



# Burrage accepts VP post at OU

After five years of leading the University to record enrollment and financial stability, Southeastern Oklahoma State University president **Sean Burrage** is moving on.



In early September, the University of Oklahoma announced that Burrage had accepted the position of Vice President for Executive Affairs at OU.

He expects to begin his new duties in mid-October.

“This was a very difficult decision, as the past five years at Southeastern have been the most professionally gratifying years of my life,” Burrage said. “At the same time, I felt like this (OU position) was a professional career opportunity that I could

not afford to pass up. I will be returning to OU where I have roots – I not only graduated there, but worked previously in the President’s Office. Southeastern is positioned on a path to continued success, with record enrollment this fall, while experiencing financial stability. What we accomplished at the University over the past five years was made possible only by the tremendous support of our faculty, staff, students, community, and the Board of Regents of the Regional University System of Oklahoma. For that, I am most appreciative.”

Southeastern recently announced that its fall enrollment (4,824 students) was the highest in the history of the school.

Burrage began his duties at Southeastern in July 2014 after being named president in May of that year by the RUSO Board of Regents.

# Clark named Interim President by RUSO



The Regional University System of Oklahoma (RUSO) has appointed **Bryon Clark**, Ph.D., as interim president of Southeastern Oklahoma State University following the resignation of Sean Burrage. Clark, who is currently serving as vice president for academic affairs at the university, will assume his interim duties on October 12.

Burrage has served as Southeastern president for the past five years, leading the university to record enrollment this fall, while establishing financial stability at the institution. He recently announced his intention to join The University of Oklahoma as vice president for executive affairs.

“President Burrage has been a tremendous leader and positive force for Southeastern. During his five

years at Southeastern, he has increased enrollment, and energized students, alumni, donors and partners within the community,” said Susan Winchester, RUSO Regent Chair. “The University will be in capable hands with Dr. Clark as we launch a national search for the next president. We will be seeking someone who understands the diverse and dynamic academic environment and connects with our multiple stakeholders.”

Clark has been associated with Southeastern since 1990 and served in various capacities, including vice president for academic affairs for the past three years.

Prior to beginning his administrative career, he taught biology for 15 years.

The Board of Regents of the Regional University System of Oklahoma will be forming a search committee for a new president.

# Homecoming events scheduled for Oct. 24-26

Southeastern Oklahoma State University will celebrate homecoming on October 24-25-26.

Traditional events include the parade, alumni golf tournament, the Alumni Association banquet honoring the Distinguished Alumni and Former Faculty award recipients, pre-game tailgating, and football game. Kickoff is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 26, at Paul Laird Field as the Southeastern Savage Storm host Henderson State.

This year's award recipients are listed below:

## Distinguished Alumni

- **James Parrish**, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Executive Director of Education/School Programs and Senior Director of the School of the Choctaw Language
- **Col. Tuan That Ton**, U.S. Army Senior Defense Official and Defense Attache' to Vietnam
- **Rick Wells**, Principal and Founder of Wells Hospitality Group, LLC, One Heart Ventures, LLC, and The Seed Project Foundation
- **Dr. J. Herbert Taylor** (Posthumously), molecular biologist and geneticist

## Distinguished Former Faculty

- **Dr. Mary Ann Craige**, music professor
- **Vicki Hudson**, health, physical education and recreation professor

For a complete schedule of events, visit <https://www.se.edu/alumni/homecoming-2019/>

## Top Chemistry student

Sergio Vazquez Gomez recently received the 2019 Top General Chemistry Student Award from the Department of Chemistry, Computer, and Physical Sciences at Southeastern. Gomez was selected among all the students taking General Chemistry II (CHEM 1415) based on his performance on the American Chemical Society's Examinations Institute's exam on General Chemistry. A native of Mexico, Gomez moved to the United States when he was 13 years old. He is pictured with Dr. Tim Smith, department chair of Chemistry, Computer, and Physical Sciences, and Dr. Nancy Paiva, Gomez's CHEM-1415 instructor.



## Frost guest speaker at upcoming Women's Entrepreneur Seminar

Noted attorney **Sharla J. Frost** will be the guest speaker at the Women's Entrepreneur Seminar at Southeastern Oklahoma State University on Oct. 22.

The event is free and will be held from 9 am. to 2 p.m. in the Hallie McKinney Ballroom.



Frost graduated from Southeastern in 1984 and is a Distinguished Alumna of the University.

She is a partner with Tucker Ellis LLP, a national law firm in Houston, Texas. An Oklahoma native, Frost was named as one of The Best Lawyers in America for 2020.

The seminar will include informative panel speakers discussing key business topics including cyber security and social media, and entrepreneurs will discuss typical small business issues and how to overcome them.

The event will also recognize two outstanding woman business owners, a Texoma area woman entrepreneur and a Southeastern Alumna business entrepreneur.

The seminar, held in conjunction with Women Entrepreneurship Week, is sponsored by the Don Sands Lectureship in Business Administration, the John Massey School of Business, and the Oklahoma Small Business Development Center.

Additional participants include the REI Women's Business Center, the Durant Area Chamber of Commerce, and Main Street Durant. To register for the event or to make an award nomination, visit <https://www.se.edu/business/2019-women-in-entrepreneurship-week/>

# Aviation to partner with Southwest Airlines

Southwest Airlines Co. recently announced the launching of an innovative career program called Destination 225° which provides pathways to becoming a competitively qualified candidate for future Southwest First Officer positions. On a compass, 225° is the southwest directional heading, and Destination 225° was developed to lead aspiring pilots to Southwest Airlines.

With demand for qualified and professional Pilots projected to increase in the coming years, Destination 225° provides several pathways designed to meet future, high-potential aviators at their current experience level and create opportunities for them to become highly skilled and expertly qualified for future opportunities at Southwest. To accomplish this goal, Southwest is partnering with well-known industry partners that will provide participants with training and flight experience that reinforces the Southwest Way of flying as candidates complete their journey to becoming a professional Pilot.

The University pathway is designed for collegiate aviators who attend a Southwest partner university or complete a Southwest Campus Reach Internship. Southwest is excited to partner with four universities to offer this transition training: the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, the University of Oklahoma, and Arizona State University. Corporate flying partners for the University pathway include XO Jet, Jet Linx, and Swift Air.

Southeastern Oklahoma State University's aviation program has earned a reputation for excellence, while attracting students from all across the nation.

Since the program's inception in 1966, Southeastern has placed professional pilots throughout the world. Degrees are offered in aviation-professional pilot, aviation management, and a master's in aerospace administration and logistics. Program locations include Durant, Rose State College, and Tinker Air Force Base.

"It is with great pleasure that Southeastern Oklahoma State University joins Southwest Airlines in the announcement of a cooperative agreement to provide Professional Pilot majors a pathway toward a lifetime career with Southwest Airlines," said Lloyd Sauls, director of the Southeastern Aviation Sciences Institute. "Students who



meet certain criteria may join a cadre of pilots who will be the first to be considered for follow-on work opportunities. These work opportunities will qualify individuals for training as a Southwest Airlines pilot in the right seat of a Boeing 737.

"Many of the smaller details of the program are still being developed and along with our partner Southwest Airlines, we will announce these details as the program is implemented in its entirety. Our mission at the Aviation Sciences Institute is to provide the best aviation-oriented education possible,

while encouraging young aviators along their chosen career path. A path such as this is the dream of many young pilots."

Participants who apply, interview, and are selected for the Destination 225° program will receive a Southwest mentor during their years of training, be invited to Southwest for training activities and events, and ultimately apply for selection as a Southwest Airlines First Officer. Participants will go through comprehensive training and a continuous evaluation process that will allow them to meet or potentially exceed Southwest's competitive hiring qualifications while preparing to be safe and efficient pilots who fly "the Southwest Way."

There is no cost to apply to the program; however, candidates advancing through the selection process will be responsible for all costs incurred for their respective training programs.

"Destination 225° will allow us to develop world-class pilots who are ready to fly 'The Southwest Way,'" said Alan Kasher, Vice President of Flight Operations. "This comprehensive pilot development mission is designed to make becoming a Southwest Pilot an attainable goal for passionate, qualified individuals. Pilots who come to Southwest through the Destination 225° pathways will receive training specific to Southwest Airlines from one of our partners and will be held to our existing minimum requirements for First Officers, so we are looking for participants who demonstrate Living the Southwest Way and also have the technical aptitude to excel in all aspects of their training and development as a pilot."

## Update Calendar

### October

- 10-11 Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents meeting, Hallie McKinney Ballroom
- 22 Women's Entrepreneur Seminar, Hallie McKinney Ballroom, Magnolia Room
- 24-26 Homecoming

### November

- 1 Native American Symposium
- 6 SE Live recruiting event, 8 a.m. -- 2 p.m.
- 9 Gold & Blue Gala, Visual & Performing Arts Center, 6:30 p.m.
- 15 Southeastern Rodeo Hall of Fame, Visual & Performing Arts Center, 7 p.m. (induction)
- 25-29 Thanksgiving holidays

### December

- 14 Commencement, Bloomer Sullivan Arena

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## OKSBDC recognized for 35 years of service



The Oklahoma Small Business Development Center (OKSBDC) recently celebrated its 35th year of "helping grow Oklahoma's economy one small business at a time." Among the attendees at the recognition event were Regent Amy Anne Ford, Oklahoma SBA District Director Dottie Overall, Sen. David Bullard, Southeastern president Sean Burrage, Southeastern president emeritus Larry Minks, and OKSBDC state director Michele Campbell.

## Faculty Senate elects 10 new senators

The Faculty Senate at Southeastern Oklahoma State University recently held its fall election to fill seats that had been left vacant due to expiring terms and retirement.

The following 10 new faculty senators were elected:

School of Arts & Sciences -- Michael Scheurman, Music; Karen Maple and Rolando Diaz, English, Humanities & Language; and Alicia Wallace, Music/Voice.

School of Education and Behavioral Sciences -- Laura Atchley and Elisabeth Ponce-Garcia, Behavioral Sciences; and Chaehyun Lee, Educational Instruction/Leadership.

John Massey School of Business: Kendra Ingram, Management/Marketing; and Stan Alluisi, Aviation Management. Library -- Derek Cash.

The Faculty Senate is the official representative body of the faculty of Southeastern Oklahoma State University. It ensures that appropriate considerations be given to faculty concerns during the revision of departmental, school, or university mission statements and goals or

modifications of university policies.

The Senate is empowered to present the position of the faculty concerning policies affecting the faculty and university to the appropriate committee, administrative office, or board. The Senate also promotes the development of professional standards and scholarship within the faculty and university.

Returning Senators representing the School of Arts and Sciences are Chris Moretti, Math; Joshua Nannestad, Music; and Diane Dixon, Biological Sciences. Representing the School of Education and Behavioral Sciences are Kathy Boothe and Kate Shannon, Educational Instruction & Leadership. Representing the John Massey School of Business is Rhonda Richards, Accounting and Finance.

The Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate is comprised of Chair, Randy Clark, Communication; Chair-Elect, Kay Daigle, Kinesiology; Past Chair, Daniel Althoff; and Archivist, William Fridley, Educational Instruction & Leadership.