



**3 TOP OF THE NEWS**

Cyber-connecting with prospects, a new partnership, special spring events

**4 YOUR GIFTS AT WORK**

Travel-enriched education, a Sutton porch photo redux

**5 SPECIAL PEOPLE/ALUMNI**

Legacy student, Halls of Fame, golden year class

**6-7 HOMECOMING 2006**

**8-10 ALUMNI NOTES**

**11 SC PERFORMING ARTS**

**COVER**



Homecoming Celebration—a new rock for the new Mound, football and cross-country winners, and President Emeritus Carl Martin supports the college (and a grandson). *Photos by Sunni L. Sheets, April McCormick '08, and Sarah Morton '08.*

**SECOND COVER**

Holiday Greetings! The first annual Christmas tree lighting in 2005 sets the stage for a new tradition at Southwestern College. *Photo by Shan Szetho '05.*

*Unless otherwise credited, photos by Sunni L. Sheets, April McCormick '08, and Monica Springer '08.*

*Unless otherwise credited, stories by Sara Severance Weinert*

# From the President



Dear friends,

Last week I was given an opportunity – in the pages of the *Wichita Eagle* – to make the case for the affordability of private higher education in Kansas (and especially at Southwestern). I had to keep it brief for the *Eagle*, and I'll keep it even shorter here. There are three things for you to know about affording Southwestern:

1. Southwestern's tuition is higher than the tuition at the state universities in Kansas and Oklahoma, but Southwestern offers significantly more scholarship and grant support to our students than the state universities offer — about three to five times more.
2. Southwestern's students are much more likely to graduate in four years than their state university counterparts. Over 75% of our graduates manage to finish in four years at Southwestern. With the exception of Pittsburg State, no public university in Kansas gets even 50% of its graduates out the door in four years.
3. Consequently, Southwestern grads have less debt than K-State grads, on average, and borrow just about \$1,000 more, on average, than KU grads. That fifth year costs real money.

If you know a young person who would be a good fit for Southwestern, please strongly encourage them to check out the college. So many students who would have a great experience at SC don't even take a look because they and their parents don't think they can afford it. It's not true. They can afford it and if they'll let us, we'll show them how.

Thanks for all you do for Southwestern.

Best regards,

*Dick Merriman*

Dick Merriman  
President

## Administration Viewpoint



In his outstanding book, *Making the Most of College*, Richard Light listed four reasons why student engagement with arts is an essential part of the college experience:

- First, students view the arts as a sheer source of pleasure. Singing in a choir, dancing, acting, or playing a musical instrument are terrific opportunities to take a break from challenging academic work.
- Second, there is a solid connection between the arts and the academic work that takes place in other areas. For instance, when our students perform *Proof* they explore psychology, education, and mathematics. Plus, the intense personal relationships give students a glimpse into the human condition, so studying a play helps them to understand context, history, and literature.
- Third, students who participate in the arts report that they learn things about themselves. Ask any alumnus what kind of courage it takes to sing "Beautiful Savior" to a room full of people. Lessons in self-confidence and poise are still taught regularly to students who are a part of the SC Singers.
- Finally, participation in the arts provides opportunities to interact with people from other backgrounds. Jazz legend Bobby Watson performed in Richardson Auditorium this fall and his show was opened by our own band composed of both students and community members.

In short, by participating in the arts our students are enriched, engaged, challenged, and invigorated. I hope you will turn to page 11 to learn more about the lively arts scene at Southwestern College.

Best regards,

*J. A. Sheppard*  
Andy Sheppard  
Academic Dean

**SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE PRESIDENT**

Dick Merriman

**THE SOUTHWESTERNER**

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