



November 2010

UPDATE

Investiture

Symbols, charge of office presented to President Minks

Montgomery Auditorium in historic Morrison Hall was the setting Oct. 27 for the investiture of Dr. Larry Minks, 19th president of Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

Regent Connie Reilly of the Regional University System of Oklahoma offered the charge of office.

"It is with the utmost honor that I formally accept this charge as President of Southeastern Oklahoma State University, with all of its duties and responsibilities," Minks stated.

"I pledge to provide strong leadership and to faithfully guide the University forward to the best of my ability."

Minks served as interim president from July 1, 2009, to Jan. 21, 2010, when he was named permanent president by the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents.

Offering salutations were Chancellor Glen D. Johnson of the Oklahoma State System for Higher Education; Regent John Massey of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education;

Dr. Kenneth Chinn, Faculty Senate Chair; Ms. Teriki Hicks, President, Southeastern Staff Association; Mr. Matt Heggy, President, Student Government Association; and Mr. Mark Webb, President, Southeastern Alumni Association.

Chancellor Johnson, who served as the 16th president of Southeastern, also presented the symbols of office – the medallion and mace.

Mrs. Vicki Hudson, Assistant Professor and Chair of the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation, served as Master of Ceremonies. Dr. Ernest Sturch, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at Southeastern, offered the welcome.

Numerous dignitaries attended the investiture, which is a formal ceremony of conferring the authority and symbols of a high office.

Serving as chairs of the Investiture Committee were Chinn, Hicks, and Heggy.

The ceremony was followed by a reception in the Glen D. Johnson Student Union Loft.



Dr. Larry Minks receives the symbols of office from Chancellor Glen D. Johnson.



Regent Connie Reilly, of the Regional University System of Oklahoma, presents the charge to Dr. Minks.

Dr. Henry Scott to address fall graduates



Dr. Henry Scott

Dr. Henry Scott, Superintendent of the Denison (Texas) Public Schools, will be the speaker at Southeastern Oklahoma State University's Fall Commencement.

One ceremony will be held on Saturday, Dec. 11, at 10 a.m., in the Bloomer Sullivan Arena. Immediately following commencement, a reception will be held in the Visual & Performing Arts Center.

"We are honored that Dr. Scott has accepted the invitation to be our fall commencement speaker," said Southeastern president Larry Minks. "He is highly respected in the field of public education throughout Texas and Oklahoma. His

professionalism and dedication to service are certainly attributes to be admired. We also appreciate the fact that Dr. Scott has been very active in his support of Southeastern."

Dr. Scott was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus of Southeastern in 2002, and remains active in supporting the University. He currently serves on the board of directors of the Southeastern Foundation and the Southeastern Alumni Association.

Dr. Scott is serving in his 52nd year in public education, and his 50th year with the Denison ISD. He has served as superintendent since 1993.

He received his bachelor's and master's degrees at Southeastern in 1959 and 1963, and earned a doctorate in Education at East Texas State University (now Texas A&M-Commerce) in 1980.

Dr. Scott is also a graduate of Colbert (Oklahoma) High School.

Kaiser Foundation establishes pre-medical scholarship

Representatives from the George Kaiser Family Foundation and Southeastern Oklahoma State University have announced the establishment of a pre-medical studies scholarship at the University.

The announcement was made Oct. 15 in the Southeastern Biological Sciences Building. In attendance were Kaiser Foundation Senior Program Officer For Health Care & Higher Education Initiatives Monica Basu, Kaiser Foundation Program Officer Ben Stewart, Southeastern President Larry Minks, Dean of Graduate & University Studies Bryon Clark, and SE Executive Director of University Advancement Kyle Stafford.

The George Kaiser Family Foundation-Southeastern Oklahoma State University Pre-Medical Studies Scholarship is a three-phase program designed to encourage and support students at Southeastern to pursue careers in the field of community medicine.

"We look forward to working with Southeastern Oklahoma State University Pre-Medical Studies and the OU School of Community Medicine. The School of Community Medicine is designed to improve the health of Oklahomans in rural and urban communities across the state," said Ken Levit, executive director of the George Kaiser Family Foundation. "This scholarship will help bring some of the best and brightest students into the program and offer opportunities for them to give back to their communities and state."

"We are very excited about working with the Kaiser Family Foundation on this initiative," said President



Visiting after the announcement were Dr. Bryon Clark, President Larry Minks, Kaiser Family Foundation representatives Monica Basu and Ben Stewart, and Kyle Stafford.

Minks. "We have numerous alumni who have made their mark in the medical profession, and this partnership will certainly support that legacy."

The scholarship will offer qualified Southeastern students exceptional support and training along their educational path toward earning an M.D. degree in community medicine.

From 10-12 Southeastern students will be chosen as participants of the program, and it will provide funding for students to attend the fall orientation at the University of Oklahoma School of Community Medicine in Tulsa.

SOUTHEASTERN CELEBRATES HOMECOMING!

Alumni and friends of Southeastern Oklahoma State University enjoyed beautiful fall weather Oct. 8-9 during homecoming festivities.

The Savage Storm football team did its part to make it a successful celebration with a thrilling 42-35 victory over Southwestern in double overtime.

During halftime of the football game, Phylcia Vandawalker of McAlester was named Homecoming Queen and Ryan McMillan of Hugo was named Homecoming King.

The Homecoming Banquet in the Visual and Performing Arts Center honored Distinguished Alumni recipients Jerry Buchanan, Keith Alan Russell and Dr. Dan Tuckness, along with Distinguished Former Faculty recipients Dr. Merle McElroy-Dunlap, Dr. C.W. Mangrum, and Dr. James C. Milligan (posthumously).

The Benefactor Award was presented to Richard and Linda Whorton, who, with family and friends, have established the Amanda Kay Whorton Endowed Scholarship in honor of their late daughter, a former Southeastern student who was majoring in Business Administration.

The Heritage Award honored John L. Props (posthumously), who started his Southeastern teaching career in 1927 and retired in 1959 as a Professor of Chemistry and Chair of the Department of Physical Sciences.

The two-day Homecoming celebration started with Friday's Whang Bang Golf Tournament at Silverado Golf Course. Outstanding new greens and terrific weather made this one of the better tournaments in the 24-year history of the event.

Baseball coach Mike Metheny's team took the top spot with Rusty Zumwalt, Paul Postier, Jack Park, Casey Clayborn, and Norm Clayborn carding a 52.

The Homecoming Parade was another highlight of Saturday's activities, moving through downtown Durant and featuring floats, bands, and other walking and riding entries.

Among other events were the Former Athletes' Breakfast, art exhibits, Legacy Day, the Alumni Alley Tailgate Party, and numerous reunions that wrapped up with the Post-Game Alumni Party fueled by disc jockeys at Silverado Golf Course.



Southeastern president Larry Minks, far right, and his wife Joan congratulate 2010 Distinguished Alumni honorees Jerry Buchanan and Keith Alan Russell during pre-game ceremonies. The third 2010 Distinguished Alumni recipient, Dr. Dan Tuckness, Jr., was unable to attend.



During halftime of the football game against Southwestern, Phylcia Vandawalker of McAlester was named Homecoming Queen and Ryan McMillan of Hugo was named Homecoming King.



Wally Funk offers advice following her presentation.

Noted aviator offers advice during campus visit

Nationally renowned aviator Wally Funk spoke to a crowd of more than 50 students, faculty, and staff members at Southeastern Oklahoma State University Oct. 13.

She easily captivated the audience as she described her fascinating life in aviation.

Funk was only 21 years old when she became one of the “Mercury 13,” the 13 women who endured the grueling astronaut training program hoping to be selected as one of the nation’s first astronauts. Despite passing all of the tests, none of the 13 women were selected. Today she is preparing for a ride into space in the Virgin Galactic SpaceShipTwo.

She currently has more than 18,000 hours of flying time logged and was the first woman to successfully complete the FAA General Aviation Operations Inspector Academy course in 1971.

Funk told the students to take advantage of being at a great university like Southeastern and said she had sent quite a few of her flight students here.

“You must have utter determination,” Funk said, “and let nothing stop you. I knew at age 20 exactly where I was going. You have to make doors open for yourself.”

After a short video of her astronaut training in Russia, Funk passed along several hard-won bits of advice to students planning to follow her into the exciting field of aviation.

“Knowledge is power,” Funk said. “To become smart, associate with smart people. All of you should ‘Go for the Gold.’ Learn as much as you can, follow your dream... but always have an alternative plan. Always stay focused and meet your challenges as they arise.”

Calendar of Events

November

- 7 -- SE Jazz Band Fall Concert, Montgomery Auditorium, 2:30 p.m.
- 10 -- SE Live, Montgomery Auditorium, 9 a.m.
- 11 -- SE Chorale Fall Concert, Montgomery Auditorium
- 24-26 -- Thanksgiving holidays

December

- 6 -- Christmas Open House, Magnolia House
- 6 -- Candlelighting ceremony, Montgomery Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
- 10 -- Last day of Fall classes
- 11 -- Commencement, Bloomer Sullivan Arena, 10 a.m.

For a complete schedule of Southeastern athletic events, visit www.GoSoutheastern.com

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