Southeastern unveils new institutional logo

Regent John Massey honored with Lifetime Achievement Award

Aviation Sciences Institute celebrates 50th Anniversary

Homecoming highlights
Letter from the President

We are proud to present the Spring 2016 issue of the Magnolia Magazine.

We hope this publication will help you learn more about the great things happening at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Our generous alumni, donors, and friends continue to make a difference in the lives of our students and ensure Southeastern has a bright future. All of us in higher education are facing significant funding challenges, making your support more important than ever.

Over the past year, our Presidential Partners program has experienced record-setting growth, helping to provide student scholarships and professional development opportunities, among other worthwhile projects.

At our most recent fall commencement, fifty-one percent of the graduates were first-generation college graduates (first in their family to earn a college degree). I think that speaks volumes as to the impact Southeastern is having on lives, and as president, I am proud to be a small part of that. The larger role is played by our dedicated faculty and staff who ensure our students receive a quality education.

Again, thank you for your support of Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

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Spring 2016
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Fall 2015 Commencement

Alisa (Frank) Dorman, Executive Director, Office of Literacy for the Colorado Department of Education, was the speaker for Southeastern Oklahoma State University's fall commencement.

Two ceremonies were held on Dec. 12 in Bloomer Sullivan Arena. Dorman holds three degrees from Southeastern — a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education (’90), a Master of Education in School Counseling (’95), and a Master of Elementary Education in Reading (’95). She is a graduate of Bokchito High School.

“We are delighted that Alisa returned to Southeastern as our commencement speaker this fall,” said Southeastern president Sean Burrage. “It’s very meaningful for our graduates to hear from someone who has been so successful in their career. And, for Alisa to be a product of Southeastern’s teacher education program makes it even more special.”

Upon graduation, Dorman began her career in education as an elementary school teacher in Texas and later in Oklahoma. She was named Teacher of the Year for Durant Public Schools in 1997 and was later named runner-up in the State Teacher of the Year program. She left the classroom to join the Oklahoma Department of Education in 1998 as an early childhood and family education specialist.

In 2002, she became Director and Team Leader for Reading First, a federal reading initiative. Dorman spent nine years at the Oklahoma Department of Education before moving into education research and development. She joined Oregon-based Dynamic Measurement Group (DMG), where she worked as the Liaison to Partners, as well as Director of Training Events and Institutes. While at DMG, the SE grad served as a member of the executive team, as well as the research and development team. She contributed to the development of multiple literacy assessment tools and professional development materials for educators.

In her current position, which she has held since September 2014, Dorman oversees the Office of Literacy at the Colorado Department of Education. Her duties include leading the state's early reading initiative, along with several special projects related to early learning. She is a member of the Education Commissioner's Cabinet and co-leads the implementation of the department's strategic plan.

Dorman has served on numerous boards and committees, including the Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association Board, the State Superintendent’s Teacher Advisory Committee, the Durant Education Foundation, and the Boys and Girls Club of Durant. She is currently serving as a Commissioner on Governor John Hickenlooper's SERVE Colorado Board, and on the Planning Committee for the Lieutenant Governor Joseph Garcia's Literacy Week Tour.

Among the dignitaries participating in the Fall Commencement were Regent Jeffrey Dunn, chair of the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents, speaker Alisa Dorman, Southeastern president Sean Burrage, and Chancellor Glen D. Johnson.
**Distinguished Awards Ceremony**

**John Massey  
Lifetime Achievement Award**

John Massey was the recipient of the first annual Lifetime Achievement Award by the Southeastern Alumni Association. Governor David Walters appointed him to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education board in May 1992, serving a nine-year term. In May of 2001, Governor Frank Keating reappointed him for a second nine-year term and in May 2010, he was reappointed by Governor Brad Henry for a third nine-year term ending in May 2019. This reappointment makes him the first-ever three-term regent.

Regent Massey is the founder and chairman of the board of First United Bank and Trust, headquartered in Durant. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University and in 1984 received the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Regent Massey was elected State Representative in 1960 while a senior in college and served two terms. In 1964, he was elected to the State Senate where he also served two terms. He and his wife, Donna, live in Durant.

**Frank T. Feitz  
Distinguished Alumni**

Frank Fietz ('57) earned his bachelor's degree in business and went to work for the J.C. Penney Company as a management trainee. The Ryan, Oklahoma, native later became a division manager in Fort Worth, Texas. Fietz was recruited by Bealls Department Stores and joined that company in 1962. He worked his way up the ranks and by 1987, he was named Chief Operating Officer of Bealls Department Stores. In this capacity, he oversaw 160 stores in Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Alabama, along with buying offices in Dallas and a distribution center in Jacksonville, Texas. After facilitating the sale of the company to Specialty Retail Incorporated (SRI) and Bain Capital of Boston in 1988, he became CEO of the Bealls division of SRI. Fietz retired after 27 years with Bealls (now known as Stage) in 1989. Following retirement, he served as president of “Christian International Business Network,” a part of Christian International Ministries.

Fietz and his wife Gay, moved back to Durant in 2005, to be closer to family.

**Sue Wilson Stafford  
Distinguished Alumni**

Sue Wilson Stafford ('68) of Madill began her teaching career in Duncan, Oklahoma. Forty-seven years later, she is still teaching – in Frisco, Texas, one of the fastest growing communities in the nation. After teaching 10 years in Duncan, where she was honored as the “Outstanding Young Educator” by the Duncan Chamber of Commerce, Stafford and her family re-located to Frisco.

After teaching middle school English and reading, she became the Frisco ISD migrant coordinator and teacher in 1983. The Frisco ISD has established the Sue Wilson Stafford Educational Scholarship in her name. In 2008, the Sue Wilson Stafford Middle School was built and named in her honor.

She has received numerous honors and awards during her career as an educator, and teaches today middle school social studies and English at the Frisco ISD Student Opportunity Center. Stafford also teaches English as a Second Language and GED preparatory to adult students in evening classes.
Dr. George Collier  
Distinguished Former Faculty  
Dr. George Collier joined the Southeastern faculty in 1972 and later served as Chair and Professor in the Department of Accounting-Economics-Finance in the School of Business. In 1994, he became professor emeritus and began serving as an adjunct professor.

Collier earned his Bachelor of Science in Industrial Management at Purdue University, and his master’s and Ph.D. in Economics from Oklahoma State University. His tenure at Southeastern included service on numerous committees and special assignments, including institutional research and planning, University assessment, academic council, and strategic planning task force.

Collier received the Burlington Northern Award for Teaching Excellence in 1992.

Dr. Flavil H. George  
Distinguished Former Faculty  
Dr. Flavil H. George served as Associate Professor of Education at Southeastern from 1984-1995. He earned his doctorate and master’s degrees at North Texas State University (now the University of North Texas) and his bachelor’s at East Central.

Prior to joining the Southeastern faculty, George coached basketball at Grayson County College and Cooke County Junior College. In 1976, he accepted the position of Dean of Students at Eastern Oklahoma State College. Two years later, he was named Vice President of Student Affairs there.

At Southeastern, George implemented a special computer lab designed for teacher education majors. His students received first-hand experience using educational resources that enriched their teaching and writing skills. Working with Dovie Walker, he developed and implemented an innovative mentoring program for student teachers.

Minnie M. Baker  
Heritage 2015 Award  
Minnie M. Baker (’36) was a renowned artist and educator whose contributions to the state of Oklahoma and the field of American art are immeasurable. She taught for 31 years at Southeastern State College, where she was chair of the Art Department and Associate Professor Emeritus of Art.

Her work included portraits of Oklahoma governors, military generals and congressional representatives. Baker’s works are displayed in honored places throughout the United States. The Ardmore native received her bachelor’s degree from Southeastern and a master’s from Iowa State University.

Baker continued her graduate studies at the University of Oklahoma and also completed course work at prestigious art schools in Washington, D.C., Massachusetts, and Mexico.

In 2013, the Minnie Baker Art Show was held in the Centre Gallery at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

Baker passed away in 1983.
Greg Armstrong: "Black Gold, Texas Tea"

As chairman, CEO, and co-founder of one of the largest crude oil transportation companies in North America, with an enterprise value at more than $20 billion, Greg Armstrong, class of 1980, has a simple philosophy of leadership; do the right thing. He leads Plains All American Pipeline (PAA) and its general partner holding company Plains GP Holdings (PAGP), based in Houston, Tex.

PAA transports approximately 4.5 million barrels of crude oil and natural gas liquids per day through its pipeline, gathering, trucking, railcar, barge and terminal assets. PAGP was ranked 67th in the Fortune 500 in 2015, and has been named repeatedly as one of “America’s Most Admired Companies”. The Houston Chronicle has named PAA as one of the “Top Workplaces in Houston” each year since 2010. Not surprisingly, Armstrong himself received leadership awards from the Chronicle in 2010 and 2012 for the “Large Company” category. He was recently inducted into the 2015 Texas Business Hall of Fame.

A first-generation Southeastern graduate, his family moved to Durant in 1969 and lived about three houses from the university. They owned a grocery store and laundry mat on what is now SE campus property. He, and his two sisters, both Southeastern graduates, basically grew up in the shadow of the Southeastern campus. For the Armstrong clan, there never was any thought of going to school elsewhere.

“Debbie, Gail and I were blessed to have two great parents, Frank and Jean Armstrong, who worked very hard to provide us the opportunity to attend Southeastern and become first-generation graduates,” he said. “I wasn’t really sure what I wanted to do when I graduated. At one time I thought about being a lawyer or maybe an engineer, but that wasn’t really available at SE at the time. All I knew for sure was I wanted to be in business so I took all the business courses I could get. When I realized I had about 40 hours of accounting courses it seemed wise to go on and get the accounting degree.”

Although Armstrong has spent the bulk of his career, more than 30 years, building and leading the two Plains oil companies; he began his career at PricewaterhouseCoopers as a member of their auditing team. PwC is one of the largest professional services firms in the world. He found out pretty quickly his education at Southeastern was as good, and in some cases much better, than what some of his peers at PwC had experienced at larger universities.

“I believe the reason I obtained such a good educational foundation at Southeastern is because the classes were smaller...”

“One of the memories about Southeastern that really stayed with me was the time I made my only “C” in an accounting class taught by Dale Garner,” he said. “I didn’t know if I was madder at him or myself, but it motivated me to buckle down and work harder. I think I was coasting a little bit there and that “C” was a wakeup call for me. I’ve never forgotten that grade, and I think it’s always reminded me to work my hardest at whatever I’m doing.”
Southeastern Oklahoma State University

Southeastern Oklahoma State University President Sean Burrage recently unveiled a new institutional logo to bolster his vision of moving the university forward and strengthening the university brand. The new logo will not replace the familiar SE oval logo, but will be an addition to the Southeastern logo and trademark portfolio. The SE oval logo will continue to represent the Southeastern athletics program, while the new institutional logo, dubbed the “Pillars” logo, will represent the university in a more formal academic capacity.

“I think everybody loves and recognizes the SE oval logo, so we certainly didn't want to replace it,” President Burrage said. “But, the oval logo definitely has more of an athletic look so we needed an institutional logo that captures the academic competence and intellectual integrity of the university.”

The Pillars logo was designed to reflect historical aspects of Southeastern while integrating the excellence of its academic offerings and exceptional faculty. Several tentative designs were created by Jack Ousey, associate professor for Arts, Communication and Theatre, and considered by focus group meetings comprised of students, faculty/staff and alumni. Academic Partnerships, a higher education marketing firm based in Dallas, used the input and suggestions from the focus groups to create the final logo design. The Pillars logo was created at no cost to the university.

The addition of an institutional logo comes at a good time for the university. Southeastern has entered into an agreement with Academic Partnerships (AP) to market the online master of business administration (MBA) program throughout Oklahoma and in neighboring states. AP brings a wealth of digital, online and traditional marketing expertise to Southeastern, having successfully marketed academic programs for more than 50 universities in Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas.

“The exposure Southeastern will receive through this partnership will strengthen our brand and attract students to Southeastern for all our academic offerings,” Burrage said. “I'm excited about the potential growth these enhancements will bring to Southeastern.”

Southeastern Oklahoma State University

Stacked Pillars Logo
Profile: Crystal Klaver
By Maddison Poteet

Talk to Crystal Klaver for any length of time and you will learn one thing for certain; her aspiration to make a difference extends well beyond teaching in the classroom.

As a student, a student worker, and a wildlife rehabilitator, Klaver does not stray from hard work. Currently a senior at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, she is a double English Education and Spanish major, with the goal of teaching as a career. She has worked on campus for the last six semesters as an English tutor in the Learning Center. As a tutor, Klaver has the opportunity to teach remedial classes, which she has done for five semesters. She also worked at Southeastern for the Department of Continuing Education as an English as a Second Language teacher. This position allowed her to work with individuals in the community, helping expand their knowledge of the English language.

Klaver graduated from Atoka High School in 2011. Following her graduation, she decided to attend SE and stay close to home, and to her father, with whom she is very close. “It was the best decision that I ever made,” she said of her decision to attend SE.

An active student, Klaver is the president of Sigma Delta Pi, the Spanish Honorary Society, and is also a member of Sigma Tau Delta, the English Honorary Society. Upon graduating from SE, she hopes to continue her leadership role in the classroom as a high school English, Spanish, or ESL teacher. Klaver plans on attending graduate school, but is still determining which school will be the best fit for her career and lifestyle.

When asked how Southeastern has prepared her for her career, Klaver was adamant about the impact her school has had on her future plans. “Southeastern has prepared me to become a teacher who makes a difference. The teaching experiences and opportunities that I have had at SE have expunged any doubts that I had about pursuing a degree in education,” Klaver said, “I have had the opportunity to see just how rewarding teaching can be before even finishing my degree.”

The first-class student continued her admiration for Southeastern with a glowing recommendation. Small class sizes, a strong support system, and culture diversity are standout qualities of SE according to Klaver.

“The staff members in the Learning Center and in the English, Humanities, and Languages Department have been more than bosses or professors, Klaver said, “they have been some of the best mentors (and friends) that I have had.”

A licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator, Klaver has an adoration for animals, which was realized growing up on a farm. With a license to rehabilitate wildlife, she is allowed to possess animals as long as they need care, then she releases them. Klaver has raised and cared for pigs, goats, calves, deer, raccoons, squirrels, kittens, bunnies, and numerous other animals. Although she does not get paid, and has to “care-take” from her own pocket, the SE senior sees the rewards going beyond monetary value.

The bond of love Klaver has for animals often finds itself on the grounds of SE. “I actually bring a squirrel with me to class almost every time that I have a baby squirrel. They are smaller than the average adult's thumb when they are babies, and they eat approximately every 2.5 hours,” she said. “Between school and work, I don't have much time to run home during the day for feedings. I usually bring them with me since it is more convenient.”

Visibly, the animal caretaker is already beginning to leave her mark on the world. With a hopeful future as a high school teacher, the Atoka native has big dreams to make a difference in the lives of students, community members, and maybe even a baby squirrel or two.
Two Gentlemen of Verona

Dell McLain, chair of the Department of Art, Communication & Theatre, has been experimenting with this Shakespeare classic for a long time. He has long been fascinated with 19th century English musicals and the Gilbert and Sullivan light operas.

“There have been a number of attempts at pairing this 19th century musical and Shakespeare, so this was my stab at it,” he said. “So when the audience enters the theater they're entering the musical royal, a 19th century English musical somewhere on the city side of London.”

The setting is a theatre that normally produces Gilbert and Sullivan light operas and their contemporaries in general usually do it badly. And, tonight for a number of reasons, including the fact that some cast members have taken a hiatus filled with drinking and debauchery, they have decided instead tonight that they are going to do Shakespeare, but infuse it with the music from Gilbert and Sullivan's “Pirates of Penzance.” And so, instead of robbers in the woods they had the pirates in the woods, and instead of the duke of Milan they have the major general of Milan.

“So those are the kinds of things that we infused, and it was so that the students would stop thinking of Shakespeare as a sort of sacred text,” McLain said. “Shakespeare is a playwright for all times and everyone ought to have fun with it and to make it fresh and inventive and new and enjoy it. I certainly think that the people who saw the show enjoyed it and had a great time, and I think that the cast enjoyed the show.”

This production is part of the company's ongoing commitment to Shakespeare and his works. Southeastern is the summer home of the Oklahoma Shakespearean Festival that has been producing professional Shakespeare on campus since 1979.

Candlelighting at Southeastern

The 94th annual Candlelighting was held Monday night in historic Montgomery Auditorium at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

Candlelighting is anchored by the Southeastern Symphonic Choir, the largest of the University's choral ensembles, which includes members of the greater Durant community. The auditorium was decorated with the banners of the event from past years and the candelabras were lit by members of the Cardinal Key Society.

This year's program was titled “Gloria! Song of the Angels.” The SHARE Children's Chorus opened the program.

This event dates back to December 18, 1921, and is an annual highlight for the University and community.
The Whang Bang Golf Tournament is an annual Homecoming favorite. Many alums enjoy a day on the links with old friends.

The Bonfire and Pep Rally is a Homecoming staple designed to cheer on our Savage Storm.

Distinguished Award Ceremony recipients (l-r): President Sean Burrage, Frank Fietz, Dr. Flavil George, Sue Wilson Stafford, Alice Ann Baker Dailey, Dr. George Collier.

Color Run participants have colored powder thrown on them throughout the 5K course.
Southeastern celebrated homecoming in style with a remarkable defensive effort, holding Southwestern Oklahoma State to 177 total yards and picking up an 8-0 win at Paul Laird Field on Oct. 3.

It is the second straight win over the Bulldogs in the all-time series which SE now owns 45-36-3, as well as the second-straight homecoming win for the program under head coach Bo Atterberry.

SE nabbed its first shutout since blanking Southern Nazarene during the 2014 season 45-0, but in this contest it had the interesting distinction of winning a game in which no touchdowns were scored, surviving on a pair of Joel Carlos field goals in the final 1:14 of the first half and a fourth quarter safety forced by Jaden Moore.
The **James R. Wintle Music Scholarship** has been established as an endowed scholarship at Southeastern. The late Dr. Wintle served as professor of music at Southeastern from 1971-2010. In 1973, he created the Musical Arts Series at Southeastern. The scholarship will be awarded on the basis of merit with special focus on individuals of high character and outstanding achievement in music academics and performance who will positively represent the name of Dr. James R. Wintle. His wife, Betty, was assistant professor of music at Southeastern from 1984-2010.

The **Polson Family Scholarship**, established as an endowed scholarship, is intended to provide financial assistance to student-athletes at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Dr. Jerry and Judy Polson gave it in honor of their sons who were both Parson Scholars. Jonathan ('94), an English Education major, was an All-American football player. Benjamin ('98), a Science Education major, was heavily recruited by several Ivy League schools, but elected to forgo college athletics. Jerry taught physics and held numerous administrative positions at Southeastern, and Judy was an adjunct professor in the English department.

The **Wesley Smithart Scholarship** has been established through the Southeastern Foundation. The endowed scholarship, established by his wife Marcia, is to honor the late Mr. Smithart by assisting deserving students who are seeking a degree at Southeastern. Smithart spent 32 years teaching, coaching, serving as a high school administrator, and with the State Department of Education as auditor and Regional Accreditation Officer. After retirement, he agreed to coach Southeastern’s softball team for a year. During the program’s second year of existence, he guided Southeastern to within one win of the national championship tournament.

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The Southeastern Foundation has announced the establishment of the **Ruth Lance Wester and Jackie Mayo Scholarship**. This is the fourth scholarship established by Ruth Wester, the driving force behind three additional scholarships established to aid students at Southeastern, and more specifically, the rodeo team. The Dr. John T. and Ruth L. Krattinger Scholarship was established in 1994 in honor of her late husband who was a retired vice president emeritus for Southeastern. She and former husband Dr. Truman Wester established the Dr. Truman and Ruth L. Wester Scholarship in 2004. The Ken Lance and Ruth Lance Wester Rodeo Scholarship was established in 2007. The latest endowed scholarship, established in 2015, is named in honor of her husband, Jackie Mayo.

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**How to Create an Endowed Scholarship**

An endowed scholarship is a wonderful way to benefit students for many generations to come. It is also a unique way to create a lasting legacy or to pay tribute to someone you would like to recognize or honor. There are more than 200 endowed scholarships at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, and that number continues to rise. Each endowment is a little different, but each one is structured so that the principal amount is kept intact. The investment income is available for use by students, which allows for the initial gift to carry on in perpetuity.

An endowed scholarship at Southeastern can be established for as little as $15,000. Some donors choose to create the scholarship and then begin contributing on an annual basis. Once fully funded, the awarding of scholarships can take place. Donors are also involved in establishing the recipient criteria for their respective scholarships funds.

For more information about endowing a scholarship at Southeastern Oklahoma State University contact Mark Webb, Director of University Development, at 580-745-2361 or by email at mwebb@se.edu.
**Top Ten Freshmen**

The Office of Freshman Programs at Southeastern Oklahoma State University recently hosted the 2015 Top Ten Freshman Awards ceremony. A committee consisting of representatives from faculty, student government and university administration selected the student honorees.

The Top Ten Freshmen have a collective 3.85 grade-point average and are involved in numerous activities across campus.

Awardees include Luana Antuono, a math education major from Ardmore, Okla.; Taylor Barrick, a biology major from Duncan, Okla.; Alissa Benson, an Occupational Safety and Health major from Edmond, Okla.; Samantha Faudree, a business administration major from Coalgate, Okla.; Austin Gilliam, an Occupational Safety and Health major from Greenville, Tex.; Baylee Linn Holbert, a nursing major from Davis, Okla.; Matt Maxwell, a chemistry/biology major from Durant, Okla.; Ally Elizabeth Shafer, a pre-veterinary medicine major from Madill, Okla.; Morgan Spurlock, a double major in psychology and communication from Antlers, Okla. and Kelsi Winchester, a Special Education major from Marietta, Okla.

**Flight Team places second**

The Southeastern Oklahoma State University Flight Team recently competed at the Region VI Safety and Flight Evaluation Conference (SAFECON), hosted by St. Louis University. Southeastern finished in second place, earning the team an automatic bid to the National Intercollegiate Flying Association National Flight Competition at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, in May. The Southeastern team placed first in ground events and third in flying events at the regionals.

Team members are Ross Sandmann (Captain), McKinney, Tex.; Luke Carson, Plano, Tex.; James Dorris, Spring, Tex.; Nathan Price, Plano, Tex.; Austin Ashlock (Captain), Bonham, Tex.; Joshua Ashcraft, Pilot Point, Tex.; Blake Crawford, and Mitchell Mills, Friendswood, Tex.; Blake Scott, Ponca City, Okla.; Tyler Clemens (Captain), Van Alstyne, Tex.; Derek Bolin, Fort Smith, Ark.; Dylan Dean, Bedford, Tex.; Taylor Nelson, Owasso, Okla.; and Jacob Shiver, Neptune Beach, Fla.

**Sierra Janway**

Southeastern Oklahoma State University junior Sierra Janway is experiencing life on Capitol Hill this spring. Since January, the psychology major from Heavener, Okla., has served as an intern in the office of U.S. Rep. Markwayne Mullin who represents the 2nd Congressional District in Oklahoma. Her work includes attending congressional meetings, offering tours of the Capitol and clerical duties.

“Sierra is an outstanding representative of Southeastern, and we are delighted that she has been chosen to participate in this internship program,” said Southeastern president Sean Burrage. “Congressman Mullin has been on our campus on several occasions and we appreciate his support and interest in higher education. I might add that during these visits, he always makes a point to interact with our students, faculty and staff, which I think is very important.”
Save the Date - April 15 & 16

Join friends and fellow alumni April 15 and 16 as we celebrate 50 years of training professional pilots at the Aviation Sciences Institute at Southeastern. The weekend festivities will kick off with an alumni gathering the evening of Friday, April 15, giving everyone an opportunity to reconnect and reminisce.

Saturday, April 16, will be filled with family activities, tours of the campus and an open house at Eaker Field. That evening, we will celebrate “50 Years of Aviation at Southeastern” with a banquet and special presentations. The keynote speaker will be James Hanny, the first Southeastern aviation graduate. An alumni reception will follow.

Detailed information and registration can be found at www.alumni.SE.edu under the “Calendar” tab, or by calling Susan Dilbeck at 580-745-3252. You are encouraged to submit any pictures and/or stories that you have from your days at SE to SEFishFry@gmail.com. A large turnout is expected, so please visit the above alumni website and RSVP in order to prepare and make plans accordingly in order to accommodate everyone at the events.

About the Program

One of the more unique programs offered at Southeastern Oklahoma State University is the Aviation Sciences Institute. The aviation program has expanded since its inception 50 years ago, with courses now delivered in Durant, Oklahoma City Community College, Tinker Air Force Base and Rose State College in Midwest City. It offers undergraduate degree programs with the Professional Pilot Option and the Aviation Management Option. In addition, a master's program in Aerospace Administration and Logistics is offered.

The newest innovation for the program is the Pilot Pipeline Program, an agreement Southeastern and EnvoyAir (formerly American Eagle Airlines) to develop a career path from student to regional airline pilot. This program gives the prospective pilot a secured position at Envoy, while building time toward the ATP minimum flight experience requirements.

“We're in the third year of our partnership with our friends at Envoy and we're seeing the program come full circle,” said Kyle Thomas, Chief Flight Instructor at Southeastern. “The majority of students who first entered the pipeline program in 2013 are already serving as first officers for the airline.”

Not only does the program provide this streamlined career path, but pilots are guaranteed an interview with American Airlines once completing requirements at Envoy. Recruiting representatives from Envoy flew into Durant last month on an Embraer jet to visit with Southeastern students about the Pilot Pipeline Program.

Students in their sophomore year or higher can complete the human resources interview while still in school. Envoy conducts the HR interviews twice a year on campus.

The Southeastern Aviation Sciences Institute is accredited by Aviation Accreditation Board International.
Profile: Jessica Baker
by Kameron Dunn

Jessica Baker came to Southeastern to play volleyball, but the excellence of her experience at the university has gone far beyond her performance on the court. She graduated from Van Alstyne High School in Texas and enrolled at SE to take her passion for volleyball to the collegiate level.

“I love the thrill of the game,” she said. “The pace is fast, the intensity is high, and the competition is fierce. Volleyball has definitely taught me time management, and how to give everything you have, not only on the court, but in every aspect of life.”

The sport has greatly contributed to her success on campus, both on and off the court. Academically, Baker is also a superstar. She was a Top-Ten Freshman for 2014, the 2014-2015 Scholar Athlete of the Year, and she has made the Dean’s List every semester since enrolling.

Baker has an “all or nothing” attitude, not just for athletics, but also for her studies. She has found support from the athletics department at Southeastern in both facets of her ambition. She compliments the athletic program because they take time to invest in you, not just the program. According to her, SE Athletics has contributed to her as a team player and fostered a deep relationship with her teammates.

“I have been blessed with the most incredible team,” she said, “I have built lifelong friendships with these girls who I have grown to call not just my teammates, but my sisters. To any athlete considering SE, join the Storm. Not only are you pursuing your sport on a collegiate level, you are becoming a part of a family.”

Baker recommends the program to all potential athletes. In the same way, she advises all applicants from all disciplines to consider Southeastern as their college. She finds the feeling of closeness the school gives to its students to be especially rewarding. She said if you want to be able to build relationships with your professors, SE will help you make those lifelong connections. The support for success the university provides in its athletic programs, academics, and its overall scope make it an excellent choice for any applicant. According to Baker, you’re not just a number in the classroom.
Southeastern’s Associate Athletic Director for Internal Operations and Compliance, Cherrie Wilmoth, has recently been appointed to the NCAA Division II Management Council with her term beginning following the conclusion of the 2016 NCAA Division II Business Session.

The Management Council reports directly to the NCAA Division II Presidents Council and carries the responsibility of recommending the administrative policies and regulations which will govern the division.

As always it was a busy fall for Southeastern among its athletic venues with as many as seven sports competing over the course of the semester, all before basketball tipped off in mid-November.

Football, in its second season under head coach Bo Atterberry, got off to a tough start with a narrow loss in the season opener but would recover and turn in its second-straight winning season, finishing the year on a three-game winning streak which included a 37-27 win over rival East Central in the Great American Classic, giving the Savage Storm a 47-46-6 edge in the all-time series heading into its 100th meeting next season.

SE had a trio of All-Great American Conference honorees, led by first team selection, senior wide receiver Franky Okafor. He was joined by juniors Nicholas Sierra and Raheem Wilson as honorable mention picks.

Volleyball struggled at times, but found wins when it needed them, enough so to earn its fifth-straight trip to the GAC postseason tournament. The season was aided by sweeps of rival ECU and in-state rival Southwestern Oklahoma State, with a pair of all-conference selections leading the charge.

Julia Benford, a junior middle blocker, was a second team pick, while freshman opposite side hitter Kristina Bergman was an honorable mention selection. Jessica Baker also picked up honors as one of the first Crafton Tull Distinguished Scholars.

Cross country welcomed a bevy of newcomers to the squad in 2015 as the Storm embarked on the season, posting a season-best team finish of second at the UAFS-Trinity Invitational before closing out the season with a seventh place finish at the GAC Championship Meet.

Junior Bailee Weger paced the group all season with five of the top 10 times at both 5K and 6k distances, while also posting the highest individual placing of third at the UAFS-Trinity Invitational.

While those sports have their seasons fully contained within the fall, golf and rodeo as well as men’s and women’s tennis compete in meaningful contests during the fall before ultimately completing their championships in the spring.

Golf finished fourth or better in four of its five tournaments, highlighted by a tournament victory at the Texoma Championship at Chickasaw Pointe Golf Resort. That event was paced by Mason Horner who turned in back-to-back rounds of 67 and 69 to close out the tournament and pick up the individual championship.

Both the men’s and women’s rodeo teams got off to great starts to the year over the first four rodeos of their 10 event season which will pick back up in the spring. The men are currently ranked third in the Central Plains region, while the women’s team is fourth. The men feature nine competitors in the top 10 regionally in their events, with Wyatt Rogers leading the bull riding and the duo of Brody Braden and Kolton White leading the team roping standings. The women feature a trio of ranked student-athletes, with Kaitlyn Prentice leading the way in fifth among barrel racers.

Men’s and women’s tennis opened their years to individual tournaments, including solid outings at the ITA Central Regional in Joplin, Mo. Those performances have set both teams up well for the spring as the men head into the championship season ranked No. 25 in the country and fourth in the Central Region, while the women open the spring ninth in the Central region.

By Matt Thomas
Class of 70s

Gary Sherrer (‘73) has assumed the role of Chairman of the Board for REI (Rural Enterprises Inc.) He is a former member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives serving on Governor Brad Henry's transition team, as the Chief Administrative Officer for KAMO Power and was appointed as Oklahoma's Secretary of Agriculture.

Lloyd “Ed” Munoz (‘74) teaches aviation maintenance at Midland College in Midland, Tex. The FAA recognized him for 50 years of service with the Charles Taylor “Master Mechanic” Award. He received a B.S. in aviation management and worked in corporate aviation until 2007.

Max Hibbs (‘75) has been named dean of Mathematics, Business, Engineering and Technology at Blinn College. Hibbs earned his B.S. in mathematics and computer science in 1975 and his master's of science in mathematics from OSU. Hibbs played a key role in bringing the Texas A&M Engineering Academy to the Blinn campus, establishing a one-of-a-kind living and learning community.

Martin L. Hite (‘77) – He earned a B.S. in education with a major in industrial education and minor in electronics technology. In 1979 Martin joined Montgomery Elevator designing control systems for passenger elevators. He currently holds the position of certification manager. Martin has had the opportunity to travel to Canada, Great Britain, Finland, the Netherlands, Estonia and China. He and his wife Deborah have three children, Dwight M. Hite, Ph.D., Jennifer L. Alexander and Jillian M. Duncan.

Class of 80s

Paula G. Harp (‘81, ‘86) currently serves as the senior director for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Program (HEP), High School Student Services (HSSS), and the Partnership of Summer School Education Program (POSSE). She was named Teacher of the Year at Durant Intermediate School in 2005 and George Washington Elementary School in 1994.

Donny Longest (‘83) is a 2015 inductee into the Oklahoma Bandmasters Association (OBA) Hall of Fame. He was named the OBA Band Director of the Year in 2004. He has been the director of bands for Konawa Public Schools for the past 20 years. He and his wife, Karen (Pierce) Longest (‘83), live in Shawnee where she is an associate professor at Oklahoma Baptist University. They have one daughter, Catherine.

Daryl E. Buck (‘84) will be retiring as a board member from the FASB (Financial Accounting Standards Board) in December 2016. Prior to joining the Board, he spent 18 years as senior vice president and chief financial officer of Reasor's Holding Company, a privately owned retail grocery company. Buck, a CPA, graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. in accounting.

Janna Edwards Kelley (‘85) received the Distinguished Educator Award from the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service. Kelley, a 28-year member of Extension, serves as director of the Pontotoc County Extension Office, as well as its family and consumer sciences educator. She earned a B.S. in vocational home economics education.

Class of 90s

Mark Webb (’90) was hired as the Director of Development for Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He began his duties on November 2 and is focusing his efforts on private fundraising for the university. Mark makes the move to Southeastern after 17 years in banking, primarily bank marketing. His wife, Terecia (’90), teaches fourth grade at Durant Intermediate School. They have two sons, Keaton (22) and Cooper (19).

Jason Wheeler (’91) is the head coach at Sharyland Pioneer High School in Mission, Tex. He has been coaching high school ball for 24 years. Wheeler received a bachelor's degree in conservation, recreation and resource management.
in business administration. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have two children, Jaden and Isabelle.

Anne Wintle Ortega ('93) was assistant professor of voice at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania for 14 years before recently returning to Durant. She is a graduate of the University of California, Santa Barbara (D.M.A. ’02), Texas Woman's University (M.A. ’95) and earned a bachelor’s degree in vocal performance from Southeastern. She has performed with the Santa Barbara Opera Chorus, the Minnesota Chorale, and the Regal Opera in Dallas. She has given recitals in New York, England, and Italy. Anne lives in Durant with her husband and daughter.

DeAnn Marcum ('96) is the executive director for the Durant Main Street Program. She graduated from Southeastern with a B.A., majoring in communications. Her husband, Thomas ('96), is an attorney at the Burrage Law Firm. They have a daughter, Emily, and a son, Stephen.

Kyle McLemore ('99) was named president of the Landmark Bank in Durant. He is a graduate of Southern Methodist University's Southwestern School of Banking. McLemore is an active member of the Durant community. He and his wife Toni are members of the First Baptist Church of Durant. They have three children.

Class of 00s

Thomas Faulkenberry ('00) was elected as the Texas Representative for the Southwestern Psychological Association. He has been an assistant professor of psychology at Tarleton State University since 2013. He earned his B.S. in mathematics from Southeastern.

Jerry Chrisman ('00) was recently named interim warden at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary. Chrisman earned the B.A. in criminal justice. He took over as interim warden at Mack Alford in 2012 and served until 2015, when he was named the warden of the Jackie Brannon Correctional Center in June 2015.

Ian Maness ('02) has joined Samaritan Park Street Clinic in Lebanon, Oregon, as a nurse practitioner. He attained a bachelor's degree in biology health science, followed by a master's degree in nurse practitioner studies from the University of Texas. In his free time, Maness enjoys spending time outdoors with his family surfing, snow skiing, rock-climbing, running and hiking.

Brian Odom ('04) joined the Washington State coaching staff in a defensive quality control position. Odom was a running back at Oklahoma on the team that won the BCS National Championship. He completed his career as a three-year starter for Southeastern, where he earned first-team All-Lone Star Conference honors and his degree in 2004. A native of Ada, Okla., Odom and his wife, Mackenzie, have a son, Benjamin.

Jamie Dabbs ('05) is a senior safety manager with TDIndustries. He recently represented TDIndustries as they received the Willis Construction Safety Excellence Award for First place in the Specialty Division’s Over One Million Work Hour Category because of its exceptional leadership in safety.

Ryan Owens ('05) was named the executive director of the Cooperative Council for Oklahoma School Administration. Owens graduated with honors from Southeastern, and from the University of Oklahoma College of Law, earning a Juris Doctorate degree with distinction.

Micha Gilbert ('08) currently lives in the Washington, D.C. area with her husband, Matt, a major in the U.S. Army. She is a full-time graduate student pursuing a master's in communication. She hopes to serve overseas as a diplomat with her husband. Micha graduated from Southeastern with a bachelor's degree in communication.

Wren Baker ('01) was named deputy director of athletics at the University of Missouri where he oversees all external relation units, and serves as the sport administrator for the men's basketball program. Baker received his bachelor's degree in education from Southeastern in 2001 and his master's degree in education leadership from Oklahoma State University in 2003. He and his wife Heather have two daughters, Addisyn and Reagan.

Daniel Nelson ('10) has been selected as the secondary level recipient of the Texas Educators Achieving Classroom Honors award, and was recognized at the 2015 Texas ASCD Annual Conference. He is a Hillwood Middle School eighth grade math teacher and coach. Nelson received the Keller ISD Innovative Teachers Inspiring Students award.

Joshua Allen ('05) is the West Region Risk Management Loss Control Specialist with EPIC Insurance Brokers and Consultants, a retail property and casualty insurance brokerage and employee benefits consultant. Allen earned a B.S. in occupational safety and health.

Kara Hendrickson ('08) is the Executive Director of Imagine Durant, a non-profit community based initiative for creating a unified vision for Durant and the strategies to make it happen. Hendrickson began her career with the State of Oklahoma State Department of Health shortly after graduation. She holds a bachelor's degree in sociology.

Class of 10s

Courtne St. Clair ('12, '14) was hired as the head fast-pitch and slow-pitch softball coach for Norman High School. Prior to this appointment, Courtne was the assistant softball coach at Southeastern where she also played collegiately. She holds a B.S.
in health and physical education, as well as a master's in sports studies and athletic administration.

Chris Roussell ('15) is the Vice President of Operations for RC Consolidated Services Inc. (RCCS) in Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. RCCS is a Service Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business (SDVOB) that markets and distributes goods to the federal government for a number of large corporations. Chris manages the day-to-day operations of the company maintaining current business ventures worldwide.

Weddings

Jason and Becky Hicks – Becky (Pinson) Parker ('02, '07) and Jason Hicks ('96, '02) were married on October 10, 2015. Becky is the Choctaw University Manager for the Choctaw Nation and Jason is the Composition and Graphic Specialist with the Office of University Marketing at Southeastern. They currently live in Durant with their four children, Hannah, Abby, Sydney and Drew.

Births

Kyson Wayne Speer was born August 10, 2015, at 8:59 p.m. He weighed 7 lbs. and 10 oz. His mom, Karla Parks-Speer, is a 2001 graduate of SOSU with a degree in elementary education. She currently is in her 11th year of teaching at Calera Public Schools. His father, Chad Speer, has been on the SOSU football coaching staff since 2010, and is currently serving as the offensive coordinator.

Courtlyn Jax Atterberry was born November 11, 2015 at 9:11 p.m. She weighed 7.46 lbs. and was 20 inches long. Courtlyn's parents are Bo and April Atterberry. Bo graduated from Southeastern in 1998 and with a masters in 2003. He is head football coach at SE. April is the head softball coach at Sherman High School.

Obituaries

Class of 40s
Frances H. Work ('40), Feb. 4, 2015, educator.
Patricia Swafford ('47), Jan. 27, 2015, retired educator.

Class of 50s
Bobbie Burgess ('51), Aug. 12, 2015, educator.
Theron Price, Jr. ('53), Sept. 8, 2014, veteran WWII, Korea.
Betty Jo Bagwell ('53), June 18, 2015, educator.
Juanell Haddock ('53), July 9, 2015, educator.
Leslie Green ('57), July 8, 2015, homemaker
Dr. Claude Stuteville ('59), Sept. 24, 2015, U.S. Army veteran, educator.

Class of 60s
Vanetta Williams ('62), Aug. 27, 2015, educator.

Class of 70s
Johnny D. Welch ('72), Nov. 21, 2014, small business owner.
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Class of 80s
Deborah Lea Clark ('84), Dec. 12, 2015, educator.

Class of 90s
Barry McMichael ('92), Nov. 8, 2014, educator and coach.

Class of 2000s
Michael Curry ('03), Sept. 4, 2014, educator.
Nicholas Dees ('08), Jan. 31, 2015, OHP trooper

Others
Larry W. Holder (attended), Nov. 17, 2014, rancher.
Atherene Mahanay (attended), April 10, 2015.
Katie Frank Slack, March 24, 2015, retired dean/professor.
Wanda Watson, July 29, 2015, retired staff.

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