



Southeastern holds line on tuition rates for second straight year

For the second year in a row, students will not see an increase in tuition rates at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

Southeastern president Sean Burrage said the decision to hold the line on tuition costs sends a clear message to students and parents that the University is doing its best to ensure that a college education is both affordable and accessible.

Currently, 90 percent of Southeastern students receive some form of financial aid, and each year, about 50 percent of graduates are first-generation college graduates. At the same time, the University continues to expand its on-line course offerings to broaden the accessibility to a college degree.

“We are continuing to experience significant enrollment growth, in large part, due to the popularity of our on-line programs,” Burrage said. “This growth in student credit hours has a positive effect on our revenue and overall budget, which in turn, allows us some flexibility in making decisions such as not raising tuition rates.”

Southeastern’s Fall 2018 enrollment reached a 40-year high with 4,483 students, while the Spring 2019

numbers were the highest for a spring semester since 1983.

This growth has extended to the summer as well: Enrollment in summer 2019 has increased 25 percent over last summer.

Southeastern’s budget for FY20 of \$53,788,695 was recently approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents.

This represents an increase of slightly more than \$3 million over last year’s mid-year budget revision. The increase has been funded almost in its entirety by a projected increase in student credit hours.

The budget includes a 3.5 percent salary increase for all full-time faculty members employed as of last year (partially funded by state), inclusion of a STEP increase for faculty, a salary increase for adjunct professors, the annualization of staff salary increases that were effective on April 1, 2019, and a 4.5 percent increase in employee health insurance costs.

Also included in the new budget were several new faculty positions and academic advisors for graduate programs in areas of enrollment growth.

Regents honor Dr. Bryon Clark with resolution

Regent Amy Anne Ford of the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents (RUSO), right, reads a resolution recognizing Dr. Bryon Clark for his recent service as acting president of Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Clark, who joined the University as a faculty member in 1990, recently resumed his duties as vice president for academic affairs. The resolution was presented at the RUSO meeting on June 20 in Oklahoma City.



Kandace Cook named alumni coordinator at Southeastern

Kandace Cook was recently named alumni coordinator at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.



She holds two degrees from Southeastern, including a Master of Education. Her husband Ryan is also a Southeastern graduate.



Cook previously worked in the Office of Admissions

and Recruitment before leaving to become a classroom teacher.

As alumni coordinator, she will develop and implement strategies to increase alumni engagement. This includes developing and executing a communication plan with all alumni using various media.

In her new role, Cook will be working closely with Mark Webb, Director of Alumni and Development.

Webb joined Southeastern in 2015 as Director of University Development; earlier this year, the alumni duties were added to his position.



Aviation Visitation Day features flight simulator

A group of Choctaw students visited Southeastern Oklahoma State University recently as part of Aviation Visitation Day.

Southeastern president Sean Burrage welcomed the group to campus, while Aviation Sciences Institute (ASI) director Lloyd Sauls also offered remarks.

The day's activities included a tour of campus and the ASI, group sessions on financial aid and careers in aviation, as well as a flight simulator demonstration.

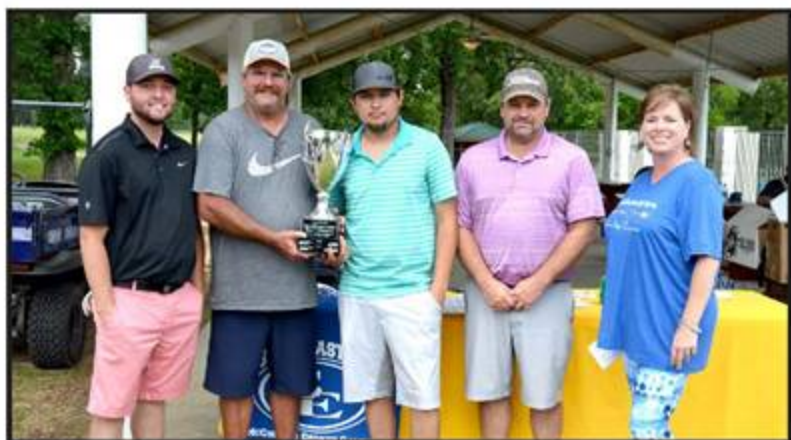


Lane Family Clinic wins Presidential Classic

The team from Lane Family Clinic in Wright City fired an 11-under-par 51 on June 14 to take first place at the Southeastern Presidential Golf Classic at Chickasaw Pointe.

Twenty-one teams competed in the scramble format which raises funds to support the Southeastern Foundation and Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

Members of the winning team were Jamie Jackson, James Lane, Trace Satterfield, Jimmy Harber, Zach Harber, and David Deberry.



SE Golf Classic held May 17 at Idabel Country Club

Trace Satterfield rolled in the winning putt on the fifth hole of a sudden death playoff to lead Team Harber/McCullough to victory in the 2019 SE Golf Classic at Idabel Country Club.

Runner-up was defending champion McCurtain County National Bank. The two teams tied with 18-hole scores of 55.

Eleven teams comprised of four players competed in the scramble on May 17, with tournament proceeds going to the SE branch campus in McCurtain County.

Winning team members were Zack Harber, Rodney McCullough, Trace Satterfield, and Jimmy Harber.

Plans announced for Semple Family Museum of Native American Art



What started as a dream will soon become a reality.

Preliminary construction work on the Semple Family Museum of Native American Art is now underway on the campus of Southeastern Oklahoma State University. The museum, funded by a gift from the Semple family, will be located north of the Fine Arts Building and Russell Building on Montgomery/Dunlap Drive. It will serve as the permanent home of the University's extensive Native American Art Collection.

The 5,000 square-foot multi-level facility will feature an art gallery, an audio-visual room, reception area, storage, a balcony and walkout patio. The patio will overlook the historic Amphitheater, which was built by Southeastern students. Professors C.B. French, a cousin of the Semples, and E.B. Robbins directed the students through the construction, which was funded by the Civil Works Administration in 1934.

The establishment of such a museum had been on the minds of the Semples for a number of years.

Frank Semple, a retired energy industry executive, Janie Semple Umsted, a local artist and Director of the Southeastern Art Gallery, and Sarah Semple Brown, a Denver-based architect, were raised in Durant and are sixth-generation Oklahomans. Their parents were Dr. Allen William Semple and Jane French Semple. Upon the death of their oldest brother, Bill (Billy) in 2016, the dream of a museum became a family commitment.

Inspired by the legacy of their pioneer Choctaw family and the strong impact it had on the history of Durant, Southeastern, and Bryan County, as well as the desire to contribute to the future of Southeastern students, the Semples are proud to partner on the project with the University and the Southeastern Foundation.

"We are honored that the Semple family has decided to bestow such an important gift that will enrich our campus and community for generations to come," said Southeastern president Sean Burrage. "Southeastern is indeed proud to be the home of the Semple Family Museum of Native American Art."

Southeastern is home to one of the finest collections of traditional Native American art in Oklahoma. These artworks, donated in the 1990s by Charles W. and Miriam Hogan, consist of 93 important Native American works spanning 50 years. The collection has grown since the first acquisition, due to a second gift of contemporary Native American Art by Brad Keithley, increasing the number of pieces from 93 to 130. The artists represent 25 tribes, most of whom are from Oklahoma. Their works include paintings, drawings, sculpture, pottery and batik.

The museum also marks the official beginning of a dream come true for Janie Semple Umsted, as the collection was acquired during a time that she was serving the University as the Director of Alumni and Public Relations. Furthermore, she was the liaison between Mrs. Hogan and the University and actually chose which pieces that were to be donated.

"Mrs. Hogan gifted her collection of Native American Art to Southeastern, but it has never truly had a home," Janie Umsted said. "This treasure has been stored at the Visual and Performing Arts Center for more than 20 years, and now this magnificent art will be properly displayed so that it can be enjoyed for years to come."

Added Frank Semple: "It is our desire that this museum be a place of honor where visitors will have the opportunity to experience the beauty of the art and through visual experience, be able to study the culture of individual tribes. Moreover, it is our hope that it will bring continued pride to not only our vast number of Native American students, but to all who may visit. We want to see the collection continue to grow and be a place of continued inspiration and study of Native American cultures.

"As a family, we feel so fortunate to have the ability to share our collective talents and resources to be able to build this very special museum. It was beautifully and meticulously designed by our talented sister Sarah and her daughter Georgia to honor our family in this unique and beautiful way. We also know our dear brother, Bill, also an architect and artist, would be especially proud of this endeavor."

Semple Brown Design of Denver, Colorado, is the architectural firm, while Mid-Plains, Inc. of Durant is the contractor. The project is expected to be completed in approximately a year.

Update Calendar

July

- 4 Independence Day holiday
- 31 -- Aug. 1 Big Blue Experience (student orientation)

August

- 2 Last day of four-day summer work week
- 14 Faculty Symposium
- 15 General Faculty-Staff meeting, luncheon, Ballroom, 11 a.m.
- 17 Freshman Convocation, Montgomery Auditorium, 4:30 p.m.
- 19 First day of fall classes

September

- 2 Labor Day holiday

October

- 22 Women's Entrepreneur Seminar, Hallie McKinney Ballroom, 10 a.m.
- 25-26 Homecoming

November

- 1 Native American Symposium
- 25-29 Thanksgiving holidays

December

- 14 Commencement, Bloomer Sullivan Arena

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Displaying the new vests are Southeastern police officers Arnold Bentley, Steven Dimas, and Tasha Yarbrough.

Federal grant, assistance from Choctaw Nation and SE Foundation support campus police

Southeastern Oklahoma State University police officers were recent recipients of new bulletproof vests thanks to a Department of Justice grant and contributions from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and the Southeastern Foundation.

The Office of Justice Programs' Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant is a match grant that pays for 50 percent of the total cost. The remaining costs were paid for by a donation from the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Southeastern Foundation funds designated to support the Southeastern Police Department.

"We appreciate the assistance of the Choctaw Nation and Southeastern Foundation in providing this safety equipment for our officers," said Southeastern Chief of Police Durward Cook. "It's just another example of how the Durant community is extremely supportive of law enforcement."

Southeastern duo wins team roping championship

Southeastern's team roping duo of Dalton Titsworth and Kolton White earned the Team Roping National Championship at the 2019 CNFR, helping the Savage Storm men's team to a fifth-place national finish recently in Casper, Wyoming.

The fifth-place team finish is the best for the men's squad since the 2009 season when they were runner-up in the team standings.

Individually, Titsworth, a freshman from Bonham, Texas, and White, a senior from Sumner, Texas, become Southeastern's first national champions since Denver Berry took home the 2017 steer wrestling title.