Southeastern EICD Program Added to Scholars for Excellence in Child Care

Kiki McWilliams, Scholarship Coordinator for the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Scholars for Excellence in Child Care notified Dr. Robin Plumb, Coordinator of the Early Intervention Child Development that the EICD and partnership with Murray State College has been approved for student scholarships. A special articulation agreement between Murray State College and Southeastern allows students to complete Southeastern’s Early Intervention Child Development program with tuition scholarships for students who begin enrolling spring 2014. The tuition scholarships are provided through a pilot program of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

Said McWilliams, “I feel like the EICD program is building momentum and has a lot of potential state-wide and nationally. As they learn about it, with the classes available on-line, there are many Head Start and child care professionals that will want to take advantage of this opportunity.”

Sneed Visits Assessment in Counseling

November 7th, Tim Sneed, Adjunct Professor of Counseling and alumnus of the Community Counseling program at Southeastern was a guest presenter for students of the Assessment in Counseling course.

Sneed is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Texas and is currently a doctoral student in the Counselor Education program at Texas A&M University-Commerce, where he is also a graduate assistant.

Sneed described his professional journey as a counselor and described his ongoing experiences as a counseling doctoral student.

Honorary Coaches and Honored Alumni Visit Southeastern

Southeastern Alumna and former Professional Baseball legend, Brett Butler was named the Honorary Starter for the Whang Bang Golf Tournament. Southeastern baseball great, Jeff Frye, also served as the Honorary Starter at the Tournament held on October 4th.
Mr. Don Brimmage, Funeral Director, spoke to Dr. Jane Elder’s Sociology of Death and Dying class about the funeral industry. Mr. Brimmage graduated from Southeastern in 1976 with a double major in Business Administration and Commercial Aviation. He later received a Master’s Degree in Business Management from Central Texas College in Killeen, TX.

He spent 26 years in the Army, 20 of them as a helicopter pilot, and did two tours of duty in Viet Nam. He was in charge of all military operations at Harry Truman’s funeral. After retiring from the Army, he had business dealings in oil, manufacturing, and insurance.

At age 56, Mr. Brimmage attended Dallas Institute of Mortuary Science and became a licensed funeral director. He has worked ever since for funeral homes in the Durant area, with the exception of spending 5 years managing a funeral home in Athens, TX which was owned by a local funeral home.

Southeastern volleyball players Emily Gentle and Madelynne Cera were selected to join the BIP-Southeastern volleyball team, a summer touring team played in the ninth annual European Global Challenge in Pula, Croatia. The event, hosted by Bring It Promotions, was a four-day tournament involving junior national teams, youth national teams, and elite women’s club teams from Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Montenegro, Slovenia, Russia, and Romania as well as the United States.

Both Gentle and Cera saw significant playing time; Cera was the only setter on the team. After the group play, the BIP-Southeastern team was in second place in their group and ranked higher than any other American team. “They made it all the way to the championship before losing to a team from Italy,” Southeastern Head Coach Jenn King said. “Emily and Madi gained a great amount of high level experience, and I’m very excited to see how it helps them grow both on and off the court.”

CJ Students Visit Oklahoma State Penitentiary

On November 19th, Associate Professor and Criminal Justice Program Coordinator, Dr. Hallie Stephens and Introduction to U.S. Corrections students traveled to the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester, Oklahoma for a tour of the facility conducted by Assistant Deputy Warden Terry Crenshaw. At 9:30, in the receiving entrance of the prison, students removed shoes and belts and emptied pockets in preparation for the required x-ray screening and pat down. Crenshaw explained the need for security and safety procedures as part of the effort to stop smuggling. In the penitentiary, tobacco products can be worth over $200.00. The final stop on the tour was H unit, the Oklahoma death row. Said Stephens, “This experience gave the students a real world introduction to the field of corrections.”
Mara Richards, Southeastern Alumni, is 2014 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year Finalist

Ms. Mara Richards, a Southeastern Alumni, has been named as a 2014 Oklahoma Teacher of the Year finalist. Ms. Richards graduated from Southeastern with a BS in Biology and has served as a science educator at Durant Middle for the past thirteen years. She currently teaches 8th grade science and Pre-Advanced Placement Physical Science. Ms. Richards states her philosophy as, “Teaching not only touches the lives of the future but also alters its course. Public school teaching is one of the most challenging careers; yet it is one of the most important professions. Being a teacher is about making positive, lasting impressions and indelible marks. Creating the foundation for my students that will build the rest of their lives is an honor. Without teachers there would be no other professions.” She further states, “The teaching profession is a vocation second only to parenting in its importance. It requires a passion and a commitment that is difficult for others to understand; its impact on the future is phenomenal. I became a teacher because of my passion for learning, along with my desire to pass the passion onto others.”

Mayers and Zepeda Article Accepted for Publication

Dr. Stewart Mayers and Dr. Sally Zepeda have been notified that “Communication and Trust: Change at the Onset of Appointment to the Superintendent” has been accepted for publication. It will appear in the December issue of Journal of Cases in Educational Leadership, published by the University Council for Educational Administration, the top national/international organization for research in educational administration. The article is a teaching case that will be used in master’s and doctoral programs in educational administration.

Hazelton Visits U.S. Corrections Class

The Teacher Education program at Southeastern recognizes Ms. Mara Richards as an outstanding graduate of Southeastern and an exemplary model for future teachers. The commitment she has made to the teaching profession will positively impact future generations of students in Durant.

McClanahan Publishes Book Chapter and New Web-Based Learning Community

Dr. Barbara McClanahan, faculty member in the Educational Instruction and Leadership Department, has been busy. This summer, with colleague, Anne Stojke of Heritage University in Washington state, she published, “Mobile Devices for Struggling Readers in the Classroom,” a chapter in School-based Interventions for Struggling Readers, K-8, which was published by Emerald Books.

Also, Dr. McClanahan has created a website designed especially for graduates of and pre-service teachers in our Elementary Education program on the McCurtain County campus. The site is filled with teaching tips, technology resources, job information, blogs, and links. Although specifically for teachers from our local area, the website is open to anyone who can benefit from it or is willing to contribute. The website is located at http://mcleedplc.weebly.com/index.html.

PSI CHI Officers Elected for 2013-2014

New Psi Chi officers have been elected for the 2013-2014 academic year. Elizabeth Blackburn is our new Psi Chi president. Kristi Heath was elected vice president. Carla Pettit was elected secretary, and Brianna Thompson returns as our treasurer. The group has lots of plans for this semester, including participating in various community service events and fundraising for the 2014 conference of the Southwestern Psychological Conference in San Antonio, TX.

Dr. Reba Criswell, Associate Professor of School Counseling and Coordinator of the School Counseling Program collaborated with Durant Middle School Counselor, Amy Jamison, in a presentation to graduate school counseling students at Southeastern. The presentation was entitled, “Sandtray Use in Counseling and Education of Elementary and Middle School Students.” The use of sandtray technique has proven to be therapeutically effective when working with children and adolescents. This population tends to be less verbal and in need of a safe and nonthreatening environment in which to share their experiences. To enhance the learning experience for graduate students, the presenters provided a hands-on practical application by engaging students in sandtray techniques.

Dr. Criswell has extensive experience in sandtray therapy in school, clinic, and private practice settings. Ms. Jamison has been utilizing sandtray as a therapeutic and educational tool for several years in her work with children and adolescents in a school setting.
Wilson Elected President of Sigma Epsilon Omega

Mindy Wilson has been elected president of the new learned society on the Southeastern campus, Sigma Epsilon Omega, the learned society for Criminal Justice. The chapter is a subordinate chapter to the National Organization, American Criminal Justice Association- Lambda Alpha Epsilon. The advisor for Sigma Epsilon Omega is Associate Professor, Dr. Dennis Brewster.

In the fall of 2012, Wilson attended a regional conference in San Antonio, Texas and was voted Region 2 Student Representative by fellow criminal justice peers from all over the region. She also placed 1st place in physical agility, 3rd place in corrections testing and won the conference Spirit Award.

In the spring semester of 2013, she attended a National Conference in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. She was placed on the Region 2 executive board as active Student Representative. She also won 2nd place in the lip sync/talent contest. She is currently preparing to attend the National conference in Overland Park, Kansas this spring.

Lewis Visits PSY 3513 Health Psychology

On September 30, students in Dr. Charla Hall’s PSY 3513 Health Psychology class were visited by Sean G. Lewis. Lewis is a graduate of the Southeastern Oklahoma State University Psychology program and has completed all but the defense of his dissertation for the doctorate at University of North Texas. Lewis shared information about his research with the class. Lewis is also an adjunct professor of psychology for Southeastern this semester.

Plumb Hosts UCSO Enrollment Open House

Dr. Robin Plumb, Director of Academic Services for Southeastern Oklahoma State University at the University Center of Southern Oklahoma and Coordinator of the Early Intervention Child Development program hosted an Enrollment Open House on Monday and Tuesday, October 14th and 15th. “The Open House was a great way to boost programs that are offered by Southeastern at the UCSO,” said Plumb.

Mayers and Desiderio Present at Education Law Association

Dr. Stewart Mayers, Educational Instruction and Leadership, and Dr. Mike Desiderio will be presenting, “Disability Law and Higher Education: An Update” on November 15th at the annual meeting of the Education Law Association to be held in Westminster, Colorado. The paper specifically examines the question of whether or not the federal courts have heeded Congress’s admonition in its 2008 reissue of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Mayers’ co-presenter, Dr. Mike Desiderio, is professor of teaching and bilingual education at Texas A & M, Kingsville and former Southeastern professor.