New SC faculty joined the first academic procession of the year during Opening Convocation Aug. 25. Shown (l. to r.) are Matt Rogers, one-year appointment in philosophy and religion; Mike Harper, philosophy and religion; Saeed Yazdani, business; John Scaggs, English; and Veronica McAsey, director of Memorial Library. Not pictured is Melanie Johnson, nursing.

Halls of Fame Announce November Inductees

Two SC Halls of Fame will induct new members in November. For more information and reservations for dinners, call Susan Lowe, director of alumni programs, at (280) 229-6334 or susan.lowe@scs.edu.

Saturday, Nov. 3 – Athletic Hall of Fame. Honorees are Jim Davie ’65, Gary Garza ’72, Jimmy Peppers ’82, Dave Warren ’51, and Esther Wilson ’79.

Saturday, Nov. 10 – Natural Science Hall of Fame. Inductees will be William ‘Bill’ Cloud ’47, L. Eric Cranson ’31 (deceased), and David E. Smith ’73.

Six Trustees Join SC Board

New trustees include: Mitch Holthus, Bashaol. Holthus is play-by-play announcer for the Kansas City Chiefs as well as a sports broadcaster and motivational speaker. He is father of SC graduates Brian ’04 and Hayley ’07. • Charles M. Maddox, Tuba, Okla, an industrial chemist, is a long-time member of SGC’s Natural Science Advisory Council. • Florence Metcalfe ’65 farms with her husband near Liberal. Her son, Mike, ’89, was a 12-year board member. • William Don Short Jr. manages the Short Cos. with headquarters in Oxford. • Torey Mack Thompson, Dallas, is an attorney and the non-executive chairman of the board of Pier One Imports. • Stephanie Antrim Weast, Liberal, is an attorney and a stockbroker. Her two sons are students at Southwesterns.

Salina surgeon David Smith ’73, returns to the Board. He had completed 12 years of service, and was co-chair of the Builders of Excellence campaign.

A Jolly 9 golf tournament to benefit SC athletics drew supporters to the Bashaol course including (l. to r.) Tommy Holthus, Bruce Callingsworth of the Papa John’s Pizza chain, and head men’s basketball coach Doug Hall. This is the sixth year the tournament has been hosted by new trustee Mitch Holthus (see story above).

New Taste of China for Three SC Early Childhood Students

No trek along the Great Wall. No panda tour. No peering through a crystal coffin at the embalmed remains of Mao Zedong.

The journey three Southwestern College students took to China was without the stops most tourists make in one of the most intriguing of nations, but Marcia Marcis, Caroline Kaufman, and Laura Welte wouldn’t have had it any other way. The three were escorted by early childhood education professor Nill Luo, a native of China, and spent the early weeks of summer 2007 working and learning in a welfare institution in the Anhui province. They visited and interviewed teachers in a special education school. The institution (which would be called an orphanage in the United States) housed as many as 200 residents from newborns to old men and women who had spent their entire lives there. The majority were developmentally delayed.

The exchange was eye-opening both for the visitors and the visited. While the three students each observed and worked in a baby room, Professor Luo gave seminars to institution personnel concerning techniques to help stimulate development in the residents.

“We got to apply what we’re learning in class,” Marcis explains. “We worked mostly with toddlers and infants who hadn’t had a lot of visual stimulation. We could see what happens when this kind of thing isn’t in place.”

The American student won over the children in their rooms by bringing in toys—jump ropes, sidewalk chalk—and were touched by the response to the gifts. Even a stick of gum was an extraordinary treat, Marcis marvels.

Because the SC students were in a location where Westerners are rarely seen, the local Chinese were fascinated by the visitors. “We could have stopped traffic,” Marcis says with a laugh. “We were tall compared with the local people, and their ideas of beauty are Americanized so everyone was taking our picture.”

And even if they didn’t visit tourist locations, their eyes were opened by the local cuisine. The turtle soup they ate, for example, was just—bosh—brush which floated the carcass of a whole turtle.

So how did the experience change the education major? “I appreciate my education a lot more,” Marcis reflects. “We’ve learned a lot about the ‘correct’ way to raise children and educate them, but this made me feel much more connected to the importance of early intervention.”

We went there thinking we were just three little Midwestern girls, and people were calling us ‘Angels’ for going. It was flattering, but I wish they could see we were just not doing anything out of the ordinary.”