

## Gift Will Honor Friendship, Give Back to SC Students

More than five decades ago, when Jim Matthews was a preministerial student at Southwestern, the financial burden of attending college was lessened by \$400 per semester that he received from the Broadhurst Preministerial Scholarship Fund.

Jim graduated in 1955, and began his career as a pastor, a psychiatric social worker, and an author. He served congregations in Kansas, New York, and Oklahoma, wrote several books, and now is part of the congregational care ministry at First United Methodist Church in Wichita. He and his wife, Jean, reared four daughters, all Moundbuilders—Janis Angermayr '79, Jalynn Nolte '81, Joni Davis '84, and Jill Miller '97.

Despite the years of life changes, one constant remained unchangeable: his friendship with Forrest Robinson. Forrest had married Jim's aunt, Betty Matthews '44, but the two men had been friends before they became relatives.

"We were never aunt-uncle/niece-nephew in our relationship," Jim explains. "It was a friendship which grew out of a strong spiritual kinship that we all felt and believed in."

So when Southwestern College decided to honor Forrest Robinson with its Servant Leader Award during Founders Day 2007, Jim was among the first to make a pledge to the scholarship set up in Forrest's name. His gift would be a tribute both to Forrest's friendship and to the school that was part of both of their lives. Jim decided to contribute to the Forrest Robinson Preministerial Scholarship the amount that had helped him afford his own Southwestern education.



Forrest Robinson, Southwestern College's Servant Leader, at Founders Day 2007.

"One of Forrest's gifts is his ability to write letters that encourage and provide hope and challenge," Jim writes. "I would imagine that he would be baffled that I and others would have reacted as we have, as we have found God's life and love reaching out and enfolding us through the letters that Forrest Robinson has written."

The contribution to the scholarship, he said, is a God-given opportunity to honor their friendship in a tangible way.

**For more information on the Forrest J. Robinson Preministerial Scholarship, contact Jill Johnson in the Office of Institutional Advancement, (620) 229-6288.**

# Dean's Scholarly 'Retirement' Likes Ike

When David Nichols retired as Southwestern College's academic dean in 2003, it would have been safe to assume that he would follow the traditional path of new retirees in small towns—coffee at midmorning, attendance at grandkids' soccer games.

Instead, Nichols has transformed his retirement into a scholarly quest that in a few months will result in the publication of *A Matter of Justice: Eisenhower and the Beginning of the Civil Rights Revolution*. Simon & Schuster, one of the world's most prestigious publishers, will release the book in early September. The book is being given the star treatment, including jacket blurbs by Walter Isaacson (whose biography of Einstein is atop the *New York Times* nonfiction list), a book tour for Nichols, and a full line-up of speeches and author appearances.

The book will be launched at the Eisenhower Library in Abilene on Sept. 6, celebrating the Civil Rights Act of 1957. Then Nichols will speak at the Clinton Library Sept. 15 in observance of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Eisenhower sending troops into Little Rock, Ark., to enforce school desegregation.

So how did this whirlwind of fame come about for a man who graduated from Southwestern and spent most of his career on the Hill in Winfield?

"I'm not a talented writer, but I'm a good researcher," Nichols says, "and Simon & Schuster had an editor (Roger Labrie) who happened to be a real Eisenhower fan. He nabbed my proposal, and has turned out to be an extraordinary editor."

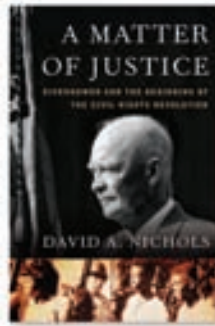
Labrie urged Nichols to think of his audience, bringing the reader's perspective to the enormous manuscript—"If the book is going to sell, it needs to be short," Nichols was told. This was a major undertaking for a writer who had spent decades churning out accreditation reports and academic evaluations.

But the quest to appeal to the general public, beyond scholarly audiences, has paid off

in a book written in language accessible to any reader.

"That was brutal," Nichols describes the editing process, "but it never did violence to the general integrity of the book."

The finished product will offer a depiction of Eisenhower that differs radically from the view previously taken by historians. Historical accounts for years have said that Eisenhower did nothing to promote civil rights, but this is a fallacy, Nichols' research shows. Using sources that have been available but overlooked, as well as recently-released documentation and personal interviews with several of the men who were decision-makers during the key events of 1957, Nichols draws a portrait of Eisenhower as a first-class executive who delegated responsibility but held his team members strictly accountable.



David Nichols is shown during his Nov. 15, 2005, lecture at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

"Historians tend to assume that presidential leadership is what presidents say—people like Lincoln and Kennedy were eloquent speakers, and history rewards that," Nichols says. "Eisenhower didn't like the spotlight, though, so you have to go beyond the rhetoric to understand him."

Now, with the rigor of the book's completion taking its toll, Nichols is ready for a break. He won't stop his scholarly pursuits, though.

"When people ask me why I chose Eisenhower, I say because Abilene was close and cheap," he says with a laugh. "It's crazy, but I knew all along I could do this kind of work. I tell people that I had a 25-year missionary experience at Southwestern College that didn't leave time for it, but I knew I could do it. Still, I didn't imagine anything along these lines."

"It's a gift. I did some diligence to make it happen, but it's a gift."

## ALUMNI ALUMNI ALUMNI ALUMNI ALUMNI

### From Alumni Programs



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 9 • 6:15 p.m.**  
**Oklahoma City area alumni event**

The Red Hawks ballgame, Bricktown, Oklahoma City. Join alumni hosts **Sue (Lewis) Hale '65** and **Danny Moss '70** for this 4<sup>th</sup> annual SC event. Once again, *The Daily Oklahoman* has provided their suite for Builders to enjoy the game. Meet new SC football coach Ken Crandall. Seating is limited and you must RSVP.

**July 6 • 5 p.m.**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ulysses Reunion**

The Landmark Restaurant in Ulysses. The meal will be Dutch treat; order off the menu. If you have a connection to SC and live or have lived in Ulysses, you are invited to attend this get-together! Host for the event is Pam Annis.

**Aug. 15 • 9 a.m. to noon**  
**Alumni Cookie Break**

Freshmen Move-In Day, Wallingford lawn, main campus.

**Oct. 19-21**  
**Homecoming 2007**

**Nov. 10**  
**Science Hall of Fame**

2007 inductees include:  
**L. Erlis Cranston '31** (deceased)  
**Dr. William "Bill" Cloud '47**  
**Dr. David E. Smith '73**

*Remember, you do not need to live in the area where an event is being held to attend. All alumni and friends of the college are welcome to attend any of our events, regardless of location. Check the alumni Web site at [www.sckans.edu/alumni2/](http://www.sckans.edu/alumni2/) or contact the department of alumni programs, (800) 846-1543, ext. 6334, or [Susan.Lowe@sckans.edu](mailto:Susan.Lowe@sckans.edu), for more information.*

## Homecoming '07 To Add Prof Stop

Mark your calendar for Oct. 19, 20, and 21—this year's reunions will feature classes ending in "2" or "7."

The weekend begins early on Thursday night with a Smith-Willson Lecture with speaker Steven J. Keillor, and a theatre production of *You Can't Take it With You*. On Friday noon, the Class of 1957 will have a kick-off Burger Station lunch, and the SC golf team will again host the Jinx Invitational Golf Tourney.

*Because we've had many inquiries about former SC professors, we've added a new component to Homecoming this year, called The Prof Stop. We will invite former professors and coaches to come back for a reception on Friday afternoon during Homecoming registration so that alumni can visit with them.*

In addition to the many activities scheduled for Saturday, there will also reunions for tennis and for the Black Student Union. Check out the full Homecoming schedule at [www.sckans.edu/homecoming](http://www.sckans.edu/homecoming).

Don't forget—motel space in Winfield is limited! Book early.