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The Echo

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Recent campus facility improvement projects explained



Photo by Kira Roberts

Kira Roberts, Editor-in-chief

Each year, this university spends a portion of the budget on improving the facilities that are used daily by students and faculty. Oftentimes, the summer is the best time to take on some of the larger projects, as students are not on campus. Beyond just keeping up with normal maintenance duties and general construction issues, SNU has taken on some more intricate and longer-term projects within the past few months.

The new and improved science

building will take the longest to finish, but the addition to the fine arts building and the new basketball court south of Snowbarger are also large enough to affect student life and create conversation.

Scott Strawn, Vice President of Business and Finance, outlined the recent facility improvement projects in an email to the staff.

“It is impossible to provide this update without acknowledging the professionalism and dedication of our staff team in Facilities Management led by Ron Lester. He and

his team have worked many hours handling both planned and unplanned projects and have done so with great success.

1) The new entry of the Parker Fine Arts Center was completed by the first day of classes. Site work and landscaping for this project will be completed during the first few weeks of the school year. Gift funds were used to fund this project.

2) The JD West Science Laboratory building project has made solid progress with the completion of

the site, the pouring of geopiers, and the setting of footings. The significant rain has slowed down progress some, but we remain confident that this project will still be completed with a soft opening during the middle of the summer in 2014. Given the rain we have had, we have also had significant flooding issues in the basement of Beaver that have impacted both CSNE [Computer Science/Network Engineering] and Physics. The damage has been remediated and fixed, in some cases, twice. Much thanks to Mark Winslow and the faculty and staff impacted by these floods for their graciousness and flexibility. Gift funds are funding this project while insurance covered flooding expenses.

3) As a part of the Science project, we are removing utility poles from the area of the new construction. To do this, we had to bury all utilities (electrical service, phone, cable, and fiber optic for Internet) in this

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Dr. Gresham honored by the Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society

Amy Lauver, Layout Editor

President Loren Gresham is being inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame. The Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society has sponsored the Hall of Fame since 1994. There are 11 other candidates be-

ing inducted into the 2013 Hall of Fame. According to their website, the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame’s purpose is to recognize “outstanding men and women (living and deceased) who have excelled in higher education, and who have encouraged others to contrib-

ute to the economic development and quality of life in Oklahoma” (www.ohehs.org/hof.html).

When asked what the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame means to him Dr. Gresham responded, “It’s an unexpected, pleasant surprise to be inducted

into the Higher Education Hall of Fame. I’m not sure how my nomination occurred, but am grateful for those responsible.” Discussing the selection process, “I actually don’t know what the selection process involves. I made no application nor had

Continued on page 3

Recent campus facility improvement projects explained cont.

area of the campus. The poles that run from the North end of Webster Commons to the South End of Royce Brown should be coming out very soon and the result is an upgraded and more efficient electrical service grid and an improved vista for the new laboratory building. A big thank you to Bruce Alfson, who led this project and all of those in campus buildings who worked with us while their areas went without power for several days. Capital project monies funded this project.

4) We were very blessed this past spring not to have faced ma-

lor or catastrophic damage to our campus. Yet, the weather has taken its toll on us. Wind, hail, lightning, flooding and rain have all been the cause of damages during the spring and summer months of the last two years. We have had roofs damaged by hail (Southern Plaza and numerous residential and athletic field properties). We had major flooding in the first floor of Snowbarger Hall, the basement of Webster Commons, the basement of Bresee and the Beaver science building. We had lightning strikes to several buildings that impacted fire alarm systems, security cam-

eras and access control systems. We had numerous tree damages across campus. All of these events required significant remediation, repair and replacement. Thankfully, our property insurance covered a large portion of the costs for many of these repairs.

5) This summer we completed phase two of a five-phase plan to completely remodel and repair Chapman Hall. Repairs to date have focused on utility infrastructure and controls, remodeled bathrooms and new unit windows and doors. Next phases will replace the roof and repair the exterior veneer and mortar, remodel kitchens, replace carpet, paint units and improve security and livability of the courtyard area. Housing revenues fund this project.

6) As a first step towards renewing the Webster Commons entryway and the Centennial Plaza, the front entryway steps of the Commons are being redone with new flamed granite tile. Capital project monies funded this project.

7) Herrick Auditorium is the home to numerous campus events and also to Chapel. This summer, we significantly upgraded lighting, sound and audiovisual capabilities in this area. Much thanks to Dr. Blair Spindle for helping us manage this project. This project was funded with monies from the School of Music, the SGA and capital projects.

8) We had a major fire in the Robinson room kitchen inside the AM Hills Residence Hall early this summer. Significant repairs to this area were required and are mostly completed. Insurance funds covered these expenses.

9) We have completed and are in progress of completing several significant improvements to campus security systems. New lighting was added in the walkways between Herrick and Broadhurst, including the Marchant center parking

lot. Many new IP security cameras have been added in campus buildings and are in the process of being added at the football stadium complex and offices. With the hiring of Glen Holcomb in Campus Safety and Security, we will be working towards improvements in all areas of security, including upgrades in campus building access and key controls and security alarm systems. Capital project monies fund these projects.

10) Based on conversations with OGE and given the continued growth and encroachment by our trees on the major power distribution lines that run along NW 39th Expressway, we had to allow the removal of several large trees from the South end of Broadhurst. New landscaping and new trees are in the process of being planted in this location. OGE and capital projects monies funded this work.

11) At the end of commencement in the spring, the gym floor of the Sawyer Center was damaged and burned from a faulty light fixture, to the point that it had to be re-surfaced and re-painted. As a major side benefit, given our advancement into the candidacy year with the NCAA division II and our membership in our new conference (the GAC), we were going to be required to add these logo's to our floor within the next year anyway. Given the damage we were able to include these into the current project, which was funded with insurance funds.

12) A new, outdoor basketball court is being installed on the south side of Snowbarger Hall. This should be complete this fall. This project is paid for with student fees.

Please join me in thanking Ron and his entire team in Facilities Management for all of their tireless work to maintain and improve our campus."



Photo by Kira Roberts

New missions professor: Eileen Ruger introduction

Kira Roberts, Editor-in-chief

Eileen Ruger is a new missions professor at SNU this year. Howard Culbertson, Emeritus Professor of Missions, said that Ruger is a very high-energy person.

“She has a clear vision of what she thinks global missionary outreach is going to look like in the future. Also, as a field strategy coordinator for the Church of the Nazarene in an Asian country, she has had to develop good organizational skills,” he said.

“I am from Redondo Beach, California, which is a community just south of Los Angeles. I attended SNU (then it was BNC) in 1983 and graduated with a B.S. degree in Christian Education in 1988. I went on to Nazarene Theological Seminary and graduated with a M.R.E. in 1990.

From Seminary, I went to Taiwan and taught at Christ’s College in northern Taipei for two years. I returned to the States and served in a compassion ministry centered

in Portland, Oregon for about five years. I pastored in multi cultural areas of Southern California for over ten years.

I have had the opportunity to serve in Asia for about ten years. I mostly worked in a creative access country in theological education (creative access means that people are not permitted to share the Gospel because of either cultural or political persecution). I have also served as a Field Strategy Coordinator on the Asia Pacific region. I absolutely love talking about cultures, missions and my experiences as a missionary, but I can’t write about them because of creative access security concerns.

I have taught in universities in Asia and enjoy the freedom in the classroom to discuss, challenge and motivate students to think about the world outside of their immediate realm of experiences. Studying at SNU has made such an incredible impact on my life. I believe in the mission of this university and

know that an education centered on the positive message of Jesus with the message of reconciliation (the Gospel!). Whether that is urban ministries, global business, cross-cultural ministries, compassionate ministries or simply building relationships with those outside of our sub cultures, our mission is the same: to make Christlike disciples!

“She has a clear vision of what she thinks global missionary outreach is going to look like in the future”

Christ equips a student to serve their communities in optimistic, constructive ways. It is an honor to be able to encourage students to think globally about their futures and hopefully cultivate interest in cultures to create a hunger for experience and service.

I have a compulsion to talk about what “missions” means! And I believe to be ‘Christian’ means to be missional; going out from our own communities and reaching another

I want to encourage those that are contemplating missionary service. Being a missionary today looks a lot different than it did 20 years ago (or even ten). Today’s missionaries are from all over the world with all types of vocations sent to all places in the world (even here). They all have one thing in common though. They are all using their gifts, talents, education, interests and passions for the purposes of God (the spreading of the message of God’s reconciliation to us in Christ). It would be such a privilege to sit down and talk and pray with those that are on this journey, so please stop by my office and sit for a while!”

Dr. Gresham honored by the Oklahoma Higher Education Heritage Society

an interview. Notification came in a letter from the association, and it was a surprise when it arrived.”

Being honored for encouraging others in their education and in

“It’s an unexpected and pleasant surprise...”

the quality of Oklahoma life, The Echo asked Dr. Gresham if there is anyone that has been a major encourager in his life and education. “I have had many encouragers to my career path. Chief among them were my parents, followed by outstanding teachers through all stages of my education,” Gresham said. “To pick out any one person would be difficult. Certainly my

father, who was a first generation college student/graduate would be at or near the top of the list.”

As this honor is one of excellence, Dr. Gresham was asked what excellence means to him as it relates to education. He responded by saying, “Excellence means outstanding performance in whatever area of the educative process one considers, whether that is teaching, learning, or research. It is making unusual, beyond the normal contributions to whatever part of the process one is committed.”

Dr. Gresham is in his 47th year as a part of the SNU community as a faculty member or administrator. He has done a great deal to better education not only at SNU but also in Oklahoma. As he is receiving this distinct honor, we as a student body should feel blessed to have such a dedicated educator leading our campus.



Photo from snu.edu

Spiritual Development associates desire to build community

Ronna Fisher, Assistant Editor

This is the second and final part in a series about the personnel changes in Spiritual Development.

This fall, SNU welcomes newcomers Banning Dawson and Joel Mullen to the Spiritual Development Team. After a year of learning about the community at SNU and his role here, Blair Spindle, SNU Chaplain, looks forward to the years to come, changes within Spiritual Development and working with Dawson and Mullen.

The roles and positions of the staff members have been shifted and adjusted. Spindle, desiring to become “an office of pastors engaged in pastoral ministry,” shares Spiritual Development’s new title and Mission Statement:

“The Office of University Pastors is seeking to create Christ centered community by: 1) Initiating and nurturing authentic relationships with Christ and others 2)

Discipling students toward Holiness and maturity 3) Gathering students for corporate worship 4) Involving students in compassionate service to others.”

Spindle is excited to see the “staff coming together and just building real friendships with each other and with students.”

Each staff member now focuses on particular areas of ministry. Mullen, a missionary who has served abroad for almost fifteen years, will be arriving in September from Italy. “His first charge is to build relationships with students and disciple them,” Spindle said, “His primary job tasks will be to organize the mission trips and service opportunities. He is perfect for this position, and I have no doubt that God orchestrated this for the good of all of us.”

Dawson’s role will focus on worship and chapel experiences, as well

as building relationships with students. “This includes everything from organizing worship bands to technology teams and many things to our community,” said Spindle.

A 2012 SNU graduate, Dawson has a degree in Music Business for Cole Community Impact Organization. “I believe because I’ve only been out of ‘college life’ for a little over a year, I still understand the mindset and thought process of a college student. I believe that to benefit me as I get to know our students [and] plan chapels and events,” said Dawson.

Excited about the relational aspect of his new position, Dawson said, “The cool part about [the position] is the mentoring and discipleship that will happen in working with student musical worship leaders.”

Chapel often has a theme each semester. In the past, themes have included “Divine Mosaic” and “Redeeming Grace.” This semester’s theme is Community. Spindle explains, “We’ve played on those words to call it ‘common’ ‘unity’—We believe that, despite our differences, Christ is the common thing that brings us to unity as [we] work towards a Kingdom Vision.”

Along with chapel services, Spindle shares that the Office of University Pastors looks forward to other opportunities to develop their faith. “We have over twenty small groups with forty leaders. We have some amazing trips tentatively scheduled. We are working on our Faith and Film offerings as well as our Solace prayer and sacrament services, which this year will include a baptism service as well as our communion services.”



Faith and Film photos by Cora Cummins (top and bottom left)

Photos by Amy Lauver (top and bottom right)

OPINIONS

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Photo from formatovegan.com

Calling all *Earthlings*: the day after effects and reflection

Amy Lauver, Layout Editor

What constitutes an “earthling?” The definition of earthling is anything that inhabits the earth. After watching the documentary *Earthlings*, my perspective on the world and life could not help but be changed.

If you do not know, *Earthlings* is a documentary advocating animal rights. It analyzes animal cruelty in five parts: pets, food, clothing, entertainment and scientific research with the use of secret footage. The director and writer, Shaun Monson, uses an interesting analogy in the opening of the film. He compares speciesism, the treatment of one species as less than another, to racism and sexism. The whole premise of the film is, “If you had to kill your own meat, you would be vegetarian.”

This film was so much more than just about food. It was about coming together as “earthlings.” I have always loved animals, but I recognize that human life is so much more valuable. Human beings were created in God’s image, and therefore, are worth more than the ani-

mals on earth. However, God does call us (as the dominant species) to take care of the earth, and that includes all of its inhabitants.

I have seen videos before about slaughterhouses and animal cruelty but never to the effect of this documentary. One thing that has been hard to not be biased about is the fact that this film came out in 2005. Clearly, it takes some time to put together the amount of information and footage that is in this documentary. This project had been in the works since 1999, so the information is more than ten years old. When I learned all of this, my skepticism showed. I know that regulations have been passed in the food industry since 2005. The FDA works every year to improve what we are putting in our bodies. However, I also know that there will always be some aspects of inhumanity when slaughtering animals.

As someone who can eat meat like no other, this documentary had an effect on me that I did not expect. I love the environment, and I love animals. If I did not love

meat so much, I probably would have been a vegetarian a long time ago. Going vegan is a whole other story. I always used to tell myself, “If I eat this one hamburger, it is not going to cause any more cows to be killed than there already are.” The day after the documentary screening, I could not bring myself to eat any meat whatsoever. I was disgusted. I was disgusted not necessarily at meat in general but at what humankind had let happen. Taking into consideration the documentary as a whole, the fact that we had allowed any human to be so barbaric towards animals was sickening--Especially as a child of the Creator.

There are two scenes in particular that made me have such a strong feeling towards this subject. The first was in the third part on clothing. There was a scene where a fox was being killed so it could be used for fur. The fox was carried past rows of cages with other foxes and wolves in them, then held by two men and forced to bite down on a metal conductor as it was electrocuted to death. I do not really know why, but it was the most scarring scene for me. Just seeing the fear in its eye as

the life escaped from it was more than enough to make me cringe. The second scene was during the part about entertainment. It was of circus elephants being trained. One of the men in the scene was cussing and yelling at the elephant as it backed away in fear of being beaten. It made me wonder what had to have been done to that giant creature, which could kill that man with one stomp, to put that kind of fear in it. I then thought about that man and how selfish and inhumane he was to treat animals like that. This only led me to think about how a person could get to that point. Any industry that uses animals for profit is not only damaging animals but people as well.

Being the day after I have seen *Earthlings*, the effects of this film are very present. I still feel I need to do my own research before I can commit to a lifestyle of vegetarianism, let alone veganism. As a part of creation, we are called to take care of the rest of creation. God did not create anything with plans of suffering or abuse. I do not necessarily think eating meat is bad, but it is the way we have allowed meat to be processed that is inhumane. It should not be hard for us to be kind to animals.

for more information visit earthlings.com

Come to one meeting and write one article a week for an hour of class credit. Ask your advisor to sign you up for Newspaper Practicum today!

Write for

The Echo!

Not required to be:

- Brilliant
- An English major
- A 'grammar hammer'

Required to:

- Enjoy writing
- Bring story ideas to the meeting each week
- Want to help provide news and entertainment to the campus

Email Kira Roberts (kirarobe@mail.snu.edu) with questions

Middle School emails from NSI booth

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STORMSPORTS

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Fall 2013 sports from the athletes' perspective

Kira Roberts, Editor-in-chief

Each sports team has the common goal of winning games and growing together as a family for the season. However, each one has specific ideas for how to reach that goal. Football player Michael Hicks is a senior in class and a junior on the field.

“Our goal is to win the GAC championship and create team cohesion. Another goal is that we are always moving forward in all we do, trying not to base anything in the past seasons because it’s a new season,” he said.

Senior football player Garret Kruse said that they have had one scrimmage so far and it went well, but he believes the team will get even better from it and have another one this Friday (today).

“I know that we will surprise

a bunch of people this year. We have to be a family and believe that we can do anything that is set in front of us,” Kruse said.

Stan West, another senior football player, agreed with his teammates.

“This season, I’m looking forward to our opportunity to play every team in our conference. Last year we were only able to play half of them, but this season will give us a good idea of how we stack up against our new competition and I think we’ll do pretty well,” West said.

West said that the quote, “When you want to succeed as badly as you want to breathe, then you’ll be successful,” by Hip Hop Preacher Eric Thomas was chosen for their team this year to emphasize the value of the desire

to be great.

“Everyone desires that great outcome, but few are willing to pay the price of sacrifice to earn it,” he said.

While track and cross-country haven’t had any pre-season events, Sophomore Megan Johnson said that she is looking forward to traveling with the team to meets.

“I hope that this season we can grow closer as a team in practice as well as hang out and have team dinners outside of practice. I love that the cross-country team is always so positive and upbeat, even on race days,” she said.

Make sure to keep an eye out for upcoming games and events as they begin next week with men’s soccer next Thursday versus Oklahoma Christian University.

SNU

Keep up with
results
and scores at
snuathletics.
com

Athletics



Photo by Kira Roberts.

OKC worship service opportunities for students



Photo by Viki Wolkins used under Creative Commons license.

Kira Roberts, Editor-in-chief

Finding a church family when moving away from home can be either an invigorating or a frustrating experience for college kids. Many students find themselves ‘church hopping’ for a long time, trying to find the balance between where their friends go and where they feel like they really belong.

While SNU has a strong community on campus and requires chapel every week, it is still important to find a church body to become involved with. It is a great opportunity that students are now able to choose a church for themselves, rather than just going somewhere simply because that is where their family has always gone.

For all the new freshman, or returning students who are interested in finding a church to get involved

with, here are a few options in the area.

Every first Sunday of the month, OKC First Church of the Nazarene hosts an evening of worship and prayer. It begins at 7:00pm and ends around 8:30. According to their website, “OVERFLOW exists to create a time and space for you to come and simply BE in the presence of God. We will sing loud, we will pray together and we will sit at His feet in worship and adoration.” This service is led by Brandon Whiteside, the worship pastor at OKC First, located on NW Expressway, just west of Meridian. For more information about this church or service, visit okcfirst.com or email Brandon Whiteside at brandon@okcfirst.com. Normal Sunday morning services are at 10:30 a.m.

Bethany First Church of the Nazarene is located right across the street from SNU and has become a home to many students here. Worship times for BFC community of faith are at 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings, and their college class is at 10:15. College open gym takes place Sunday nights from 9-11 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Weekly college group, ‘Oasis,’ takes place in the BFC atrium at 8:45 p.m. on Wednesdays. For more information on BFC college ministries, visit bethanyaz.org or contact the college pastor, Mike Brooks, at mbrooks@bethanyaz.org.

Larry Hess directs ‘Connection Ministries,’ the college ministry program at Lake View Park Church of the Nazarene. This church is

located on N.W. 50th Street and has a Sunday morning celebration at 10:30 a.m. College group is on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Dinner is served each week after a time of prayer and devotion. For more information visit lakeview-park.org or email Larry Hess at lhess@lakeviewpark.org.

These three churches are only a few examples of the many great opportunities in the Bethany/OKC area. Others include Life, Frontline, Lake Overholser, Western Oaks and Cherokee Hills. Encouraging other students to join in community and finding a church home during these college years is utterly important. The resources to find where you belong are available and easily accessible, and the opportunity is at hand. The rest is up to each student. Where will your home be?



Photo by Will Harrison used under Creative Commons license.

Back to School Bash day one: paint wars



Back to School Bash photos by Kira Roberts.

The Chuck House restaurant review: best chicken fried steak in town

Grace Williams, Business Manager

Best fried chicken in the Universe? I absolutely think so. I, as a Bethany native, have been to the Chuck House numerous times growing up, having lived near its location on NW 10th street just past Meridian (4430 NW 10th St, Oklahoma City, OK 73107). I can't find any chicken fried steak that compares.

For \$6.09, you get the famous chicken fried steak meal which comes slathered in white gravy with texas toast and your choice of french fries, mashed potatoes and gravy or a baked potato. I've subbed fried okra before, and that was incredibly delicious as well. This price does not include a drink. Honestly, I haven't tried anything



Photo by Carol King used under Creative Commons license.

NSI fair contest winners



Swadley's gift card winner:

Heather Lance

Junior Psychology major



Kindle Fire winner:

Chris Buttenmeier

Freshman undeclared major



Chick-fil-a gift card winner:

Valorey Berry

Freshman Psychology major

else on the menu because why mess with a good thing? This meal is certainly not healthy, but you can add a few nutrients by ordering a trip to the salad bar (\$3.49) or unlimited trips (\$4.99).

This restaurant is quite run down. The tables are covered in advertisements, and the walls are brick and wood paneling that has no urban appeal. It used to have an alien theme, which I thoroughly enjoyed as a child. Then they had pictures on the wall of limes that were cut open, the insides looking like a tomato. Now, it has unmemorable old timey photos on the wall--an attempt at the "home sweet 'homa" trend. However, it does have hole in the wall

charm. Take your date here to find out how adventurous he or she is.

The Chuck House has a fun gimmick, you order by a phone at your table. Then, the staff buzzes your phone when your food is ready. Then you pick it up at the counter and pay for your meal. Since there is no table service, no tipping is required.

The Chuck House is open Monday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. It is a delicious and affordable way to satisfy your chicken fried steak craving, so brave the facade and give it a try. Please let me know if you try any other menu items.

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