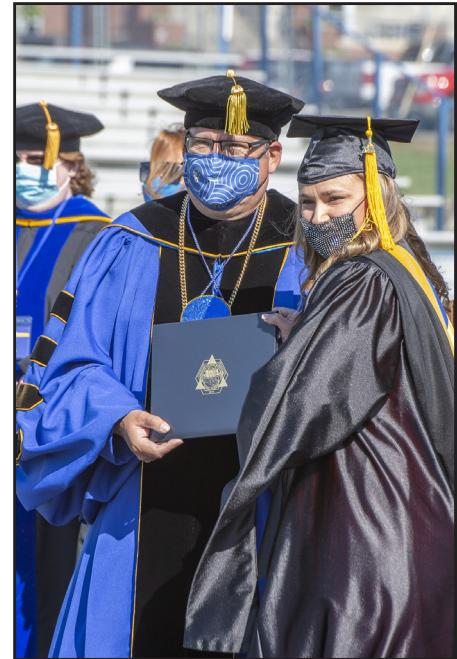




Live, from Durant, it's Commencement!



Clockwise, from left: Dr. Randy Clark carries the mace; the graduates are all smiles; Southeastern president Thomas Newsom poses with a graduate.

First in-person ceremony held since December 2019

Graduates, families, and friends celebrated three in-person commencement ceremonies May 7-8-9 at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

The Spring 2021 graduating class includes students from 38 states and 19 countries. Forty-nine percent are first-generation graduates – the first in their families to receive a college degree.

All three ceremonies were held at Paul Laird Field on the Durant campus; the Friday and Saturday events began at 9 a.m., while the Sunday ceremony was moved from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. due to the threat of thunderstorms in the area.

Because of the pandemic, it was the first in-person commencement ceremony at the University since December 2019.

Southeastern president Thomas Newsom welcomed the audience, while Regent Amy Anne Ford provided remarks from the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents. Alumni Association president A.J. Thompson delivered the alumni charge to the graduates.

Students earn awards at Intercollegiate Legislature event

A number of political science students from Southeastern Oklahoma State University earned awards at the recent Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature (O.I.L.) competition.

The O.I.L. is a student-run mock government that replicates all three branches of the state government of Oklahoma.

Southeastern students have been participating in the competition for several years.

As a team, Southeastern took first place in the Best Senate Delegation Competition and third place in the competition for Best Overall Delegation.

In addition, a number of individual students from Southeastern earned recognition.

Tammy Vo, a senior political science major and SE delegation chair from Calera, received the Distinguished Delegate Award. In the Best Legislation competition, SE political science students took first (Christian Grinolds, a senior from Broken Bow) and third (Sophia Seay, a senior from Grapevine, Texas) place. In the Best Freshman Competition, political science students took second (Sophia Seay) and third (Caleb Atchison, a sophomore from McAlester) place.

Southeastern students also served in a variety of leadership positions and successfully advocated for the passage of multiple proposed changes to state policy.

Legislation written by Christian Grinolds, Sophia Seay and Caleb Atchison were all approved by the O.I.L. Senate.

The legislation written by political science major Christian Grinolds was also passed by the O.I.L. House and signed by the organization's governor. It will subsequently be forwarded to the Oklahoma State Legislature where it is expected to be referred to committee for consideration as an actual law for the state.

Political science instructor Conner Alford serves as the faculty adviser.



Representing Southeastern in the O.I.L. competition were Sophia Seay, Alaura Gilmore, Tammy Vo, and Christian Grinolds. Also pictured is faculty adviser Conner Alford. Not pictured, Caleb Atchison.

Gaffney named director of Aviation Sciences Institute

For more than fifty years, aviation has been a signature program at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, attracting students from across the country.

This tradition of excellence continues today as the Southeastern Aviation Sciences Institute transitions with a new leader at the controls.

Lloyd Sauls, who has served as director of the Institute since 2019, recently retired, with Mike Gaffney named as his replacement, effective June 1.

“Southeastern is very appreciative of the job that Lloyd has done during the past year due to the challenges of the pandemic,” said Southeastern president Thomas Newsom. “Mike has been a valuable member of our team as a department chair and we look forward to the future as he moves into this leadership role. The potential for growth in the aviation program is truly unlimited.”

Gaffney is currently chair of aviation flight/assistant professor at Southeastern, a position he has held since April 2019. He has 45 years of aviation experience, with an industry background in aviation education, automation

technology integration, and quality process management.

He holds an MBA from the University of Bridgeport and a bachelor’s in aeronautics (aircraft maintenance management) from Parks College of St. Louis University.

Gaffney is a Gold Seal Master Flight and Ground Instructor, an ATP rated pilot, and certified Airframe and Powerplant (A&P) mechanic with more than 4,400 flight hours in 46 aircraft types. He was recognized as the “National Flight Instructor of the Year” by the Federal Aviation Administration in 2007 and presented the 2007 “Flight Training Excellence Award” by the National Aviation Transportation Association (NATA).

Southeastern offers degree programs in Aviation Management, Professional Pilot, an Aviation minor, and a master’s in Aerospace Administration and Logistics.



Gaffney

Faculty, staff awards announced for 2020-2021

The faculty at Southeastern Oklahoma State University recently announced its award recipients for the year.

Among the honorees were Dr. Brooks Flippen, Lifetime Achievement Award; Riley Coker, Professor of the Year; and Alisha Ridenour, Adjunct Professor of the Year.

Awards were also presented for teaching, service, and scholarship in the School of Arts & Sciences (A&S), School of Education & Behavioral Sciences (EBS), John Massey School of Business (JMSB), and Arts & Letters.

Following is the complete list of award recipients:

Teaching:

Alex Spahn (Math & Science)
Jack Ousey (Arts & Letters)
Dr. Stephanie Metts (JMSB)
Dr. Maribeth Nottingham (EBS)

Service:

Dr. Ming Su (Math & Science)
Dell McLain (Arts & Letters)
Dr. Rhonda Richards (JMSB)
Dr. Kathy McDonald (EBS)

Scholarship:

Dr. Jake Pruitt (Math & Science)
Dr. Tara Hembrough (Arts & Letters)
Dr. Robert Stevens (JMSB)

Professor of the Year: Riley Coker

Adjunct Professor of the Year: Alisha Ridenour

Lifetime Achievement: Dr. Brooks Flippen

Six employees at Southeastern Oklahoma State University have received awards from the Staff Senate for the 2020-21 year.

The award recipients are as follows:

Storm Rookie of the Year -- Lyndsey Lamar Owens
Outstanding Non-Exempt Employee -- Penny Bridwell
Outstanding Exempt Employee -- April Lehrling
Service to Students -- Jeni Maple
Outstanding Outreach Site Employee -- Kendra Gross
Outstanding Staff Senate Member -- Jennifer Moore

Owens, who joined Southeastern in 2019, serves as the Digital Content Manager for University Marketing. The Storm Rookie of the Year Award is presented to a new staff member who has shown outstanding performance in their current position.

Bridwell is the secretary for Student Health and Wellness and also oversees the SE Care Team. She has been

at Southeastern since October of 1998. The Outstanding Non-Exempt Employee Award goes to a non-exempt staff member who portrays a collaborative and dedicated approach to promote the University's mission.

Lehrling, Director of Student Health and Wellness, has been with Southeastern since 1999. The Outstanding Exempt Award is presented to an exempt staff member who portrays a collaborative and dedicated approach to promote the University's mission.

Maple joined Southeastern in 2010 and serves as Director of Online Distance and the Advising Center. The Service to Students Award recognizes a staff member whose influence has made a significant impact on Southeastern students and has transformed SE students into leaders of the community and beyond.

Gross, a 21-year SE employee, is Director of the McCurtain County Branch Campus. The Outstanding Outreach Site Employee Award is given to a staff member located at an SE Outreach location who portrays a collaborative and dedicated approach to promote the University's mission.

Moore joined the SE staff in 2014 and serves as Payroll/Benefits Specialist for Human Resources. The Outstanding Staff Senate recognition is presented to an active Southeastern Staff Senate member who performs above and beyond normal expectations.

New publication features photos of SE

The Office of University Communications and Marketing has produced the second installment of the "We Are SE" publication.

Last fall's inaugural issue featured the stories of several students and their pathways to higher education.

The newest issue -- "In Pictures" is a collection of memorable photographs from Dan Hoke.

The 23-page publication will be utilized in recruiting and for alumni

activities.

A limited number of copies are now available in the University Communications & Marketing office.



Calendar of Events

June

- 9 -- Operation Orange medical school event
- 11 -- Southeastern Golf Classic, Chickasaw Pointe Golf Club

June 1 -- July 30

During this time, the University will be open four days a week (Monday-Thursday) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The four-day work week will end on July 30.

August

- 12 -- Faculty-Staff meeting
- 13-14-15 -- Camp SE new student orientation
- 13 -- Freshman Convocation, Montgomery Auditorium, 4 p.m.
- 16 -- First day of fall classes

Update Editor Alan Burton

Special Assistant to the President - Director of University Communications

Photography Dan Hoke

Assistant Director of University Communications

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Master plan planning

In mid-April, members of the University community participated in an initial discovery meeting with the team at Dewberry, the architectural firm selected to help Southeastern develop a new campus master plan. In this photo, Southeastern president Thomas Newsom takes the group on a campus tour. As part of the process, the firm will engage various campus constituencies in conversations to determine space, maintenance, and programming needs for the next 10-20 years.

Southeastern Golf Classic is June 11

The Southeastern Golf Classic is scheduled to be played on Friday, June 11 at Chickasaw Pointe Golf Club in Kingston.

Registration for the Presidential Flight will begin at 7 a.m. followed by a shotgun start at 8 a.m.

Registration for the Gridiron Flight is at 1 p.m., followed by a shotgun start at 2 p.m.

Lunch will be served on the course and outside of the clubhouse. An awards ceremony will be held at 8 p.m. at Choctaw Events Center.

Format for the event is a 6-person scramble. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams, long drive, and closest to the pin.

The Southeastern Golf Classic is a combined fundraising effort to support the Southeastern Foundation, the Southeastern football program, and Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

For more information, visit <https://www.se.edu/giving/southeastern-golf-classic/>

