



Ceremony recognizes endowed chairs, professors

Southeastern Oklahoma State University held its first-ever Endowed Chairs and Professors Ceremony Jan. 26 in the corporate offices of First United Bank in Durant.

A brief program and medallion ceremony honored the professors and scholarship donors.

Speakers included Greg Massey from First United Bank on behalf of the Massey family; Dr. Phyllis Engles, on behalf of her family; Southeastern president Thomas Newsom; and vice president for academic affairs Teresa Golden.

“We are so appreciative to the donors,” said Southeastern president Thomas Newsom. “Their generosity ensures that we can recruit and retain highly qualified faculty members, and, in turn, attract the best and brightest students. These perpetual gifts also assure that our students will receive a great education and will prepare them for success in life.”

Added Newsom: “It was indeed heartwarming to hear the stories of Dr. Engles and Greg (Massey) concerning the importance and impact of education on their families. We also recognize the many years of service that John Massey provided in his role as a state regent, in addition to his support of Southeastern.”

Formally recognized as Endowed Chairs were:

- Engles Family Chair in Biomedical Sciences – Dr. Tim Smith
- John Massey Chair in Finance – Dr. Ling-Chou Lin
- John Massey Chair in Accounting – Dr. Rhonda Richards (effective fall 2022)
- John Massey Chair in Business Administration – Dr. Robert Stevens
- John Massey Chair in Management – Dr. C.W. Von Bergen
- John Massey Chair in Marketing – Dr. Lawrence Silver



Left to right are, Dr. Luci Parmer, Dr. Courtney Kernek, Dr. Robert Stevens, Dr. Ling-Chou Lin, Dr. Rhonda Richards, Dr. David Whitlock, Dr. Jeri Walker, Dr. C.W. Von Bergen, Dr. Lawrence Silver, Dr. Tim Smith, President Thomas Newsom, Dr. Phyllis Engles, Kay Massey, Greg Massey, Dawnda Massey, and Mike Massey. Not pictured, Dr. Kitty Campbell and Dr. Nancy Paiva.

- John Massey Chair in Entrepreneurship – Dr. David Whitlock
- John Massey Chair in Business Administration – Dr. Kitty Campbell

Formally recognized as Endowed Professors were:

- Medical Center Professor in Biomedical Sciences – Dr. Nancy Paiva
- John Massey Professor in Business – Dr. Luci Parmer
- Kay Massey Professor in Business – Dr. Rhonda Richards
- Chickasaw Nation Professor in Business Management – Dr. Courtney Kernek
- Donna Massey Professor in Music – Dr. Jeri Walker



Volunteers work at a local food bank.

University participates in service projects for MLK holiday

Southeastern Oklahoma State University was closed Monday, January 17, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

However, the University continued its longstanding tradition of community service in honor of the holiday with projects throughout the week.

Students, faculty, and staff volunteers participated in a number of community service projects, including working at a local food bank; supporting Durant Main Street; campus beautification; and downtown cleanup efforts.



Scholarship recipient attends expo

Southeastern graduate student Payton Amend (pictured above) attended the National Safety Council's National 2021 Congress and Expo in Orlando, Florida, where she received a \$5,000 scholarship from the NSC.

In representing the SE Occupational Safety & Health program at the event, she also attended various educational sessions that were offered during the four-day expo.

Amend graduated with a bachelor's degree in Occupational Safety and Health and a minor in business management from SE in December 2020 and is now pursuing her master's. She is a graduate of Soper High School.



Record performance

It was a record-breaking performance Nov. 17 at Bloomer Sullivan Arena. During a 128-70 victory over Arlington Baptist, Southeastern Savage Storm guard Jett Sternberger poured in a school and conference record 55 points.

That performance topped the previous school record of 54 points set by Jerry Shipp in 1957.

It also bested the previous record in the Great American Conference, which was 48 points scored by SE's Anton Cook during a 2017 game.

SE joins Promise programs to assist students with goals

In an effort to provide greater opportunities for students in higher education, Southeastern Oklahoma State University has recently partnered with the Texoma Promise and Red River Programs.

Grayson College recently announced the launch of the Texoma Promise program to advance economic mobility for North Texas students. The program aims to increase access to tuition-free college education and opportunities for the Texoma area.

Southeastern and four other universities have joined Grayson as partners in Texoma Promise.

Southeastern is also partnering with North Central Texas College as part of the Red River Promise that will provide greater educational opportunities and services for students in higher education.

A signing ceremony was held Jan. 11 at the NCTC campus in Gainesville, Texas. Southeastern was one of seven universities participating in the event, with representatives from 13 school districts in Texas also in attendance.

Among the objectives of the Red River Promise is to reduce the cost of college to students and families in rural communities served by NCTC.



Signing ceremonies for the Texoma Promise and Red River Promise programs were held at Grayson College (above) in Denison, Texas, and North Central Texas College in Gainesville, Texas (below).



Senior receives Gilman Scholarship to study abroad



Jordanna "Jordie" Morris, a senior accounting major at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, is a recipient of the U.S. Department of State's Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship.

The scholarship will fund Morris' participation in a Southeastern short-term study abroad trip to France in March.

"I am so thankful to be given this amazing opportunity to experience another culture and country," said Morris, a 28-year-old non-traditional student. "I am a full-time mother and student and work at Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Casino in Pocola. None of this would be possible without the support of my family (parents and boyfriend)."

A 2012 graduate of Poteau High School, Morris received an associate degree in accounting at Carl Albert State College. She is completing her studies online at SE, while still residing in Poteau.

The trip to France is organized by the Southeastern

Honors Program, but open to all SE students, whether or not they are in honors.

The group, which includes 11 current students, two alumni, and a handful of faculty and spouses, will spend 10 days over spring break, flying in and out of Paris, and also visiting chateaux in the Loire Valley, Chartres, Saint-Malo, Mont-Saint-Michel, and the D-Day beaches.

Dr. Meg Cotter-Lynch, who is the Honors Program Director and Gilman Scholars Advisor, will be among those on the trip.

The recipients of this prestigious scholarship are American undergraduate students attending 441 U.S. colleges and represent all 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. These Gilman Scholars will study or intern in 95 countries through the end of 2022.

Since the program's inception in 2001, more than 34,000 Gilman Scholars from all U.S. states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and other U.S. territories have studied or interned in more than 155 countries around the globe.

Calendar of Events

February

- 9 -- Vaccination event, in front of Student Union, 10 a.m. -- 2 p.m.
- 11 -- Freshman Success reception, Ballroom, 3:30 p.m.
- 15 -- Higher Education Day, State Capitol
- 18 -- Aviation Visitation Day, Student Union and ASI facilities, 9:30 a.m.
- 19 -- Super Saturday PLC/Honors Day
- 23 -- Vaccination event, in front of Student Union, 10 a.m. -- 2 p.m.

March

- 14-18 Spring Break
- 26-- Gold & Blue Gala presented by Southeastern Alumni Association, Ballroom

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Oklahoma National Guard Sgt. Wanya Wright makes a presentation.

SE hosts 8th Grade Discovery Day

Students from a number of area schools learned more about their potential future career options Jan. 6 at Eighth Grade Discovery Day.

Among the sponsors of the 8th annual event were Southeastern Oklahoma State University and the Southern Workforce Board.

“It Starts Now” was the theme of the event.

Some 300 students attended career job sessions offered by representatives from 16 different career clusters.

The event was held at three locations on the Southeastern campus.

Southeastern art professor Amy Gantt, left, visits with students about career opportunities.

