and graduate education programs); the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International (undergraduate and graduate business programs); the Aviation Accreditation Board International (undergraduate aviation programs); and the National Association of Schools of Music (undergraduate music programs).

Attaining the CMHC accreditation has many benefits for students, according to Dr. Daniel Weigel, professor of counseling at Southeastern and the chair of the University’s CACREP Accreditation Task Force.

“The CACREP accreditation will greatly benefit graduates seeking employment and Licensed Professional Counselor licensure in Oklahoma or any other state,” Weigel said. “In addition, students will be able to attain national board certification as National Certified Counselors immediately upon graduation, as long as other requirements, including passing the national licensing examination, are successfully completed. Our graduates provide services in the behavioral healthcare field in nearly every capacity and that scope has become even broader with this powerful national stamp of approval.”

Continued Weigel: “Of particular importance to our community is the fact that the CACREP accreditation has been endorsed by the Institute of Medicine as the only specialty accreditation for mental health counseling that is recognized by federal insurance programs such as TRICARE, the Department of Defense (civilian and enlisted person-
Students started fall classes on Monday, Aug. 20, at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, but their professors had a head start.

On Aug. 14-15, the first Southeastern Faculty Symposium was held on campus in the Fine Arts Recital Hall. The two-day event allowed faculty members to exchange ideas as they prepare for another semester.

Among the presentations offered by Southeastern faculty were “Writing Across the Curriculum,” “Speaking Across the Curriculum,” “Academic Advisement,” “Service Learning,” “Collegiality,” “Syllabi Construction,” “Imaging for Success,” and “Mentoring.”

“Faculty participate in Symposium prior to start of classes

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“Brad Henry Scholar looks forward to studying abroad

Come next January, Morgan Pierce won’t be in Oklahoma anymore. Or Kansas, for that matter.

Instead, the Southeastern Oklahoma State University junior will be studying at Swansea University, Swansea, Wales, UK as a Brad Henry International Scholar.

“It’s exciting -- I’ve always wanted to study abroad,” Pierce said. “I want to see more of the world and I’d love to take an American history class from a British perspective.”

Pierce, a 2010 graduate of Durant High School, mentioned that to date, her most distant trips have been to Kansas to visit relatives and to Galveston, Texas. This will also be her first airplane flight.

As part of the Henry International Scholar program, Pierce will join other students from Oklahoma for a six-month study at Swansea, and then return to Southeastern to complete her studies. At Southeastern, she has been a member of the Student Government Association, the Honors Program, the University’s Professional Development Program, and also worked on campus.

“I’m a double major in History and English Literature,” Pierce said. “I haven’t decided for sure what I want to do career-wise, but I definitely want to attend graduate school and study maybe history or law.”

While abroad, she wants to see Paris and visit the French countryside.

The Brad Henry International Study Program was established by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education in June 2008. The State Regents provide a $10,000 stipend for students selected to participate.

Pierce is the daughter of Shawn and Wendy Pierce of Durant.

She is the fourth student from Southeastern selected for the prestigious program. In previous years, the following students from Southeastern were selected: Brea Jones McMillan, Echo Adcock Smith, and Matt Heggy.

“CACREP accreditation opens doors for Southeastern graduates

(Continued from Page 1)

nel), and Veterans Affairs facilities across the nation. This will allow our graduates to serve members of the military and their families at a time when there is great need and also a dire shortage of mental health providers in parts of rural Oklahoma and north Texas.”

Weigel also noted that upon attaining state licensure, CMHC graduates qualify for student loan forgiveness through the National Health Service Corps in exchange for their work in designated health professional shortage areas such as southeast Oklahoma.

The CMHC program at Southeastern is the only program in Oklahoma that has been approved for participation in the “NCC for Graduate Students” application option offered through the National Board for Certified Counselors. According to Weigel, this approval will enable students to begin work almost immediately upon graduation as local or national Disaster Mental Health Workers through the American Red Cross.
Fall semester begins at SE

President Larry Minks addresses students, parents, and guests at Freshman Convocation.

Welcome Week activities included a street dance in front of the Shearer Residence Hall and Suites.

Students move their belongings into the residence halls in anticipation of the first day of classes on August 20.

Head coach Ray Richards offers instructions at a Savage Storm scrimmage.

A community-wide “True Blue” kickoff event was held at Paul Laird Field.

Photos by Dan Hoke
Ballew named campus police chief

Stacy Ballew has been named Chief of Police at Southeastern Oklahoma State University and Steve Harman is the new Chief of Environmental Health and Safety.

The appointments became official July 1 after both individuals served in an interim capacity for the past four months.

Ballew spent 20 years with the Durant Police Department as a reserve and full-time officer, advancing to the rank of lieutenant. The Durant High School graduate joined the campus force in 2006 as a patrolman and achieved the rank of captain. He has several family members who are in law enforcement and he has followed in their footsteps.

Ballew has earned Advanced Cleet (Council on Law Enforcement, Education and Training) certification.

Harman is a graduate of Ardmore High School, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M and Southeastern (‘88), earning his Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science with minors in Business and Safety.

He worked for Southwestern Bell from 1972-79 and worked as Oklahoma Highway Patrol trooper for 28 years (1979-2006).

He joined Southeastern in 2006 as Police/Safety Officer.

The Southeastern police force consists of Sgt. Jody Hall, who started in July 1999; Officer Steve Miller, who started part-time in Nov. 1988 and became full-time in April 2010.

Three new police officers on the force are Tim Green, Angie Carroll and Chad Hendricks.

Calendar of Events

**September**

3 Labor Day holiday
8 Presidential Partners event, Visual & Performing Arts Center
15 Parents, Family, and Friends Day
26 Shared Governance Forum
28-29 Homecoming

**October**

8-13 National Intercollegiate Flight Association regional competition
18-19 Fall Break
25 Texoma Area College Fair
26 10th annual Dr. Wayne Dixon Scholarship Workshop, 8 a.m. -- 4 p.m.

**November**

7 SE Live open house, Montgomery Auditorium, 8 a.m
12 Veterans Day event.
21-23 Thanksgiving holidays

**December**

3 Faculty-Staff Open House, Magnolia House, 1:30 -- 3 p.m.
3 Tree and Campus Lighting ceremony, front lawn, 6:45 p.m.
3 University Candlelighting, Montgomery Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
14 Last day of Fall classes
15 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.

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