From the President

Dear friends,

Southwestern recently became a charter signatory of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment. The college has pledged itself to taking steps over the next several years to significantly reduce our “carbon footprint” – the amount of greenhouse gas the college introduces into the atmosphere.

The college’s Climate Commitment will foster collaborative work between students and faculty to evaluate the college’s operations and make changes that will reduce our emissions. Some of the changes will be pretty unglamorous, like this past summer’s project to update the multitude of fluorescent light fixtures on campus. Others will be more significant. I hope we’ll soon have a plant operations vehicle running on used cooking oil from the cafeteria and that we’ll eventually begin to generate electricity with a windmill on the back of the campus.

Most importantly, we’re beginning this year to recruit students who want to be part of the college’s Green Team. Just like volleyball players and members of the A Cappella Choir, Green Teamers will receive financial aid to support their studies at Southwestern. Young people interested in science, business, public policy, or just doing something great for the environment would be great members of the team.

If you know a student who would be a good fit for any part of Southwestern, please encourage them to learn more about the college. Or send me information about a prospective student, and we’ll follow up. Thanks for all you do for Southwestern!

Best regards,

Dick Merriman
President

Second Cover

The Shanghai skyline greeted three SC early childhood education students during a summer internship in China. From left are Laura Weiler, Caroline Kauflman, and Marci Burrow. Read their story on page 3 of this issue.

(Photos courtesy of Marc Banta)

Photos in this issue are by Floy Mendez ’95, Charly Oem ’94, and Sunni L. Sheets ’07.
Stories by Sara Severance Weinert

Fellow MoundBuilder,

This issue of The Southwesterner is one of my favorites each year. Inside you will see a list of folks who have supported the college with gifts in the past year. Unless you are fortunate to be on campus regularly you do not have the pleasure and benefit of seeing, first-hand, the power of those gifts. The students at Southwestern are tremendous. The support of gifts from our alumni and friends enrich the lives of these students each and every day. They are certainly a cause worth supporting. I can share with you that it is one of the best investments you can ever make. The stock market goes up and down. Those students and their futures are only going up!

I want to thank all of those who support the college so generously and ask all alumni and friends of Southwestern to please consider a gift today to help make a difference in the life of a student.

Paul M. Bean
Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Southwestern College President

Dick Merriman

The Southwesterner

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