



Southeastern to complete semester with online classes

As a precaution and in joining the global effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus, Southeastern Oklahoma State University recently announced a few changes in its normal operations.

Interim president Dr. Bryon Clark detailed the changes March 19 in an email to the campus community.

“While we realize these actions may cause some inconveniences, we are acting in the best interests of the University,” Clark said. “The safety, health and welfare of our students, faculty, staff, and community is our top priority. We will continue to closely monitor the situation and make any adjustments or modifications that may be necessary. We appreciate everyone’s patience and cooperation as we work through this situation together.”

In essence, the University is limiting the number of individuals on the main campus in Durant and on the McCurtain County campus from now until further notice. Also during this time, these campuses and buildings will be closed to the general public, and all University events are cancelled until further notice.

However, essential University operations will continue during this time to meet the needs of students and provide business services, with a limited number of staff on-site; the majority of employees will be teleworking.

Students were on an extra week of spring break (March 23-27) to allow faculty preparation time to convert face-to-face classes to an online format the



following week.

(Current online courses resumed as scheduled on Monday, March 23).

All classes for the remainder of the spring semester, which ends May 8, will now be taught online.

Due to health officials’ recommendations to limit the

size of events, Southeastern’s spring commencement, scheduled for May 9, will not be held.

Instead, the University will examine options for a later date, and work with students to create a possible alternative plan to recognize their achievements.

Those students who must remain in residential housing on the main campus will continue to receive services such as housing and meals; however, students are encouraged to seek other living arrangements, if possible.

For continued updates regarding the situation, visit www.SE.edu.

Basketball teams advance to NCAA

Both the men’s and women’s basketball teams at Southeastern Oklahoma State University advanced to the NCAA Division II postseason tournament. However, due to the threat of the spread of the COVID-19, the NCAA cancelled the events. Regardless, it was an unforgettable season for both teams.

For details, see page 3.

Broken Bow student named Newman Fellow

Yoselin Rodriguez-Diaz, who is a sophomore biology major at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, has been selected as a recipient of the Newman Civic Fellowship.



Rodriguez-Diaz

The Fellowship is a yearlong program for students from Campus Compact member institutions. Campus Compact is a Boston-based non-profit organization working to advance the public purposes of higher education.

The students selected for the fellowship are leaders on their campuses who demonstrate a commitment to finding solutions for challenges facing communities locally, nationally, and internationally. The 2020 Newman Civic Fellows national conference will take place in Boston this November.

Rodriguez-Diaz, who is from Broken Bow, is one of 290 students representing Campus Compact member colleges and universities from 39 states, Washington, D.C., Greece, Lebanon, and Mexico, who will make up the organization's 2020-2021 cohort of Newman Civic Fellows.

She has been active in numerous campus activities as a student senator in the Student Government Association and as a member of the President's Leadership Class. Among her activities is involvement in issues concerning the importance of the campus food bank.

Rodriguez-Diaz is planning a career as a physician's assistant.



Attending the partnership banquet recently were Oklahoma chancellor Glen D. Johnson, State Regent Ann Holloway, Brennen Robinson and Natalie Currie representing Craft Pies Pizza, and from Southeastern, Seth Dutton, Keith Baxter, Blake Allen, and Dr. Brad Ludrick.

Craft Pies Pizza receives OSRHE Partnership honor

Twenty-seven business and higher education partnerships throughout the state were recently recognized as innovative collaborations that further the education of Oklahoma's workforce.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Regents Business Partnership Excellence Award is designed to highlight successful partnerships between higher education institutions and businesses and to further cultivate the higher learning environment through State Regents' Economic Development Grants.

Among the award recipients were Southeastern Oklahoma State University and the Craft Pies Pizza Company.

The Craft Pies Pizza Company opened for business in Durant in 2019 and quickly became involved in supporting the community. This is their third location, with the other two restaurants located in north Texas. The company was founded by three area businessmen: Rusty Robinson, Brad Robinson and Bryan Beaver. Armed with an entrepreneurial dream, a shoestring budget and a pizza oven that didn't work, these three individuals set out to create the best possible fast-casual pizza experience.

Craft Pies Pizza has partnered with the Southeastern Department of Intercollegiate Athletics to provide products and fan-engagement opportunities at athletic events. In addition, a number of Southeastern students work at the restaurant.

Oklahoma State Regent Mike Turpen served as master of ceremonies for the event. Lt. Gov. Matt Pinnell, Oklahoma chancellor Glen D. Johnson and State Regent Ann Holloway also participated.

Dr. Larry Williams (1945-2020)

Dr. Larry Williams, who served as the 15th president of Southeastern Oklahoma State University, passed away on March 22 in Tulsa.

Dr. Williams served the citizens of Oklahoma for 40 years as an educator.

He was president of Southeastern from 1987-1997, and during that time, provided strong leadership in moving the University forward.

He then served as president at Northeastern Oklahoma State University from 1997 until his retirement in 2008.

Dr. Williams received an M.B.A. from the University of Central Oklahoma and a Ph. D. at the University of Oklahoma.

A native of Cushing, Oklahoma, he graduated from high school there in 1963 and immediately joined the Army National Guard.

He began his administrative career in higher education in 1967 in the Accounting Department of the Comptroller's Office at Oklahoma State University.

Two years later, he returned to work at Central State and advanced through the ranks to become vice president for Administration in 1984.

Dr. Williams was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame in 2005.



A Season to Remember

Men's, women's basketball teams qualify for cancelled NCAA tourney



Savage Storm advance to the post-season with 23-8 mark

The Savage Storm men's basketball team had a second consecutive 20-win season – a first since joining NCAA Division II. The 2019-20 squad posted a 23-8 overall record and 16-6 mark in conference play.

Southeastern finished the regular season in second place in the Great American Conference and made it to the semi-finals of the conference tournament.

Southeastern earned an at-large selection to the NCAA Division II Tournament and was selected as a three seed. It marked the third time men's basketball advanced the NCAA tournament, and second time under head coach Kelly Green.

The Storm were scheduled to play six seed Rogers State on March 14, but the NCAA cancelled the tournament in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Kevin Buckingham and Adam Dworsky were both named First Team All-GAC.

Kellen Manek earned a second-team selection, while Kayo Goncalves was an honorable mention selection.

In addition, Buckingham and Dworsky were second-team All-Central Region selections, and Buckingham was chosen First Team All-Central Region by the National Association of Basketball Coaches.

Buckingham, a senior from Keller, Texas, also earned First Team CoSIDA Academic All-American for his efforts on the court and in the classroom. He is a Health & Human Performance major.

Dworsky and Manek also earned the Distinguished Scholar Athlete recognition.



Coach Grover's squad captures GAC regular season, tournament titles

The Southeastern women's basketball team completed its most successful season in the Great American Conference era during the 2019-20 campaign, posting a 22-7 overall record and 16-6 mark in conference play.

The season was highlighted by winning their first GAC regular season and tournament championship, with the Storm defeating Arkansas-Monticello 71-52 in the tournament finals. Kamryn Cantwell was named tournament MVP, while Katie Webb and Briley Moon were named to the all-tournament team.

Southeastern earned an automatic berth to the NCAA Division II Tournament and was selected as a five seed. It marked the fifth time that Southeastern women's basketball advanced to the NCAA tournament, and the third time under head coach Darin Grover.

The Storm were set to play four seed Emporia State on March 13 in Warrensburg, Missouri. On March 12, the NCAA decided to cancel the men's and women's 2020 basketball tournaments, as well as all remaining winter and spring NCAA championships in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Webb, a senior from Melissa, Texas, took home the 2019-20 GAC Women's Player of the Year award after averaging a league-leading 18.7 ppg. Cantwell was also a First Team selection, while Moon was an honorable mention selection.

In addition, Webb was named an honorable mention All-America by the DII Conference Commissioners Association and a First Team All-Central Region selection.

Logan Oestreich, Alix Robinson, and Webb also earned the Distinguished Scholar Athlete recognition. This recognition is given to GAC student-athletes participating in post-season tournaments with a 3.7 grade point average and a minimum of 70 completed hours.

Update



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Southeastern representatives visit with students and parents about what the University has to offer.

Southeastern representatives attend Bilingual Night at Sherman High School

Southeastern Oklahoma State was well represented February 27 at Sherman (Texas) High School's Bilingual Night.

The event, held for the second time, offers students and parents a chance to learn more about higher education opportunities in the area. Southeastern representatives answered questions regarding academic programs, financial aid, and admissions requirements.

Attending from Southeastern were interim president Dr. Bryon Clark, Spanish professor Dr. Daniel Althoff, recruiter Steven Harris, student Yoselin Rodriguez-Diaz, who is a sophomore biology major from Broken Bow, and director of university communications Alan Burton.

"We appreciate the invitation from Sherman to be a part of this event," Dr. Clark said. "We believe Southeastern has a lot to offer students, and this is one way we can communicate that to the north Texas community."