



Graduates are all smiles at Southeastern's Summer Commencement, held July 29-30 at Bloomer Sullivan Arena.

SE celebrates summer commencement

Southeastern Oklahoma State University celebrated summer commencement July 29-30.

Two ceremonies were held in Bloomer Sullivan Arena – on Friday, July 29, master's degrees were awarded, while on the following morning, bachelor's degrees were conferred.

Congratulating the graduates were Southeastern president Thomas Newsom, Regent Ann Holloway of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, and Regent Connie Reilly, chair of the Regional University System of Oklahoma Board of Regents.

The graduating class included individuals representing 38 states and 11 countries. Fifty-six percent of the graduates are first-generation college graduates.

Fall classes begin on Monday, August 22

The beginning of another semester is right around the corner as fall classes will commence on Monday, Aug. 22, at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

In preparation for the start of the semester, a number of activities are scheduled:

Aug. 3-4 – The Big Blue Experience (student orientation)

Aug. 17 -- Faculty Symposium, Fine Arts Recital Hall, 8 a.m. -- 11:45 a.m.

Aug. 17 -- New faculty orientation, Russell 300, noon -- 5 p.m.

Aug. 18 -- Faculty-Staff General meeting, Montgomery Auditorium, 11 a.m. -- noon; lunch, Bloomer Sullivan Arena, noon -- 2 p.m.,

Aug. 19-20 – Camp SE orientation

Aug. 20 – Freshman Convocation

Aug. 22 -- First Day of Classes



Staff Flight Instructor Jacob Tran, left, checks out the new simulator with Zachary Morgan, Chair of Aviation (Professional Pilot Program).

New flight simulator arrives

After much anticipation, a new flight training tool has arrived at the Aviation Sciences Institute (ASI) of Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

An FDS-B737MAX-FTD device from Canadian manufacturer Flightdeck Solutions (FDS) was delivered and set up by company's installation team in preparation for a newly expanded aviation curriculum that will now include airliner training.

According to ASI Director Michael Gaffney, the 737 MAX Fixed Base Procedures Trainer will enhance the nationally recognized and AABI accredited aviation program offered at Southeastern Oklahoma State University by teaching students how to operate one of the most popular airliners in operation today, the Boeing 737 MAX. Gaffney said students will be

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Key positions filled in academic affairs, nursing

Three individuals – two in academic affairs and a third in nursing – have recently been appointed to key positions at Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

Joining Southeastern are Dr. Mark Bradley Shields, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Susan Cosby Ronnenberg, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs – Undergraduate Studies, and Dr. Amanda St. John, Director of Nursing and Allied Health.

“We are delighted to welcome these individuals to campus,” said Dr. Teresa Golden, Vice President for Academic Affairs. “They are all highly-qualified professionals who possess a wealth of experience and who also bring unique expertise to their respective areas.”



Shields

Dr. Shields comes to Southeastern after having served as the Director of Operations/Student Affairs Administration at the Broken Arrow campus of Northeastern State University. He will work closely with Dr. Golden in overseeing academic advising, career management, and tribal relations.

Shields earned a doctorate in Higher Education at the University of Arkansas, a master’s

degree in Administrative Leadership and a master’s degree in Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma, and a Bachelor of Science in history from the University of Tulsa.

Dr. Ronnenberg previously served as the Dean of Undergraduate College at Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota with specific service as Dean for the School of the Arts and Humanities and Assistant Provost for Academic Affairs,



Ronnenberg

with direct reports from the Associate Dean for General Education, the Director of International Programs, and Director for Allied Health Programs, and the Honors Program Director.

At Southeastern, she will work with Dr. Golden as her designee to provide leadership and oversight in undergraduate education, support of department chairs, and serve as an advocate for undergraduate education in partnership with other administrators and faculty.

Ronnenberg earned a Ph.D. in 16th & 17th Century British Literature from the University of Oklahoma, a Master of Arts in English Literature from Southwest Missouri State University, and a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from Hendrix College.

In addition to serving as Director of Nursing and Allied Health, Dr. St. John will be the Southeastern coordinator and point of contact for the Murray State Nursing Program as it begins on the Durant campus in the spring of 2023.

St. John has 15 years of clinical experience, and more than a decade of education experience.

With her experience in management and nursing, she has built her career on using data, building relationships, and strategic planning. Her experience includes teaching at baccalaureate and doctoral levels, serving as an administrator, and teaching both face-to-face and online courses.

St. John earned her Master’s in Healthcare Systems management at Loyola University (New Orleans) and her Doctorate in Nursing Administration at Samford University (Alabama), and also holds an additional teaching certificate.



St. John

SE receives funds to upgrade science facilities

The Oklahoma State Legislature has approved \$6.5 million in pandemic relief funds to assist Southeastern Oklahoma State University in renovating and updating classrooms and labs in the University’s Science and Biology buildings. In addition, furniture and equipment may be included in the improvements package.

Southeastern was included in a \$55 million healthcare workforce training plan recently approved by the legislature and enacted into law. The funds are part of the \$1.8 billion American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding granted to Oklahoma.

“This funding (\$6,585,487) will assist us in launching our Allied Health programs at Southeastern, and help us meet the healthcare workforce needs of the state of Oklahoma, which is a priority of the legislature,” said Southeastern president Thomas Newsom. “Our nursing program with Murray State will benefit greatly from these upgrades to our facilities.”



Classrooms and labs will be enhanced in the Science and Biology buildings at Southeastern.

Summer camps prove to be popular

*Aviation, STEM, IT among offerings
on Southeastern campus*

The summer camp season offered a little bit of everything to students of all ages this year at Southeastern.

Camps and instruction were held in a wide array of fields – from aviation to athletics to STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math) to robotics to Upward Bound to IT (Information Technology).

For example, twenty-two eighth-and-ninth graders from Oklahoma attended Southeastern’s STEM Academy. Students launched water rockets on the baseball field as part of a hands-on activity. Other activities included a field trip for data collection and fossil hunting, and robot coding.

Also popular was the Southeastern is the Take Flight Aviation Camp. Twenty-four students from grades seven through 10

participated in this overnight camp. Among the activities were aircraft discovery flights and rocket launches, along with classroom sessions on drones, airport operations, air traffic control, aerial navigation, and careers in aviation.

A number of IT (Information Technology) camps also proved to be popular this summer at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Four different IT workshops were offered to students in grades 5-12, as well as to adults over a two-week period.

Forty-seven individuals participated in the IT camps. Southeastern’s McCurtain County campus and the Marietta ISD served as co-hosts for the IT-Camp for Kids event, with participants from both of those locations joining the camp through Zoom.



Southeastern computer science professor Dr. Ming-Shan Su offers instructions at an IT Camp.



As part of the STEM Academy, students launched water rockets on the Savage Storm baseball field.

University holds line on tuition costs for 2022-2023

Southeastern Oklahoma State University will not increase tuition costs for the 2022-2023 academic year, and SE president Thomas Newsom says he hopes this decision sends a strong message to students and parents.

“We want to make college both affordable and accessible,” Newsom said. “At the same time we are holding the line on tuition costs, we are adding additional scholarship dollars to provide opportunities for more students to achieve their higher education and career goals. Offering a quality, affordable education is important as we work to meet the needs of the students we serve. For example, 56 percent of our graduates this summer are first-generation college graduates. It’s amazing when you stop and think about the impact this will have on those students, their futures, and their communities.”

Among the newest scholarships announced is the John Massey Leadership Scholars Program at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Funded by the Massey Family Foundation, this gift will provide scholarships for 40 Southeastern students per year, after the initial phasing of 10 students per year the first four years. Scholarships will consist of \$10,000 per year, renewable for four years. The program is scheduled to begin in fall 2023.

Both the Student Services Fee and Infrastructure Fees were increased nominally (\$1) for 2022-2023.

Southeastern remains one of the most affordable universities in Oklahoma and Texas, offering all out-of-state students 100% non-resident tuition waivers.

Calendar of Events

August

- 3-4 – The Big Blue Experience
- 5– SE Football Women’s Clinic
- 17 -- Faculty Symposium, Fine Arts Recital Hall, 8 a.m. -- 11:45 a.m.
- 17 -- New faculty orientation, Russell 300, Noon -- 5 p.m.
- 18 -- Faculty-Staff General meeting, Montgomery Auditorium, 11 a.m. -- noon; lunch, Bloomer Sullivan Arena, noon -- 2 p.m.
- 19-20 -- Camp SE student orientation
- 20 – Freshman Convocation
- 22 – First day of Fall classes

September

- 5 -- Labor Day holiday
- 27 -- Texoma College Fair

October

- 1 -- Rodeo Hall of Fame
- 5 -- SE Live recruiting event
- 14 -- Fall Break

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The Southeastern Golf Classic attracted 216 players over two days at Chickasaw Pointe.

SE Golf Classic draws 36-team field to Chickasaw Pointe

Some 216 players on 36 teams competed in the Southeastern Golf Classic June 10-11 at Chickasaw Pointe Golf Club.

The six-person scramble combined two of the best tournaments in the area -- the Presidential Golf Classic and the Gridiron Golf Classic -- both benefiting Southeastern Oklahoma State University.

Taking home first place honors was OmniCare365, which included team members Jordan Holifield, Ryan Capps, Matthew O’Steen, Jesse Rouse, Tyler Stovall, and Trey Hunt.

This is the second year that the Southeastern Golf Classic was held with the new format.

Aviation benefits from new training tool

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taught airliner-centric advanced system operations, advanced aerodynamics, flight management system programming, and to function as a coordinated crew in a complex airline environment using the new trainer/simulator.

“The highly realistic cockpit features near perfect control and display screen realism, and the high fidelity 220° wrap-around display and high-level instructor console create a realistic simulation environment for any airport in North America, while simulating any kind of weather condition or equipment malfunction” said Gaffney of the FDS device.

The University has also purchased two new PA-44 Piper Seminoles that will be utilized in the flight training program to train advanced students.