



Enrollment continues upward trend

Spring headcount of 4,196 is highest since 1983

Once again, the enrollment news is good at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

Southeastern's Spring 2019 enrollment is 4,196 students – an increase of 12.7 percent over last spring. It also marks the highest spring enrollment at the University since 1983.

In addition, Student Credit Hour Production is up 6.8 percent over last spring.

Southeastern's enrollment continues to trend upward: last fall, enrollment increased 13.3 percent over Fall 2017.

“This growth can be attributed to a number of factors, including the continuing popularity and expansion of our graduate online offerings, which provide high quality accredited academic programs at an affordable cost,” said Southeastern president Sean Burrage. “At the same time, last fall's incoming



freshman class was the largest in five years at the University, which obviously had a positive impact on the spring numbers.”

Approximately 85 percent of Southeastern students receive financial aid, and more than 50 percent annually are first-generation college graduates.

With that in mind and in an effort to hold costs down for students, Southeastern did

not increase tuition rates in 2018-19 -- of the 25 public colleges and universities in Oklahoma, Southeastern was one of only six to hold the line on tuition.

The University will submit its official preliminary enrollment report to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education on February 11.

The survey says...Proximity and price attract students here

Last fall, Southeastern Oklahoma State University experienced a 13 percent increase in new freshmen enrolled. This included significant growth in new students from Bryan County and north Texas.

The question was -- why?

Several faculty members (Dr. Karl Frinkle, Dr. Chris Moretti, Dr. William Fridley, Carolyn Fridley, and Dr. Meg Cotter-Lynch) decided to work on a number of questions to include in a freshman survey. Among the seven questions were:

-- Why did you choose to attend Southeastern?

-- What other schools did you consider attending?

-- How did you hear about Southeastern?
A total of 403 surveys were compiled and tallied and the freshman survey analysis was then completed by Dr. Frinkle and Dr. Moretti.

According to the survey, the two major reasons students chose Southeastern was proximity to the University and price point.

See Freshman survey, page 2

Students participate in MLK Day of Service



Classes were not held January 21 at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Instead, students participated in a number of campus/community service projects. Some 75 students representing 13 student organizations worked at such locations as Durant Main Street, J127 Ministries, and the Southeastern rodeo facilities.

It was the 25th year that the University has participated in a day of service on MLK Day.

Eighth-graders attend Career Day on Jan. 8



Southeastern hosted Eighth Grade Career Discovery Day on January 8.

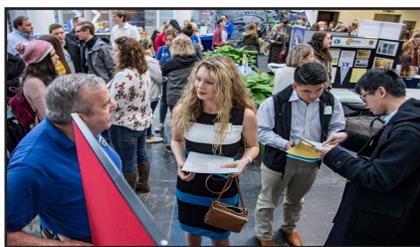
Professionals from a variety of career fields visited with students from throughout the area at this fifth annual event.

In addition, information was provided about higher education opportunities.

Keynote speaker at the event was Tray Ardese, a 2018 recipient of the Southeastern Distinguished Alumni Award.

Jason Taylor, general manager of Mid-Continental Broadcasting (KLBC radio) in Durant, served as MC of the opening program.

‘Super Saturday’ scheduled for Feb. 23



“Super Saturday” – one of the biggest events of the year on campus – will be held February 23 at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

Last year, some 600 junior high and high school students and parents were in attendance.

This year’s activities include the Oklahoma Science Olympiad (hosted by Southeastern for the fourth consecutive year), Vocal Music auditions, Theatre auditions, Honors scholarship competition, and President’s Leadership Class scholarship competition. An Academic Department Fair is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Glen D. Johnson Student Union. During this time, faculty members will be available to visit with prospective students.

Activities will be held at various venues across campus. Also, the Southeastern Office of Admissions and Recruitment will be on hand to offer campus tours.

Aviation Day held for prospective students



Southeastern Oklahoma State University hosted an Aviation Open House for high school juniors and seniors on campus January 25.

Activities included campus tours, a tour of the Aviation Sciences Institute, breakout sessions (Flight Simulator, Careers in Aviation, Admissions, Scholarships and Financial Aid), and career information presentations.

Also addressing the group was airline pilot Chris Ferguson of the Southeastern Aviation Alumni Association.

Freshman survey offers insight to choices

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Other major factors cited were academics, atmosphere, athletics, friends/family, scholarships, and reputation.

“We believe this information will be very useful, particularly in our recruiting and marketing efforts,” said Southeastern president Sean Burrage. “We appreciate the initiative, time and effort that the faculty members put into this project, and plan to continue the surveys on an annual basis.”

Tyler Fenwick named head football coach

Tyler Fenwick was formally introduced as the new head football coach of the Southeastern Savage Storm on January 14 during a news conference/reception.

Fenwick comes to Southeastern after a six-year stint at Missouri S&T (Rolla, Missouri), where he posted a 37-29 record. His 2018 squad went 10-2, which included a 51-16 victory over Minnesota State-Moorhead in the Mineral Water Bowl. Like Southeastern, Missouri S&T is a member of NCAA Division II.

Fenwick was named Great Lakes Valley Conference Coach of the Year and Don Hansen Super Region 3 Coach of the Year.

“We are excited about Coach Fenwick and his family joining Southeastern and becoming the leader of our football program,” said director of athletics Keith Baxter. “This was an extensive search with a very strong applicant pool and we believe Tyler models the qualities we were looking for in a new coach: a commitment to athletics and academic excellence, a good recruiter, and a proven winner with post-season experience.”

Fenwick’s teams are known for their prolific offenses. Over the past two seasons, the Missouri S&T Miners averaged 35.6 points per contest. Prior to joining Missouri S&T, Fenwick served as the offensive coordinator at Missouri Western State University for six seasons.

While at MWSU, he was part of a program that played in the post-season in each of the six seasons that he was on the staff, including an appearance in the NCAA Division II quarterfinals in 2012.

During those six years, the Griffons averaged 35.1 points per game. As a team, they went 53-18 and qualified for the NCAA Division II playoffs three times, making three bowl appearances.

Fenwick was offensive coordinator for one season (2006) at Minnesota State-Moorhead. Prior to that, he was on the staff at Occidental College in California for five years,



Joining new coach Tyler Fenwick at the formal introduction was his wife Angela and their children, Kyleigha, Kayden and Kiptyn.

the last four as offensive coordinator.

He began his coaching career at the high school level at Birmingham High School in Lake Balboa, California as offensive coordinator, helping guide the team to a conference championship and playoff appearance as it finished with a 10-2 record.

Fenwick is a native of Los Angeles, California, and graduated from Chaminade College Preparatory High School. He attended Los Angeles Valley College and the University of New Mexico, where he earned his bachelor’s degree in university studies in 1999. A two-year letterman for the Lobos as a wide receiver, he caught 14 passes during the two years in which he played at UNM.

His father, Jim, was a highly successful coach at the collegiate and high school levels in California.

Fenwick replaces Bo Atterberry, who resigned in December to accept the head coaching position at Arkansas Tech.



Remembering coach Nick Keith

Southeastern Oklahoma State University hosted Nick Keith Day on January 19, 2019. Keith coached Southeastern women’s basketball from 1981-2005 and is the school’s all-time winningest women’s basketball coach with 402 victories. He led six teams to the national tournament, with five consecutive trips in the NAIA and one in NCAA Division II. His teams finished as national runner-up three times, twice in NAIA. In photo at left, Nick’s wife Lola and former player Brandi Robinson joined the crowd in celebrating Nick Keith’s tenure at Southeastern. Coach Darin Grover’s women’s team this season wears a patch on the uniforms in honor of coach Keith. The late coach was also honored with a video tribute and an on-court presentation was made to his family.

Update Calendar

February

- 23 Super Saturday (Oklahoma Science Olympiad, PLC and Honors competition, vocal and theatre competition)

March

- 18-24 Spring Break
28 106th Oklahoma Inter-High School Curriculum Meet
30 An Evening with Daughters of Justice (Alumni Association), Visual & Performing Arts Center, 6:30 p.m.

April

- 12 Albert Brigance Endowed Lectureship and Project Teach present speaker Todd Whitaker, Montgomery Auditorium
12-13 Aviation Fish Fry & Reunion
19 Holiday
27 Presidential Partners banquet
29 John Massey School of Business Awards Banquet
30 Tri-County Honors, VPAC

May

- 11 Commencement, Bloomer Sullivan Arena

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#My Durant is talk of the town

The Small Business Revolution Welcome Rally was held on January 15 on the campus of Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Activities were held on the loop along 5th Street and in the Glen D. Johnson Student Union. There was entertainment, refreshments and time to visit with friends, neighbors, and small businesses. Durant has been selected as a Top 10 Finalist to be the featured city on the Hulu television show, The Small Business Revolution, featuring hosts Ty Pennington and Amanda Brinkman (pictured above). The show selects one small town each season to award a \$500,000 Main Street Makeover and serve as the filming location during the transformation. As part of the selection process, Brinkman and the film crew visited small businesses in the community that could be featured on the show. Among the participating entities are Durant Main Street, The City of Durant, Imagine Durant, the Durant Area Chamber of Commerce, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, and various other individuals and businesses. In supporting the efforts, the community has rallied around the #MyDurant hashtag.