

ALUMNI NOTES

1940s

Joe and **June (Smith) Gremban '45** celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary June 8, 2006.

1950s

Theda (Robertson) Betz '50 and **Charlene (Robertson) Harmes '56** have spent more than four years and 2,000 hours transcribing the diaries of their mother, **Lorita (Baker) Robertson '29**, who died April 8, 1981. This has been a true labor of love, the daughters say. Lorita began her first diary when she was 12 years old and continued writing for 67 years until her death at age 79. Theda and Charlene lived their childhood on the same farm as their mother and went to the same one-room school (Prairie Ridge). Lorita graduated from SC June 5, 1929, and began teaching in elementary schools full-time for seven years, then substitute-taught grades one through 12 for 20 years after moving to Winfield. The family home was on 40 acres east of SC on Warren Street, and later was sold to the college. **Beverly (Bergdall) Johnson '69**, who now serves on the board of the Cowley County Historical Museum, showed Lorita's diary to the museum board and a complete copy of Lorita's diary is now in the museum archives.

Joe and **Charlotte (Mossman) Williamson '51** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Jan. 1, 2006. Charlotte retired in 2004 from her position as director of music at Ridgeview Presbyterian Church, Dallas, and Joe retired in 1990 from Bell Helicopter. Their celebration included a trip to Austria and Switzerland in July.

Barbara and **Eakle Allen '51** celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary on Aug. 8, 2006. Eakle is currently undergoing dialysis three days a week.

Arthur B. Johnson '56 and Judith White celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Sept. 14, 2006.

Ken and Shirley (Marsh) Everhart '57 '56 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary July 1, 2006.

Harold and Melba (McGehee) Hauser '58 '59 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 26, 2005 with a renewal of vows that was attended by their family. Harold and Melba have four grown children, Janice, Tammie, Allen, and Jeffrey, and have maintained their love for Southwestern since their graduation more than half a century ago.

1960s

Roger Rowell '61 was promoted to senior technical pioneering scientist by the United States Department of Agriculture. He is located in Madison, Wisc., and his new position involves the development of new technologies in high performance bio-based materials.

David Wilson '62 has retired after 36 years as a middle school counselor at Papillion Junior High School, Papillion Neb. He had also been a teacher and coach at Ashland and Farnam, Neb., for five years.

1970s

Kathy (Dinger) Bartunek '72 has retired from teaching after 33 years. Her most recent job was teaching pregnant and parenting teens enrolled in the public schools in Coshocton, Ohio. She is eager to find a new career in Marietta, Ohio.

Kent Seyfried '76 and **Laura (Monson) Richardson '81** were married June 3, 2006, at Grace United Methodist Church in Winfield with a reception in the Roy L. Smith student center on the SC campus. The Seyfrieds are living in Olathe, where Kent is employed by the City of Olathe.

1980s

Stan Kennedy '80 just finished his 25th year of teaching social studies at Holcomb High School, where he started teaching right after graduation from Southwestern. Stan's daughter Hannah attended SC last year, Emma is a senior at Garden City High School, and Ellie is an eighth grader at Kenneth Henderson Middle School in Garden City. Stan remarried two years ago, to Staci Stallings from Garden City. (see also Births)

Dale B. Sims '80 just completed a six-month assignment as a Fulbright Scholar to Latvia. Dr. Sims taught at a university in Vintpils.

Tara Gray '81 is director of the Teaching Academy of New Mexico State University, which organized formally in 2003 to serve educators through training, mentoring, and networking. She has published three books and won six awards for teaching and service. Gray has given faculty development workshops to more than 3,000 faculty in 20 of the United States and in Canada and Mexico.

In May **Wallace Gray**, professor emeritus at Southwestern College, was honored by the academy on its electronic wall of honor for his 40 years of teaching at Southwestern.

Doug Delaney '82 is screenwriter of the feature film *Shadows of Atticus*. Principal photography has just been completed for the movie, with stars including Peter Boyle, Peter Coyote, Patton Oswalt, and Vivien Cardonne. It now is in post-production and is tentatively scheduled for national release early next spring.

Betsy (Harden) Barry '84 was one of 77 Texas teachers to be awarded the BP "A+ for Energy" \$10,000 grant for Excellence in Education. The grant is designed to provide teachers with funds to educate and inform students and the community on alternative energy sources. Betsy and her drama club at Pope John XXIII High School in Katy, Texas, wrote a grant to fund students who write, direct, and perform five one-act plays on alternative energy sources. These plays will be performed for civic groups, schools, and churches across the Houston area. Betsy currently teaches theatre arts, speech and debate, as well as being yearbook and newspaper advisor and sophomore class sponsor. She and her husband, Don, live in Houston. Betsy would love to hear from college friends and can be reached by e-mail at betsybarry@sbcglobal.net

Maria J. (Frey) Hoecker '84 was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests of the Episcopal Church on Feb. 4, 2006, at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Brevard, N.C., and now serves as associate priest there. She and her husband, Rick, graduated from the School of Theology at the University of the South in Seawane, Tenn., seminary in May 2005. Within weeks of graduation, Rick was diagnosed with inoperable colon cancer. In June 2005, they both were ordained to the diaconate. Rick died July 28, 2005. In addition to Maria, he is survived by their daughter Chloe, 9, and son Max, 5.

Grant Bumgarner '84 was honored in May 2006 with the Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities Employee of the Year award. This is given to a South Carolinian with a disability who has met the challenges presented by significant disability, succeeded in the workplace, and contributed to the well-being of the community.

Lori Williams '86 was honored by the Kansas City Regional Office of the Social Security Administration for her work with the Kansas Unit of Disability Determinations Services, receiving a Regional Citation for Managerial Excellence. Williams was one of 60 awardees out of the 3,000-plus workers in a four-state region. Lori has worked in the offices of Disability Determinations of SRS for 10 years after being transferred from the Winfield State Hospital and Training Center in 1995. She has been a unit manager in the Kansas office for four years. Williams lives in Topeka with her son, Robbie. Her parents are **Larry Williams '60** and **Pat Williams '93**.

Kim (Vogel) Sawyer '87 had her first historical novel from Bethany House released in June 2006, and it debuted on the Christian Booksellers Association Bestseller list for July 2006. *Waiting for Summer's Return* is set in an 1894 Kansas German-Mennonite community. Four more novels from Bethany House are contracted. Also released in June was *Dear John*, a contemporary story, from the Heartsong Presents line of Barbour Publishing. It will be followed by two sequels. In addition, Barbour has contracted a three-book contemporary women's fiction series. Learn more about Kim's writing and speaking ministry at www.KimVogelSawyer.com.

Bob and **Jan (Rethorst) Lucciola '87** were married on April 15, 2000. Jan still works at the Milford Animal Hospital while continuing as a rehabilitator and educator for the Delaware Valley Raptor Center in Milford, Pa.

1990s

Scott Shipman '94 was selected from a national applicant pool to attend one of 28 summer study opportunities supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Scott participated in a seminar titled "History and Memory: World War I in British Culture." The four-week program was held in London and along the Western Front in France and Belgium. Scott currently teaches history at Santa Fe Trail. **Sarah (Dillingham) Shipman '95** is in-house counsel for a real estate development company. Their son, Jeremiah, is a third-grader.

Chris King '96 has started a new job as the chief operator and assistant program director for Pritchard Broadcasting's Burlington (Iowa) Radio Center. He will oversee all technical operations, work on station promotions for three radio stations, and host an on-air radio show. (see also Births)

Tonya (Edelman) Phillips '96 has accepted the position as the new grant coordinator for USD 232 (DeSoto). Tonya is married to Shawn Phillips. They have two children, Blake, 5, and Caden, 2. They live in Tonganoxie.

Donelle (Bergeson) Sommer '97 has been accepted to Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary on the campus of Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. She plans to pursue a master's degree in divinity. Her husband, **Brandon Sommer '97**, will teach mathematics and pre-engineering courses at North Grand High School in Chicago.

Jeff and Kimberly (Cleary) Stine '97 '98 have moved to Kaneohe, Hawaii. Jeff will be the offensive coordinator for the Moanalua High School Menehune football team and will be teaching social studies.

Erik Snyder '98 has completed his MBA in global management from the University of Phoenix. Erik lives in the Phoenix area and has worked for the University of Phoenix Online as an admission manager for two years. He is married to Corina Snyder and they have a son, Corbin, 2.

David Battin '98 graduated in June 2005 from his internal medicine residency from the University of Kansas-Wichita program. Shortly after that he began work as a hospitalist for Via Christi. Also in June 2005, he was accepted into a cardiology fellowship program at the University of Tennessee in Memphis. On April 8, 2006, David and Saleena Wartick of Wellington were married. David began work in Tennessee July 3, 2006.

Shannon Clements '99 has taken a position as a senior business analyst with Adams-Gabbert & Associates, Inc., in Lee's Summit, Mo. He is married to **Skye (Perkins) '97**, who stays at home with their two children.

2000s

Stacie (Snyder) Danks '00 is employed by the Ascension Parish school board. Her husband, Jamie, is the executive chef at a new local restaurant. (see also Births)

David Abarca '01 recently finished his first year of graduate school at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington D.C., where he is pursuing his master's degree.

Edeka (Velardes) Hauser '02 has recently moved to Ulysses, Kan. She has been coaching high school basketball and enjoys being around family in Ulysses. She recently married Jason Hauser.

Mandy (Lampe) Reynolds '02 and **Jeremy Moyer '01** were married June 10, 2006, in Pique, Kan.

Kate Hutchens '05 married Raymond Clause on May 28, 2006, in her hometown of Wellington. They now live in Wichita.



Then and Now

Albert '49 and Edna Mae Rymph and their son, Brad '77, visited the Philippine Islands in February 2006. The trip was an 80th birthday gift to Albert from his wife and four children: Brad '77, Carol (Rymph) Carlson '79, Karen (Rymph) Smarsh '80, and Alan. For Albert the trip was a revisiting of World War II historic sights where he served in the U.S. Army 61 years ago in the Leyte Liberation and Luzon campaigns. Among other sites, he stood again where he stood as a 19-year-old soldier (above) at Red Beach, near Tacloban, Leyte, and at Corrigidor and the Intramuros, Manila, Luzon.



He was also the guest preacher on Sunday, Feb. 19, at the oldest United Methodist Church in the Philippines, Knox United Methodist Church in Manila. After WW II ended and Albert was stationed in Manila, he attended and worshiped in Knox United Methodist Church. A veteran of World War II and the Korean War, Albert attended Southwestern College during the years between the two conflicts.