



From the Office of President Richard Rafes

# East Central University

Campus Update May 1, 2008

## LT. GOV. KEEL TO ADDRESS ECU GRADUATES AT COMMENCEMENT



Jefferson Keel, lieutenant governor of the Chickasaw Nation, will be honored as East Central University's 2008 Distinguished Alumnus during commencement ceremonies on May 10. Keel will give the commencement address at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in the Kerr Activities Center. ECU will have

721 degree candidates, including 501 bachelor's degree candidates and 220 master's degree candidates who completed degree requirements this semester or will complete requirements this summer.

## COMMUNITY MEETING TO DISCUSS PROPOSED ECU CONFERENCE CENTER

A community meeting will be held May 8 to discuss a request from the Ada Jobs Foundation for \$500,000 from the City of Ada's Proposition Two Funds to help ECU construct a proposed convention and conference center on its campus.

The meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Estep Multimedia Center on the first floor of the University Center. Presentations will include plans for the convention and conference center and the economic benefits such a facility would bring to Ada.

## COLE ANNOUNCES ART GRANT FOR ECU

U.S. Congressman Tom Cole recently announced that ECU has been awarded a \$15,000 grant to support a touring exhibition featuring the work of renowned American artist Leon Polk Smith, a 1936 graduate of ECU.

The grant was provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and authored by Dr. Brad Jessop, art department chair.

## TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY GRANT FUNDED FOR ANOTHER THREE YEARS

ECU's Teaching American History project was awarded \$999,351 for the next three years. The TAH grant provides professional development to twenty-nine junior high and high school teachers from nineteen local education agencies. Partners for the grant include the Chickasaw Nation, East Central University, National Archives and Records - SW Region, Oklahoma Historical Society and Oklahoma State Department of Education. The grant was authored by Michelle Barton.

Rebecca Henderson (left) of Byng and Barbara Heilaman of Konawa, both participants in the TAH grant project, look over material for their presentation at the National Council for History Education's annual conference in Louisville.



## ECU AND TRI-COUNTY INDIAN NATIONS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PARTNERSHIP RECOGNIZED

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Economic Development Grant for the Partnership Recognition Program is designed to highlight successful partnerships between higher education institutions and businesses and to further cultivate the higher learning environment through the State Regents' Economic Development Grants.



Tri-County Executive Director Amy Childers Elliott accepted an award on behalf of Tri-County in recognition of its partnership with ECU and its staunch support of both higher education and economic development.

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**ECU BECOMES HOME OF POLITICAL SCIENCE JOURNAL**

The journal *Oklahoma Politics* will relocate to ECU under the direction of Dr. John Ulrich. He will be

assisted by Dr. Christine Pappas and Dr. Charlie Peaden who will take roles as co-editors.

*Oklahoma Politics* will be the cornerstone of an envisioned Center for the Study of Political Community.

The center will host conferences, sponsor research, and encourage civic engagement such as service learning. It will also work to establish a public opinion poll for southeast Oklahoma which would be a valuable source of information for politicians and the media.

**ECU CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION DAY**



ECU students, faculty and staff participated in the Campus Beautification Day. More than 80 volunteers picked up trash, planted flowers, removed vines and cleaned up the rock garden. WHAT A SUCCESS!

**MAYOR PROCLAIMS APRIL 22 "EARTH DAY IN ADA"**



Several area schools visited ECU on April 22 to participate in the activities which included hands-on and visual demonstrations of water and environment related issues. Students

also watched as Mike Faulkner, grounds supervisor, planted a tree on campus.



**ECU MATH CLUB, MATH DEPARTMENT PRESENT CHECK**

The ECU Math Club and Math Department sponsored Pi Day which

raised more than \$300 for the Compassion Outreach Center in Ada which was a tremendous success.

**READING SHOWS YOU CARE A LOT**

Dr. Richard Rafes takes time to read at the Care-a-Lot Child Care Center. Crystal Hudson of ECU's Childcare Resource and Referral Services said, a community leader taking time to read to children shows that the community cares about Ada's youth.



**ECU FOCUSED ON FACULTY AND STAFF**

ECU's Faculty and Staff Recognition event on April 28 honored more than 135 employees. Teaching Excellence award winners were recognized along with faculty receiving promotions and tenure, recipients of Professional Development Travel Awards and grant writers.



Maxine McFalls and Dr. Rosemarie Benya received plaques from Dr. Rafes and Mickey Cowan, executive director of the ECU Foundation Inc. to mark their retirements.

**ALL-SPORTS GOLD TOURNAMENT IS A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS**

More than 150 golfers participated in the second Annual All-Sports Golf Classic in Ardmore.

Attendees also had the opportunity to learn from Senior PGA member and ECU alum, Dr. Gil Morgan. Morgan (fourth from left) poses with the tournament winners.



**O'NEAL HONORED AS ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR**

The annual Leonard Limes Lecture was held April 29. The speaker, Jay O'Neal, is an entrepreneur, famous OU quarterback, supporter of our entrepreneurship program and the 2008 Entrepreneur of the Year.



O'Neal is the brother of former ECU football coach Pat O'Neal and Benton O'Neal who served as president of Oklahoma State Bank and now is chairman of Ada's First United Bank.

**GEORGE NIGH PRESENTS AWARD**

Former Gov. George Nigh was on campus to recognize ECU's top seniors, Aradhna Pillai and James (Jimmy) Brown III, as the 2008 George Nigh Award co-recipients.

Finalist Rina Chronister-Phillips, Audrey Myers and Tori Petete also were recognized as Nigh finalists.

**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE DAY**

Fifty students participated in ECU's Academic Excellence Day. The event was sponsored by Alpha Chi and the Honors Program. Faculty judges chose three finalists in seven categories. To be eligible, an entry must have been presented off-campus during the 2007-08 school year. The winner in each category was awarded \$100 by Alpha Chi.

Poster winner - Chloe Price  
 Research Paper winner - Aradhna Pillai  
 Creative Category winner - Kenny Antwine

Phi Delta Kappa, the international organization for professional educators, originated the ECU Ambassador of Academic Excellence Award. An award of \$100 was presented to Chloe Price for her poster on hospital access in Oklahoma.

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT PRESENTS AT CONFERENCE**

English education students participated in the 2008 Spring Conference for the Oklahoma Council of Teachers of English at Oklahoma City University.

English major Adam Bishop presented a session on poetry. He also received the Geraldine Burns Award. Graduate students Katy Peercy and Mark Francis presented a session on Sherman Alexi's new young adult novel.

Dr. John Yozzo, who served as one of the judges for the Young Writers Awards, conducted a session with the young writers and their parents. Dr. Teresa Rothrock presented a session and was named editor of the *Oklahoma English Journal*. Dr. Robin Murphy was named web director for OCTE.

**2008 YEARBOOKS ARE HERE!**

ECU's first-ever all-color book of all the year's activities, campus life and friends is available now.

Pick up your Pesagi yearbook on the third floor of Danley Hall or order online at [jostensyearbooks.com](http://jostensyearbooks.com).

**UPCOMING EVENTS!****May 1**

Ken Hada Book Signing, 2-4 p.m.  
 Linscheid Library, Hallie Brown Ford Atrium

School of Business Banquet, 6:30 p.m.  
 Stanley P. Wagner Ballroom

Athletic Department Banquet, 6 p.m.  
 Cafeteria

**May 2**

Mudstock, 4 – 6 p.m., Norris Field

Greatest Day Ever, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Senior Art Show, May 2 – 16  
 Art Department Gallery

**May 5-9**

Final Exams

**May 10**

Commencement Ceremonies  
 10 a.m. & 2 p.m. Kerr Activities Center

**May 12-May 30**

May Intersession

**May 16**

Veterans Appreciation Day hosted by ECU  
 Veterans Upward Bound, program from 11 - 11:30  
 a.m., reception 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., Estep Center

**May 26**

Memorial Day Holiday,  
 (No classes. offices closed.)