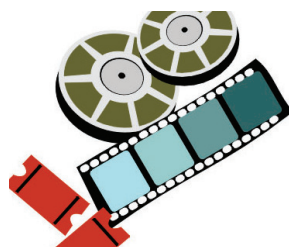


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"A man who has never gone to school may steal from a freight car; but if he has a university education, he may steal the whole railroad."

- Theodore Roosevelt

"Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one."

- Malcolm Forbes

Eastern Statesman

Vol. 94 Issue 2 September 25, 2015 EASTERN OKLAHOMA STATE COLLEGE EST. 1908

NO EXCUSES



Actors perform a vignette as part of the No Zebras: No Excuses program held Sept. 24 in the Mitchell Hall Auditorium. The program addresses the bystander mentality when dealing with stalking, harassment and assault.

Eastern plans to appeal Department of Education's determination of liabilities

CHELSIE PECKIO

Edited

A lot has happened since the last time "The Statesman" spoke to President Dr. Stephen Smith about the U.S. Department of Education's (DOE) program review of Eastern Oklahoma State College. The DOE has finished its reports and the final determination report was released in August that summarizes liabilities totaling over \$1 million currently owed by Eastern based on its findings.

The DOE had four different findings that led to these liabilities, all of which require some form of repayment of financial aid by Eastern, the biggest liability coming from the Antlers campus. The total of the fines for Antlers is \$847,264.65. An additional \$38,162.80 in interest is also expected to be repaid by Eastern.

"We really weren't expecting anything to that level at Antlers," Smith said. "We thought we would have to pay some money back, but they went all the way back to 2008."

Smith is referring to the claims by the DOE that Eastern was offering more than one year of a degree

"We really weren't expecting anything to that level at Antlers. We thought we would have to pay some money back, but they went all the way back to 2008."

Dr. Stephen Smith
EOSC President

program at the Antlers campus, and they were only supposed to offer one year or a "first year experience". According to Smith, the DOE said that the decision to go back that far was one that the Department made on its own and that there was no rule that stated that they had to do that.

"We are very frustrated with their ruling, their

SEE DOE PAGE 2

Great Western Dining takes over cafeteria

GUY FOLGER

Senior staff Writer

Since the beginning of the fall semester, Eastern Oklahoma State College food service has been provided by Great Western Dining of Tipton, Missouri. Eastern's Coal Mine cafeteria and Cyber Cafe are now under the management of food service director Tina Scott.

According to Scott and visiting Great Western Dining regional director Robert Rogers, they understood that Eastern's management of the food service had been a losing venture so the Board of Regents voted to outsource. Scott and Rogers added that they believed contracting out the food service would be a savings

for the college.

The pair addressed some items they felt needed explaining. The matter of the odd cents on the prices is because of taxes since Great Western Dining is not a tax-exempt entity. Rogers said the matter of not using trays was based on a study of dishwasher usage done by the biology department at a college where he was previously the food service director. The study showed that by not using trays they saved 120,000 gallons of water a year. They added that trays are available on request, however.

They pointed out that where "seconds" were not allowed before they are available now under the new "all you can eat" system. And now, they also have

unlimited burgers and pizza every day. "Another thing we will hopefully be doing very shortly - we are in the process of working it out - we are going to have a waffle bar. It's a Belgian waffle, we would like to offer that at every meal," said Rogers.

Both Scott and Rogers emphasized the importance of contacting them if you have a complaint. You can't fix or improve something if you are

not made aware of it, they said. And, of course, they also appreciate compliments.





SSS announces college tour dates for the fall

Student Support Services has scheduled the college visits for this year. If you are an SSS student and are interested in attending any of the trips please come down and sign up in Johnston Hall.

Here are the dates:

October 8-ECU

October 13-OSU

October 27-Southeastern

November 5- Northeastern

November 19-OU

*Times will be released as the trip approaches

You may only travel to 2 schools in the semester and be passing all of your classes.

For more information contact Kinya Meineke at (918) 465-1822.

Library Expo winners are announced

Eastern's library hosted its annual Library Expo Sept. 8, 9, 10 and 11 in the President's Dining Room. Each day different clues were given out to participants who were trying to solve the mystery. Points were tallied for each written clue and each puzzle completed and it all came down to the fingerprints that were posted around campus.

The winners were: Third place, Patricia Rector; second place, Colby Carpenter; and first place, Tori Perigo. The winners were awarded Amazon gift cards in the amounts of \$50, \$100 and \$200. Daily doorprizes were also awarded.

DOE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

decision on that," said Smith.

The DOE performed the program review in March of 2014. It was the first time in 26 years that Eastern had been reviewed by the DOE. During a program review, DOE employees examine financial aid, academic and fiscal records, review relevant consumer information and interview institution staff on a variety of topics.

The DOE also cited three additional findings that will require Eastern to repay a total of \$201,181.25 in additional liabilities and interest due to missing transcripts for five students, errors in verification forms for two students, as well as a misinterpretation of the definition of a failing student versus a student who is given an "AW" or administrative withdraw.

The next step for Eastern is to appeal, says Smith. The college has been in conversations with legal firms in Washington D.C. The college has to get a legal firm that specializes in working with the DOE and apparently there are several that specialize

in working only with this department. "[This] is not a good commentary if that's the way the federal government is operating," Smith continued.

After Eastern finds a good firm to work with, it will hand over the program review's information and then they will go through with the appeal process in Washington D.C. None of Eastern's staff will go to D.C. to go through this process.

The legal team will try and drop or remove any findings that Eastern chooses to repeal. If this is not possible, they will try and get them lowered. Smith is hopeful Eastern will be through all of this by December.

According to Smith, Eastern will use money in the reserve fund to pay for legal fees. He added that these fees are at a minimum of \$25,000 for a project like this.

If Eastern does not appeal, the payment of the more than \$1 million in liabilities will have to start.

"If an appeal is not filed and full payment of the liability cannot be rendered, the institution may contact the Department to apply for a payment plan," said Jim Bradshaw, De-

partment of Education Press Officer.

Bradshaw said that the liabilities paid by Eastern will be "applied back to the Title IV program accounts for the award years in question," meaning that the money is used to pay back financial aid from 2008 forward.

Smith said that there were several rules that Eastern was not even aware were in place for which the DOE applied these liabilities. He stressed that the DOE had not done a review of Eastern in 26 years and they were disappointed that they chose to go back into Eastern for several years' worth of reviews.

"Most things we find petty," said Smith regarding the findings of the Department of Education. "We felt we were reviewed unfairly," he continued.

Although Eastern is being required to repay the financial aid given to students at the Antlers campus, these fines will not affect any past present or future students. The college will continue its day-to-day operations as this process continues, Smith added.

In May of 2014, Eastern was transferred from the Advance method of payment to the Height-

"Most things we find petty. We felt we were reviewed unfairly."

Dr. Stephen Smith
EOSC President

ened Cash Monitoring 2 (HCM2) method of payment in response to the initial program review.

Heightened Cash Monitoring is a delay in financial aid money. The Department requests and reviews a batch of random Eastern student financial aid files, then, once those files have cleared, it sends the money to Eastern in small intervals. This has led to delays in Eastern students receiving their financial aid and loans disbursements throughout the year.

Eastern still remains on this HCM2 status, however, it has been moved to a 'reduced documentation' process. The reduced documentation status should speed up the process of refunding students' money.

EASTERN'S TOBACCO-FREE CAMPUS POLICY

Eastern Oklahoma State College (a.k.a. as the College) is to eliminate all tobacco use whether located indoors or outdoors on property owned, leased or contracted for use by the College and/or in state vehicles used for College business. The policy is to include both the Wilburton and McAlester campuses. This policy will go into effect February 14, 2014.

1. The use of tobacco products (including, but not limited to, cigarettes, pipes, smokeless tobacco, e-cigarettes/vapor cigarettes, and other tobacco products) is prohibited throughout all indoor and outdoor areas of property owned or under the control of the College, including parking lots owned or under the control of said agency, and in vehicles used by the College or its employees whenever conducting business anywhere. This would include students, guests, or employees using tobacco products in their personal vehicle while parked on

College owned property.

2. This procedure applies to all employees, students, clients, visitors and others on business at all College property.

3. The College will identify the boundaries of its property, post this information for public reference, and provide notice of this policy with appropriate signage, including signs at the entrances to the properties and/or other locations as needed. The College will also utilize printed materials and other communications as needed to educate employees and all other persons using or visiting the property regarding this policy.

4. All organizations, agencies, non-institutional grant programs that lease/use an office or building space from the College will eliminate the use of tobacco in all indoor or outdoor locations under their control.

5. Tobacco product receptacles will be removed from the property,

including any ash cans near entryways.

6. This policy includes all guests that visit the College for meetings, conferences, athletic events, commencement, camps and any other gathering or event that may be held at either the Wilburton or McAlester campuses.

7. College employees will not use tobacco products while providing services to students regardless of location.

8. The College is committed to providing support to all College employees and other personnel who wish to stop using tobacco products. The College is committed to ensuring that employees and, to the extent possible, other personnel have access to several types of assistance, including cessation and telephone counseling through the Oklahoma Tobacco Helpline or other similar agencies. Supervisors are encouraged to refer employees and other College person-

nel to the Helpline and other similar agencies as appropriate.

9. Noncompliance by an employee will be cause for administration/supervisor intervention and may result in corrective or disciplinary action in accordance with institutional policy. Failure to comply with the Tobacco-Free Policy could be classified as insubordination and may result in disciplinary action and/or termination of employment.

10. Noncompliance by visitors and others will be addressed as stated in this policy as follows:

a. Students shall be directed to and addressed by the Dean of Students. Violations occurring within College housing shall be directed to Residence Life Coordinator. College housing may refer complaints to the Dean of Students.

b. Visitors shall be directed to and addressed by the College Police department.



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Influential beetle collection located on campus

WYATT STANFORD

Assistant Editor

Imagine driving down a road next to an open field on a token Saturday night in Latimer County 30 years ago. In the distance, you see what appears to be the light of a flashlight shining intensely just inches from the ground. It could be anyone doing anything, but in this case, it was probably was the “Beetle Man of Red Oak”, Karl Stephan.

Stephan was one of the most influential beetle collectors of recent times. Born in Germany, he was, by trade, an engineer.

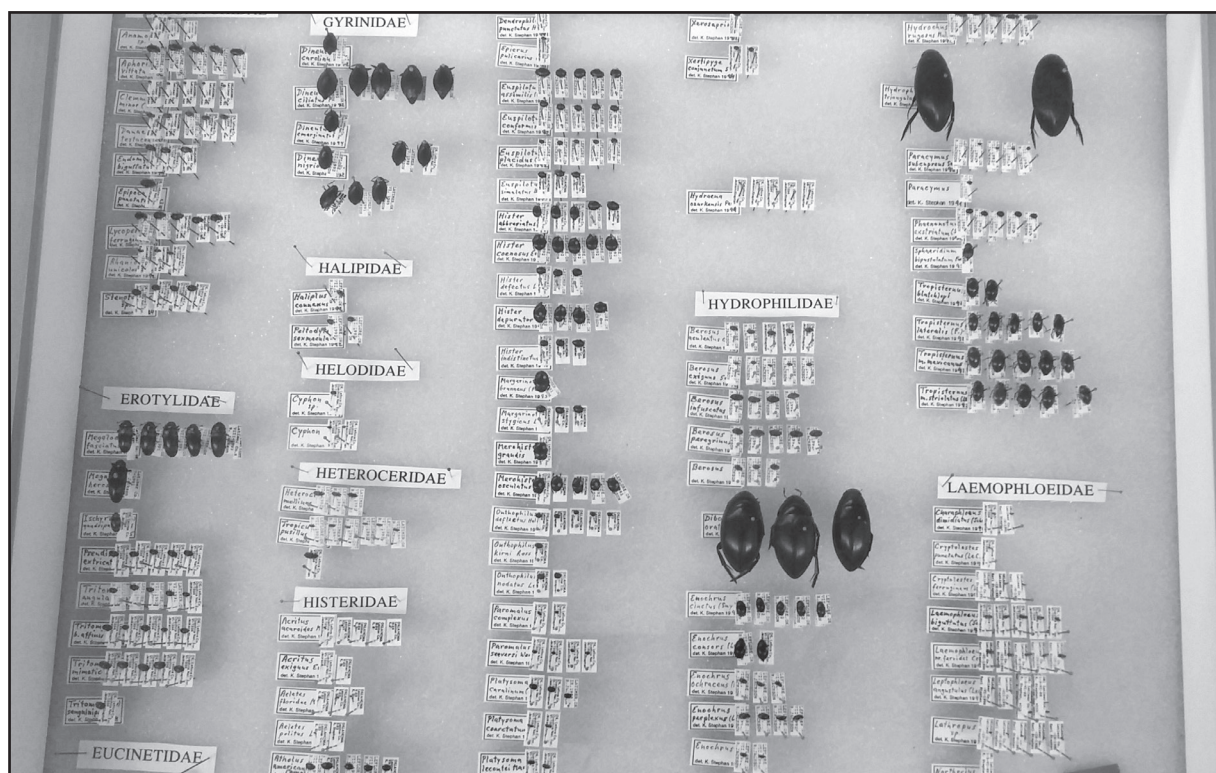
He moved to Red Oak in the 1970s, where he would begin his work minutely collecting beetles. He used all kinds of methods, from simply digging through the soil to harvesting trapped beetles stuck to the sides of water towers.

He found and cataloged 3,516 species of beetles. Here's the interesting part - he didn't find all of them throughout the world. He found them all here in Latimer County.

According to entomologist Mike Quinn, that number far exceeds the number of species of butterflies in Mexico and birds in South America.

In May 2014, Quinn was on a special trip and wanted to come to Eastern to see part of the vast collection that Stephan donated to institutions all over the country.

“He contacted me out of the blue,”



This photo shows the large range in size of the beetles that Karl Stephan collected in Latimer County. He found and cataloged 3,516 species of beetles all in Latimer County. There are currently 23 drawers of beetles in the entomology lab in Sullivan Hall. Staff photo by Wyatt Stanford

said Dr. Patricia Ratliff, Eastern Physiology & Zoology Professor.

“To prepare for his visit, I asked [Biology Instructor] Dr. Andrea Green to prepare a plant list. We wanted to see what was so special about Latimer County.”

There are 23 drawers of beetles in the entomology lab in Sullivan Hall, with

specimens ranging from large scarabs to microscopic beetles the size of the tip of a pen.

Just what is so special about Latimer County? It could be that the environment of Latimer County is so diverse that it is perfect for beetles. Or it could be that Stephan was so dedicated to his work

that he just didn't give up on his quest for collecting.

Stephan made large contributions to the field of entomology, doing his work here in the backyard of Eastern Oklahoma State College.

Stephan was still active in beetle collecting until he passed away in 2005.

Applications being accepted for study abroad program through Oct. 1

DEREK HATRIDGE

Staff Writer

Eastern students will soon have the opportunity to travel across the globe for school and camaraderie, thanks to a partnership with Silkeborg Business College in Silkeborg, Denmark.

EOSC students have been buzzing with the news of the chance they'll get to trade schools for a week, just as the DenPals have done in recent years.

The plans and curriculum are currently still being set, but prospective candidates will look forward to visiting not one, but three countries in Eu-

rope. Those places will be Copenhagen, Denmark, Berlin, Germany and Prague in the Czech Republic.

Students were asked to provide information about their grades, references from two faculty members and complete an essay on “How will being chosen to travel to Denmark benefit me, the college, and the community?” A committee will then deliberate and decide which students will be selected for the trip.

Applications are due Oct. 1, and many students are eager for the chance at studying internationally. Not only will these students be broadening their cultural horizons, but also bringing a piece of southeast Oklahoma with them as well.



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Members of the Oklahoma Collegiate Press Association, Community College Journalism Association, Student Press Law Center and Oklahoma Interscholastic Press Association.

Letters to the editor are not only welcomed, but encouraged. All letters must be able to be verified with the author's phone number, address, and e-mail address. The editor reserves the right to edit to fit space limitations and to comply with libel laws and good taste.

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Fall fashion trends to easily place in your wardrobe

Fall is fast approaching, and as the weather cools off, we begin to transition into our fall wardrobes. Of course, you can't go wrong with the classic sweaters and scarves, but the runways have been teeming with trends that are perfect for those cooler days. With the right touch, you can take inspiration from designer runway shows. Here are the top five runway trends that you can take inspiration from:

1. Puffer Jackets: Fendi, Rag &

Bone, and Chanel featured modern versions of these classic cold weather accessories. The designers have taken a very basic piece and updated it with cool geometric patterns and fresh colors for fall.

2. Flared Jeans: Skinny jeans have been in for so long; give your skinny jeans a break by pulling out a pair of flared jeans. J. Crew, Gap, and Veronica Beard have all rolled out their own versions of these flattering jeans. Make your legs look incredibly elongated by pairing them with a heeled bootie.

3. Seventies Vibe: Knits and boho silhouettes were all displayed on the fall 2015 runways of designers like Karen Walker, and Rebecca Taylor. Seventies-inspired clothing is easy breezy, and the neutral colors of boho chic pieces are perfect for fall layering.

4. Statement earrings: Statement earrings were all over runways like Tibi and Rosie Assoulin. These are an

easy way to dress up a simple outfit. Statement necklaces were a big hit last year. This year, mix up simple sweaters and dresses with a bold earring.

5. Black: There's no better way to create the appearance of a thin silhouette than with head to toe black. The color will also absorb any heat from the sun to keep you nice and warm on those cool fall days. To make the all black seem less harsh, mix different black fabrics to cut up the look.

These are just five wearable trends

that can easily be placed in your wardrobe. Take these tips from the runways and make them your own. Fashion is about expressing who you are, how you want.



Chelsie Peckio
Editor

GAME REVIEWS

"Metal Gear Solid V: Ground Zeroes" a must before "Phantom Pain"

"Metal Gear Solid V: Ground Zeroes" is a game by Kojima Productions that was released for the Playstation 4, Playstation 3, Xbox 360, and Xbox One back in March of 2014.

"Ground Zeroes" is the prologue to the forthcoming "Metal Gear Solid V: The Phantom Pain", showcasing the events that lead into this next and final chapter of the Metal Gear saga.

Big Boss, leader of Militaires Sans Frontieres, infiltrates an American base in Cuba to extract two hostages, one his youngest recruit and the other a traitor to Big Boss. The events depicted in this short mission and aftermath show why Big Boss awakens from a coma at the beginning of "The Phantom Pain", nine years later.

The game runs on the same engine as "Phantom Pain" and so is a perfect

showcase of what one has to expect once "Phantom Pain" releases soon (or already has released by the time this review is released).

Big Boss is easy to control and has many tools at his disposal, with smarter enemies than have ever been seen in the series before. The main mission of the game can be completed in less than two hours, but the act of playing the other missions in the game and perfecting each



Robert Bedford
Staff Writer

of them is where the real meat of the game lies.

Certain bonuses can be unlocked in "Phantom Pain" depending on which soldiers the player extracts in "Ground Zeroes" as well.

The graphics of the game are gorgeous on all systems, with the added bonus of the Playstation 4 and Xbox One having full 1080p video and a steady framerate of 60 fps.

Overall, "Ground Zeroes" is a fantastic way to immerse oneself in the world of "Metal Gear" before diving headfirst into "Phantom Pain" soon.

Any and all players who plan to play "Phantom Pain" must play "Ground Zeroes" not only for the story but to become accustomed to the new game engine as well.

"The Phantom Pain" is a must own

"Metal Gear Solid V: The Phantom Pain" is a fantastic thrill ride of a game that gives players the ability to tackle each mission their own way and experience the game differently each and every time.

On Sept. 1, "The Phantom Pain" was released for PS4, PS3, Xbox One, Xbox 360, and PC globally. The game has been awaited for a very long time by fans, and it certainly does not disappoint when it comes to the gameplay.

The controls are smooth and fluid, making sure that every player can learn them and master them quite easily.

The missions that players are tasked

with completing may always have the same objectives each time one plays the mission, but the sheer amount of possibilities to use to complete each mission is astonishing. Players can sneak in without ever alerting guards, or go in guns blazing and annihilate an entire outpost.

The choice is left to the player to decide how they go about each mission. The crazy amount of weapons and items to use makes each journey into the huge open-world quite different from the last, giving a strong sense of replayability to the game.

The only real complaint I can give to

the game is the fact that the story is not quite as good as previous "Metal Gear Solid" games.

Most world and character building is done through cassette tapes that players earn and can be listened to at any time during the game.

This does detract a bit from immersion, but it can be easily overlooked because of the stellar gameplay.

Everyone who owns one of the consoles the game is on should play this game. Even if you have never once played a Metal Gear game before, it won't be hard to jump into this one and enjoy it immensely.

TAYLOR'S TASTE TESTS

Cinnamon roll waffles easy to make

This month's taste test will be a little easier, all you will need is canned cinnamon rolls and a waffle maker. Spray your waffle iron with cooking spray and arrange your rolls close to the center. You DO NOT want them squashing out of the edge.

You need to hold your waffle iron down if it doesn't have a latch. Your iron should have a default cooking time that it would normally make waffles at, use this same time for your cinnamon rolls.

I was shocked that it worked so quickly. Just a couple of minutes later and we had cinnamon roll waffles! They were wonderful and

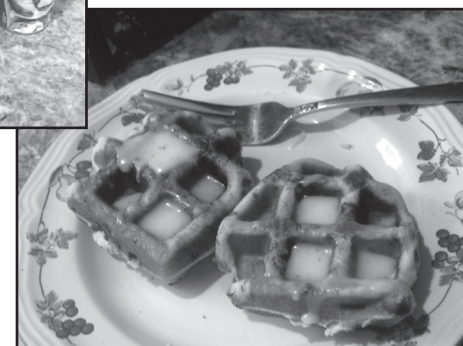
had nicely textured edges.

I think I like them better this way than following the normal cooking directions!

If you try this recipe, "The Statesman" would love to see it, tweet us a picture at @EOSC_State-man or tweet me a photo @taylorcaroline7.



Taylor Cox
Staff Writer



Statesman wins overall newspaper at state competition

GUY FOLGER

Senior staff Writer

In the continuing saga of “Has Eastern Got A Great Newspaper Or What?”, we post this report. As students reported back to school for the fall semester, the “Eastern Statesman” received the results of the 2015 Oklahoma Collegiate Media Association (OCMA) competition held in April.

First and foremost, the First Place Award for Overall Newspaper, of course, went to Eastern Oklahoma State College’s fine newspaper, the

“Eastern Statesman.” The Interior Page Design Second Place was awarded to - you guessed it - the “Eastern Statesman.”

Individual awards went to Robert Bedford, Third Place Column Writing; Sharell Collins, Honorable Mention Column Writing and Jamie Fink, Honorable Mention Editorial Writing.

The OCMA began in 1975 as the Oklahoma Collegiate Press Association but was updated in 2010 to include all forms of media.

Founded by Oklahoma State University journalism school director

Harry Heath, the organization exists to promote, improve and recognize the state college and university newspapers, websites, magazines, radio and television stations and yearbooks.

“I am really proud of how well we did considering that we only submitted a small number of entries,” Kristen Turner, Professor of Mass Communication and Statesman adviser.

“We have historically done very well in this competition, and I am very proud of the tradition of excellence that we have within the department.”

“The OCMA has recently added a couple of radio categories, and I hope that we will be able to enter some of those in this year’s competition.

“Our program has really grown into one that I believe is fully multimedia, yet we are still hanging on to traditional journalism standards,” she added.

If you would like to work for the newspaper, please contact Turner at (918) 465-1720 or kturner@eosc.edu. You do not have to be a mass communication major.

“I am really proud of how well we did considering that we only submitted a small number of entries. We have historically done very well in this competition, and I am very proud of the tradition of excellence that we have within the department.”

Kristen Turner
Statesman Adviser



Eastern Oklahoma State College welcomes five new faculty members for the 2015-2016 academic year. Pictured are (left to right) Jade Jenkins, Crystal Shipman, Timothy O'Neal, Bethany Stewart and Haley Cadle.

Five new faculty members join Eastern

Five new full-time faculty members began teaching classes at Eastern Oklahoma State College this fall.

Eastern welcomed two new faculty members in the Agriculture Division. Jade Jenkins is teaching animal science and coaching the livestock judging teams; and EOSC alumna Crystal Shipman is teaching agronomy and coaching the soils and crops judging teams.

Jenkins graduated from Illinois Central College in 2011 with an associate of arts degree in agriculture education. She received her bachelor's in agriculture education from Oklahoma State University in 2014. She was a livestock judging team member throughout her collegiate career. Before coming to Eastern, she was the vocational agriculture instructor in Linn County, MO for two years. She is currently pursuing her master's degree from Oklahoma State University.

Shipman graduated from Eastern in 2005 with an associate of science degree

in agronomy, then went on to finish her bachelor's degree in plant and soil science at Oklahoma State University in 2007. She was the vocational agriculture instructor in Smithville, OK for five years before moving to Leflore, OK. She is currently pursuing her master's degree in agriculture from Oklahoma State University.

Eastern's Language, Humanities and Education Division also welcomed two new faculty members. Timothy O'Neal is teaching speech and humanities; and EOSC alumna Haley Cadle is teaching English composition at the McAlester campus.

O'Neal graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi with a bachelor's degree in theater in 2005, and completed his master's degree in performance and direction at the University of New Orleans in 2015. Before coming to Eastern, he worked professionally at theaters in Atlanta, New Orleans, and most recently Champaign-Urbana, IL.

Cadle graduated from Eastern in 2013

as the Outstanding Graduate in the division she now works for. During her time as a student, she was active in many clubs and organizations including cheerleading, Honors, Phi Theta Kappa and PASS Club. She went on to earn her bachelor's degree in English education, graduating summa cum laude from Northeastern State University in 2015. She is currently completing her master's degree in English rhetoric and composition from Northeastern.

Eastern's Nursing Division welcomed one new faculty member this semester. EOSC alumna Bethany Stewart is teaching sophomore-level nursing courses at the McAlester campus.

Stewart graduated from Eastern's nursing program in 2010, going on to complete her nursing bachelor's degree from Southwestern State University. Stewart's extensive professional career includes home health, nursing and outpatient services. She is also working on a master's degree from Western Governors University.

Wildlife Department hosting monarch watch

OKLAHOMA DEPT. OF WILDLIFE

Monarchs will soon be south-bound and you can help biologists tag these migrating butterflies during the weeklong monarch watch Oct. 3-10 at Hackberry Flat Wildlife Management Area in southwestern Oklahoma.

Activities begin at 8 a.m. Oct. 3 with an educational monarch program. Melynda Hickman, wildlife diversity biologist with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation will discuss this celebrated insect's complex life cycle and ways people can help monarchs and other pollinators. Later, participants, based on age and ability, can help tag monarchs as part of the national citizen science effort, Monarch Watch.

“Hackberry Flat WMA serves as a stopover for migrating monarchs,” Hickman said. “So we'll be tagging butterflies that have spent the previous night on the area and releasing them on site so that they can continue their migration to Mexico.”

Each evening, participants can watch as migrating monarchs come to roost at a traditional stopover site on the Hackberry Flat WMA. Attendees will meet at the Hackberry Flat Center at 6:30 p.m. and travel to the roost site by covered trailer or in their personal vehicle. Those participating in the evening activities are encouraged to bring a comfortable chair, camera and a light jacket.

This weeklong watch will be held

regardless of the weather, but tagging activities will depend on the number of monarchs collected each morning.

Celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2015, Hackberry Flat Wildlife Management Area, located near Frederick in southwestern Oklahoma, offers 7,120 acres of wildlife recreational opportunities. The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, along with many conservation-minded partners, restored this legendary wetland, creating a vast mosaic of wetland habitats for prairie waterfowl, shorebirds and other wetland-dependent birds. Upland areas of native sunflowers and cultivated fields interspersed with mesquite have become one of the state's premier dove-hunting destinations. Open for scheduled events, the modern Hackberry Flat Center offers interpretive guidance for wildlife enthusiasts, students and educators. Participants of these educational programs are exempt from needing a Wildlife Conservation Passport or valid hunting or fishing license while on Hackberry Flat WMA. For more information, log on to wildlifedepartment.com.

To get to the Hackberry Flat Center, from the south side of Frederick, take U.S. 183 south for one mile, then go east on Airport Road for three miles. Follow the blacktop road south, and continue six miles. Watch for signs to the center.

For more information about this free event, or other educational programs held at Hackberry Flat Center, contact Melynda Hickman at melynda.hickman@odwc.ok.gov or by calling (405) 990-4977.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW...

Eastern Alumni making an impact on the world

Sterling Zearley

EASTERN Alumnus encourages current students to take advantage of the education that EOSC offers

By **MIKE CATHEY**

EOSC 1983 OF INDIANOLA

Sterling Zearley (EOSC 1983 of Po-teau) serves as the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Public Employees Association (OPEA) the state's largest organization of state employees with nearly 8000 members.

Prior to this position Sterling was the Northeast Regional Director of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreational Department, Park Manager of Sequoyah State Park, Park Manager of Cherokee Landing State Park, Park Supervisor of Tenkiller State Park, and Curator of the Cherokee Courthouse.

Sterling earned an EOSC Associate of Science degree in Park Management before earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Business-Meetings and Destination Management at Northeastern Oklahoma State University. He then earned a Master of Education degree in Recreation Management from the University of Arkansas.

While at EOSC, he participated in intramural sports, was a member of the Forestry Club, was President of Choctaw Hall and was the Student Senate Treasurer.

"I had the opportunity to meet students from all across Oklahoma and learned many valuable lessons from them," Zearley shared about his time at EOSC.

"My EOSC degree provided the educational background, skills and abilities to start my employment with the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department. I spent 23 years with OTRD before taking my current position with OPEA in 2007.

"My favorite professor at EOSC was Bill Albright. After leaving EOSC, I graduated from Northeastern State University and the University of Arkansas. I still consider Mr. Albright to be one of the best professors I have ever had during my academic career. His vast knowledge of subject-matter as well as the positive and caring attitude he showed for his students made me want to succeed.

"Thank you Mr. Albright for your dedication to EOSC, the academic process and the many students you positively influenced during your tenure."

Sterling's other professional and civic activities have included: State of Oklahoma Compensation Committee; Oklahoma Compensation and Unclassified

Eastern alumnus, Sterling Zearley currently serves as the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Public Employees Association.



Service Review Board; Oklahoma Public Employees Political Action Committee; Advisory Council on Worker's Compensation; American Society of Association Executives; Wagoner Chamber of Commerce; Cherokee County Community Sentencing Council and the Hurlburt Schools Board of Education.

Currently residing in Goldsby, Oklahoma, Sterling and his wife Samantha are the parents of two sons: Austin who is an OU Chemical Engineering graduate and now attending medical school in Tennessee and Hunter who is a senior at OU majoring in international studies and political science.

"As students, you have taken the first step in your academic career," shares

Sterling to the current EOSC student population.

"No matter your field of study, cherish and take advantage of the education and life experience that that EOSC offers. You are the next generation of leaders and you need to be engaged and involved in whatever you are passionate about. Find your passion and continue working toward your goals."

Mike Cathey is a lifetime member of the EOSC alumni association. While at Eastern, Cathey was also a staff writer for The Statesman and the Vice President of the Student Senate. Cathey is also a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and resides in Chicago and Indianola, Oklahoma.

Administrators selected to serve as advisors for national College Board

EOSC NEWS RELEASE

Two Eastern Oklahoma State College administrators have been selected to serve as advisors for The College Board, a national not-for-profit organization devoted to preparing students for and propelling them toward college success.

Eastern President Dr. Stephen E. Smith has been reappointed to a second three-year term on The College Board's Community College Advisory Panel. The 13-member group is made of college and university presidents from around the nation and their goal is to promote national

recognition of the role of community colleges in providing access to higher education.

Dr. Janet Wansick, vice president of Academic Affairs, has been selected to serve as a member of The College Board's Community College Assessment Working Group.

The group is composed of community college system and campus-level personnel from a number of states. The members will engage in in-depth discussions of college readiness and the multiple ways of measuring it, share needs for and uses of assessments and data, and

advise the College Board on efforts to increase accurate course placement and the effectiveness of remediation.

Wansick will join more than 2,000 individuals from educational institutions, non-profit and government organizations at a forum in Washington, D.C. in November. All expenses for the annual event are covered by The College Board.

"I am looking forward to seeing and hearing perspectives on how assessments are done in other states," Wansick said. "Participating in this national discussion will be a very positive step for Eastern."



The Choctaw Nation hosted its annual Labor Day Festival in Sept. 3-7 Tuskahomah. Pictured are dancers participating in the Pow Wow Grand Entry on the Capital lawn held Sept. 4. *Statesman photo by Wyatt Stanford*

Phi Theta Kappa leads Voter drive

WYATT STANFORD

Assistant Editor

Eastern Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Chapter held its annual Voter Registration Drive on campus from Sept. 14-18.

Each year, PTK hosts the Voter Registration Drive throughout the month of September. The week of Constitution Day (Sept. 17) is the emphasis week when PTK pushes to spread awareness about voting and civic engagement. Activities were held on both the Wilburton and McAlester campuses.

According to the Oklahoma Secretary of State, 58.3 percent of the state population voted in the 2014 election. Voters from ages 18-29 had the lowest turnout at the polls in both 2012 and 2014.

"Don't just sign up. Be an active part of choosing who represents you,"



PHI THETA KAPPA
HONOR SOCIETY

PTK Sponsor Brenda Kennedy said. "We might not be able to change the state in one election, but we can start on this campus."

The PTK chapter at Eastern has won the Voter Registration Contest every year over the past six years.

This year, there was an emphasis placed on getting students not only to register but actually to vote, according to PTK secretary and McAlester Rep. Chelsie Peckio.

Peckio led the drive with fellow PTK officers Kareesa Kennedy, President; Brenna House, Vice President of Leadership; Vice Presi-

dent of Scholarship; Zach Torres, Vice President of Service, Jordan Armstrong, Vice President of Fellowship and McAlester Rep.; Anthony Wisenhunt, Treasurer; and ESGA Rep. Kelsey Brown.

Voter registration applications will be available until October. To sign up, see a PTK officer or a staff of faculty member.

To be eligible to join PTK, one must first complete 12 hours keeping a 3.75 GPA. Letters will be going out to all eligible students. New member sign up will be Oct. 12-13.

C4 campus initiative begins Oct. 11

CHELSE PECKIO

Editor

Eastern Oklahoma State College, in collaboration with Phi Theta Kappa, is planning a week of activities starting Oct. 11. These activities are in honor of the Community College Completion Corps, or C4's, initiative to encourage students to complete their degrees.

This initiative comes after statistics surfaced that could help understand why so many students are dropping out. According to the C4 website, 54 percent of community college students need to work to support themselves or their families, 60 percent of students work 20 hours or more per week and 23 percent have dependent children. Of all the students that drop out of college 65



**COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COMPLETION CORPS**

percent plan to return but only 38 percent ever do.

C4 encourages students to complete college by allowing them to take a pledge on cccompletioncorps.org/pledge. C4 also provides ways for students to connect with resources like collegefish.org, which gives them access to information about school transfers and scholarships available to them.

Faculty are not left out and can also take the pledge to help their stu-

dents complete college and achieve their goals.

Eastern is planning opportunities for students to take the pledge on this week. Eastern will hold a dance, career fair, entertainment, speakers, and opportunities to take this pledge among other things during the week. There will also be several door prizes for those who attend the events that will be held on campus.

For more information contact Brenda Kennedy at bkennedy@eosc.edu.

Eastern Baseball to hosting showcase

EOSC NEWS RELEASE

Eastern Oklahoma State College's baseball program will host a Showcase Camp Sunday, Oct. 18, 2015 at 2 p.m. Intended for high school seniors in the region, the camp is an opportunity for prospective athletes to receive recruiting exposure.

The evaluations will be conducted akin to a professional try-out camp. Participants will exhibit their skill competing against first rate talent and be evaluated at their respective positions. Pitchers will report to the bullpen, and all players will run a 60 yard dash and practice batting.

Several players on this year's roster attended a Showcase Camp while in high school. The camp costs \$75 for two-way players and \$50 for single position. For additional information and to download a registration form, visit www.eosc.edu/baseballcamp or call 918-465-1704.



Kane Konsure, Bernie Underwood, Chelsie Peckio and Gabrielle Renteria represented the Eastern chapter of PBL at the National Leadership Conference in Chicago this summer.

Phi Beta Lambda chapter competes at Nationals

CHELSE PECKIO

Editor

Students from Eastern Oklahoma State College, Kane Konsure, Chelsie Peckio, Gabrielle Renteria, and Bernie Underwood attended and competed at the Phi Beta Lambda 2015 National Leadership Conference in Chicago, Illinois. The event was held on June 27-June 29 at the Hyatt Regency in Chicago.

The students competed in events such as Retail Management, and Computer Applications, and student Kane Konsure placed 9th in the nation in Per-

sonal Finance. The students had to place first, second or third on their exams at the state level to qualify to compete at the national level.

The students with support from Eastern fundraised and earned the money to go and participate in not only these competitive events but also in other business related breakout sessions. The students got to make connections with other PBL members from all over the country and participate in cultural activities while in the city.

For more information about Eastern Phi Beta Lambda contact advisors Amanda Smith or Kaben Smallwood.

statesman.eosc.edu