FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

As I write this, we are still counting heads, but we know already that the college has about 1,850 students this fall, probably our largest enrollment ever. Bigger isn’t always better, of course, but when bigger means more relevant and more eagerly sought, then it definitely is better.

We have experienced enrollment growth across the board, on the main campus in Winfield, in our undergraduate Professional Studies programs for adults, and in our graduate programs. That tells me that our alumni and friends have been working actively as ambassadors for Southwestern. We’re most grateful for your advocacy and, please, keep it up.

We also depend on you for financial support and, once again, you’ve come through for the college. Giving to Southwestern increased last school year, in the midst of the sharpest economic downturn in more than half a century. It is gratifying, and very reassuring, to know you are with us. We’re committed to making you proud to be a Builder.

Thanks for all you do for Southwestern!

Best regards,
Dick Merriman, President

Help someone in your life Be a Builder

FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, OR CURRENT COLLEGE STUDENTS
Call the main campus admission office, 1-800-846-1543, ext. 6236.
Fill out this Web form, http://w3.sckans.edu/forms/alumni/refer-a-student/
E-mail the campus admission office, scadmit@sckans.edu
FOR ADULT OR MILITARY LEARNERS
Call Professional Studies, 1-888-684-5335
E-mail Professional Studies, info@southwesterncollege.org

SOUTHWESTERN
THE ALUMNI VOICE OF SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE
VOL. 49 | NO. 3 | FALL 2009

SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE President Dick Merriman

The Southwesterner
Sara Severance Weinert, editor; Susan Burdick, graphic designer; Charles Owen ’94, news manager/communications assistant, Terry E. Quiet ’94, Web producer, Skye Callison, alumni notes; Susan Lowe ’95, director of alumni programs.
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Communicate with The Southwesterner:
E-mail: Sara.Weinert@sckans.edu
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Southwestern College
100 College St., Winfield, KS 67156-2499

CHECK US OUT
ON THE WEB

go sc

CONFERENCE Graduate Programs in Education for adults, and for high school students, or current college students. For information sharing is part of my job description. As vice president for institutional advancement, this kind of information sharing is part of my job description.

When I’m done with my assigned responsibilities, though, I’ll be doing what I do every Homecoming. Reconnecting with friends. Enjoying food, and fun, and football. Making a promise to myself to not miss any more Homecomings.

Don’t I have a great job?

Best regards,
Mike Farrell ’68, Vice President for Institutional Advancement

See information on Homecoming activities on pages 3 and 12.

ADDITIONAL CONTENTS

Strong enrollment, military friendly, financial aid help for families, Homecoming 2009

New courses, group and individual honors

Voila: Windows Viola and student are a perfect match

FALL FRENZY

ALUMNI NOTES

COVER

The Class of 2014 makes some noise at Builder Camp in late August. See an enrollment story on page 3.

Purple

Winfield Viola and student are a perfect match

Joe and the Windows Viola are in perfect pitch. See the story on page 5.

Photos by Tyler Gaskell, Charles Owen ’94, Tony Minott ’10, Terry Quiet ’94, and Susan Bindick.

Unless otherwise credited, stories by Sara Severance Weinert and Charles Owen.

CORRECTION: The Summer 2009 edition of The Southwesterner incorrectly identified a key person in the establishment of the college’s knot garden. Larry Schuster, who is the campus landscaper, helped bring the garden to year-round beauty.

I haven’t been able to be at Homecoming every year since I graduated in 1968, and I regret every one that I missed. On the years I couldn’t attend I always knew that friends were in Winfield that I would have liked to have seen, and that I was missing out on conversations about our days on The Hill, and reminiscing at the top of the 77 Steps. It was a terrible feeling.

Now I’m back at Southwestern College for good, and I’ll have a different role at this mid-October bash. I’ll be the one showing off our facilities (have you seen how gorgeous the Mound looks?) and introducing you to our terrific and talented students (don’t miss the A Cappella Choir at the Kaleidoscope event). I’ll even be frank about where the college needs to catch up to the 21st century—namely in the stadium and performing arts facilities.

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Main campus undergraduate head-count was slightly down (to 542 compared to last year’s 562) and Professional Studies also showed a slight decrease to 1,159 from last year’s comparable date. “We budgeted conservatively, based on the economic difficulties facing many families,” says President Dick Merriman. “This outcome shows that our programs, especially our graduate education program under the direction of Dr. David Hofmeister, are meeting the needs of today’s learners.”

**SC Professional Studies among friendliest to military**

Southwestern College Professional Studies is ranked in the top 15 percent of Military Friendly Schools by G.I. Jobs magazine. The list honors the colleges, universities, and trade schools that are doing the most to embrace America’s veterans as students. “G.I. Jobs is a major publication with program-level learning outcomes. Adults make up nearly 85 percent of all higher education enrollments today,” said Michael Offerman, president emeritus of Capella University and chair of Transparency by Design’s executive committee. “Our goal with the initiative is to enable adults to make informed choices about higher education options by providing them with program-level learning outcomes, measurements, and results that are difficult to find elsewhere.”

**New financial planner aids families**

A division director Marla Sexson sees it all the time. A high school senior in the college search likes Southwestern, but his parents are overwhelmed by the mechanics and uncertainties of financial aid. The “choice” of colleges becomes a quick glance at the bottom line, and Southwestern is crossed off the search list. Stephannie DeLong wants to stop this from happening. DeLong is the new family financial aid counselor in the admission office, and will work with families before their children even start their college search. She will soon complete certification as a family financial aid planner.

“It’s very unusual for a school to have someone in this position,” Sexson says. “Stephanie is going to fill a crucial gap in the financial aid process.”

Working with families as early as the student’s sophomore year, DeLong will help parents understand the unique financial needs of each family. An alumna of Southwestern College and a transfer student, DeLong understands the importance of clear and timely discussions about paying for college.

“She can take these families from A to Z with financial aid planning,” Sexson adds, “and the prospective students won’t be ying with returning students for their attention.”

To talk to Stephanie DeLong about family financial aid planning, contact her at 620-229-6241 or e-mail stephanie.delong@sckans.edu.

**Homecoming 2009 kicks off Great Performances Campaign**

Favorite events are back and a special addition will kick off a capital campaign during Homecoming 2009 Oct. 16-18. The Friday evening all-class reunion dinner will serve as the official opening of the Great Performances campaign. Details of the capital fundraising campaigns will be unveiled at the dinner, and will focus on athletic and performing arts facilities.

“We are extremely excited to finally mark the official opening of the public phase of the Great Performances campaign,” says Mike Farrell, vice president for institutional advancement. “We’ve talked with many individuals about the campaign, but we’re really looking forward to telling everyone about what the campaign will do for the college and inviting them to participate in an important chapter of the college’s history.”

Also honored at the Friday dinner will be members of the class of 1959, classes who graduated 51 or more years ago, and special friends to be honored by the college:

- **Jim Reed ’64, Alumni Award.**
- **Traci Lungren ’84, Young Alumni Award**

Military Friendly Schools will be highlighted in the annual Guide to Military Friendly Schools distributed to hundreds of thousands of active and former military personnel. A new Web site will launch in September with interactive tools and search functionality to assist military veterans in choosing schools that best meet their educational needs.

Criteria for making the Military Friendly Schools list included efforts to recruit and retain military and veteran students, results in recruiting military and veteran students, and academic accreditations. “We’ve been actively collaborating with the service branches for nearly 10 years, so this honor is coupled with a long tradition of serving the voluntary education needs of service members,” Pedersen says.

**Web site compares online options**

Adults looking for an online degree completion program now can compare these options on a Web site that compares the programs on such factors as student satisfaction, progress rate, and other outcomes. Southwestern College Professional Studies is a charter member of this Transparency by Design initiative, which has results in the Web site. Found at www.collegechoicesforadults.org, the site is aimed at the growing population of adult online learners.

“Since the mid ’90s, Southwestern College Professional Studies has been a leader in serving the educational needs of adult learners,” says Karen Pedersen, vice president for Southwestern College Professional Studies, “so being part of this initiative allows us to showcase our strengths and bring forward data that has only been available internally to prospective adult learners worldwide.”

“Adults make up nearly 85 percent of all higher education enrollments today,” said Michael Offerman, president emeritus of Capella University and chair of Transparency by Design’s executive committee. “Our goal with the initiative is to enable adults to make informed choices about higher education options by providing them with program-level learning outcomes, measurements, and results that are difficult to find elsewhere.”

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**SOUTHWESTERNER, SUMMER 2009 3**
New coaches bring youth, experience

Two new coaches have been added to the Southwestern College staff. Matt O’Brien will coach men’s basketball, and Randy Smith ’85 will coach men’s and women’s tennis.

Matt O’Brien was head men’s coach at Central Christian College in McPherson for the past three years, and has proven to be an exceptional recruiter who led the team to the most wins in the school’s history as a four-year college. The O’Brien-coached Tigers played in two consecutive National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) post-season appearances.

“Matt is going to be a great fit for Southwestern,” says athletic director David Denly. “He brings great energy and enthusiasm to the program, and we believe he is an up-and-coming head coach with a lot of potential to lead our program.”

A graduate of Friends University, O’Brien has played basketball against the Moundbuilders in Stewart Field House. He was assistant coach, sports information director, and facilities manager for Friends’ Ron Heller before accepting the head position at Central.

“This is an opportunity to work with a team that has a great tradition with both academic and athletic tradition of excellence,” O’Brien says. “I was most impressed with the interview process and meeting new people.”

The new coach replaces Doug Hall, who left Southwestern to become director of basketball operations at the University of Missouri – Kansas City.

“Following in the footsteps of John Paulin is exciting,” Smith says. “My goal is to build a program that is already in place. Coach Paulin has had so much success I just want to continue what he has built.”

O’Brien-coached Kansas City teams made 11 NCAA Division II post-season appearances. Smith has been named Southwestern College Athletic Hall of Fame inductee.

In 1976, while they were students, the Hall brothers won the All American Flat Bottom boat division of the National Western Heritage Museum & Cowboy Hall of Fame. Hall was honored for her community volunteer work, particularly in the area of health-related issues and the arts. She is currently the co-chair of Central Oklahoma Turning Point, a grass roots health initiative. She also served with Oklahoma First Lady Kim Henry as co-chair of Oklahoma Wellness Week in April 2009. In 2007, when the state launched its Strong and Healthy Oklahoma program, Hall played (and still plays) a key role in promotion of the program statewide.
Voilá! Winslow Viola adds pitch perfection

The Musician

It would be easy to overlook Joseph Jett. This bearded sophomore from Arkansas City speaks quietly and deliberately, choosing his words carefully. He’s medium-sized, not standing out from the crowd of SC students hurrying from Darbeth to dorm.

Put a stringed instrument in his hands, though, and the world stops to listen. He has studied violin since sixth grade, and played in Southwestern’s community symphony since he was a seventh-grader. The strings program (and the opportunity to study with strings professor Daniel Stevens) were a major factor in his choice to attend Southwestern.

And because the music is so striking, the listener might not notice something else about Joseph: Tiny, flesh-colored hearing aids in both ears, the only indication that this talented musician has a moderate hearing loss.

“My grandmother, who raised me, noticed that I was not talking at age five,” Joseph explains, “and the school was preparing to put me in at-risk classes. But when they tested my hearing, they discovered I had a large degree of loss.”

Many children who haven’t begun speaking by age five never do so, or do so imperfectly, even after correction of the hearing loss. Joseph was lucky, and smart: He picked up language quickly, so quickly he was placed in a program for gifted children.

Despite having to overcome the challenges associated with his hearing loss, Jett discovered he had a passion for music in fourth grade when he began playing the piano. Then in sixth grade, he wanted to be part of a group so he started taking violin lessons and joined the beginning orchestra. Soon he was playing violin in the Winfield Regional Symphony Orchestra (sponsored by Southwestern and now known as the South Kansas Symphony).

When it came time to choose a college, even though he knew he wanted to study nursing as a career, Joseph couldn’t bear the thought of giving up music. He enrolled at Southwestern, where he could do both.

But then last summer, the very technology that had given music to Joseph, took music away.

“Hearing aids only last five to eight years,” he explains. “Last summer I had to get new hearing aids, and these were better in the sense that they eliminated background noise and made conversations more understandable. But they left me unable to hear high pitches.”

For a serious violinist, this was a crisis moment. The top notes that are so imperfections for Joseph Jett. With his perception of high notes now distorted, Joseph was unplayable for decades of use.

The Instrument

Patrick Winslow ’59 was a serious musician. In fact, when he and Margaret first married, they lived in New York and he studied viola with a member of the New York Philharmonic. A favorite aunt had given him a century-old Georges Chanot viola, but when Patrick and Margaret finally settled in Las Vegas 20 years later, their a crack ran completely down the top side. The bow had burst and loose horsehair filled the case.

The viola, they were sure, was worthless. Nonetheless, Margaret de- cided to see if it could be salvaged. It was sent to a repair specialist in Houston. Months of work and $7,500 later, the viola had been restored to its previous beauty. Its current appraised value is $80,000. Margaret decided she wanted a Southwestern College student to have the benefit of this treasure; she loaned it to the college strings program, and is providing an annual fund contribution for its upkeep.

Musician and Instrument

The timing could not have been more fortuitous for Joseph Jett. With his perception of high notes now distorted, the viola’s lower range felt squarely in his hearing range. Even before he knew he would need to make the shift, he had begun taking viola lessons from Daniel Stevens and at the end of the last school year did a recital that was half violin, half viola music.

“This viola has a gorgeous, warm sound,” Stevens says. A violinist himself, Stevens says that the Winslow Viola is slightly smaller than many violas, perfect for Joseph’s medium-sized hands. And if the timing was right for Joseph Jett, it also was right for the SC strings program. This is a program that has grown quickly since its revival in 2004. The South Kansas Symphony has doubled in size, and enrollments in both orchestra and band are at their highest levels in years. Last year Stevens recruited an all-state orchestra member to SC, the first he’s signed.

A gift from the Williams family in honor of legendary SC orchestra faculty member Ross Williams led to the founding of the Williams String Quartet. Students recruited to this group receive a stipend for participation on top of their activity grants, performing recitals and at special events. Last year the group lacked a viola player; two violins and a cello were accompanied by piano.

So this year Joseph Jett will be playing the Winslow Viola in the Williams String Quartet. At first he was hesitant about performing on such a valuable instrument.

“But then my high school orchestra director, Shannon Gackstatter, told me that an instrument, no matter what it’s appraised at, is meant to be played or it will atrophy. If it’s not played, it’s just a wooden box with strings,” he says. The musician and the instrument, in perfect harmony.
From move-in day to Opening Convocation, the first week at Southwestern College is a frenzy of activities. Shown here is a sampling from move-in, Builder Camp, Freshman Work Day, Builder Bash, and Moundbuilding.
John Donovan describes himself as a screenwriter/comedian/raconteur. When he spoke for Opening Convocation, though, he seemed more intent on poking the college in the ribs than on inspiring students to achieve.

He took potshots at the college’s name: Southwestern College, he pointed out, apparently was named before there were maps.

And he needled the socially awkward:
The college’s 1:1 ratio of men to women means that everyone can get a date on the weekend – “and if you can’t, it probably means you’re really ugly.”

He made note of “Diva Dawn Pleas-Baily” and her extensive shoe collection, and called out faculty member Alice Bendinelli. “I don’t really have anything to say about her, I just love saying her name,” he said of the Italian-born English professor.

But he turned serious when it was time to close the talk. As a screenwriter he always knows how he wants his story to start and how he wants it to end. The exciting part, Donovan noted, is discovering what’s in between those two things.

“This is your story,” he said. “Fade in.”

Look for more photos of Fall Frenzy 2009 on the web at www.sckans.edu/fallfrenzy09.
**ALUMNI NOTES**

**1940s**
Gilher Nellig ‘49 retired from the Coffeyville Community College Board of Trustees this June. He served two terms (eight years) on the board. He began his career at CCC in 1955 and at the time of his retirement in 1989 he was the director of business services.

**1950s**
Clyde and Lois (Dryden) Vasey ‘51 ‘49 will celebrate their 60th anniversary this summer. Lois and Clyde met in the SC campus cafeteria in Smith Hall in 1948. After retirement, they spent many years in volunteer service, and now reside back in Winfield, just down the road from southwestern.

Lloyd Craig ’55 was recently honored for his 50 years as an employee of the Winfield Daily Courier. Effective in July, he was promoted to the position of publisher of the Courier.

**1960s**
Billie Day ’60 has recently been elected to serve as president of the League of Women Voters in Washington D.C. Billie will serve a two-year term 2009-2011.

Gordon Von Stroh ’63 was recognized for his professional service by being honored with the “Outstanding Service for the Public Good” Award at the 2009 annual academic convocation of the University of Denver faculty.

Dr. Caleb Abbott ’63 has retired after practicing optometry in Marion and Emporia for 43 years. The family tradition of optometry is being carried on by his son, Carl, who is a fourth-generation optometrist.

Joan (Broadie) Feldmeier ’63, Jane (Broadie) Wilson ’63, and Eileen Broadie-Fey ’66 See note on page 4.

J. Keith Lewis ’64 retired after 26 years as finance director for the City of Apache Junction, Ariz.

Vernon ’66 and Cindy Goertz ’66 ’92 received the Community Cornerstone Award for July 2009. Both were commended for their many community works which include serving on several boards and as foster parents for Lady Builder basketball. Vernon and Cindy are the parents of Kelle (Goertz) Thompson ’93.

Jerry Cantrell ’66 retired in June 2009 from the Board of Water Works of Pueblo, Colo., after serving as director of administrative services since 1973. Jerry was city clerk/finance director for the city of Winfield from 1968-1973.

Tom Winters ’68, Sedgwick County commissioner from 1993-2008, was appointed by Kansas Governor Mark Parkinson to the Wichita State University Board of Trustees, effective June 8, 2009. The term of appointment is for three years. Tom will be working with Dr. Don Beggs, president of WSU, and the other trustees to oversee the management of mill levy money collected in Sedgwick County.

Sheryl (Huber) Lloyd ’69 retired in June 2009 after teaching music education for 40 years to students from grades K-6 and college students in Kansans and California.

Katie (Conner) Reese ’69 is the co-author of a book and help kit that she and her brother, Tim Conner, have created. It is called “Who Goes to the Door... and Then What?” This was created to help companies and organizations prepare to competently and compassionately carry out the notification of family members when an employee has been injured or killed at the workplace. Their career backgrounds have prepared them to do this: Tim is a consultant for global corporations, many of which are oil companies where emergency management is a part of the culture of the company. Katie is a hospice social worker.

John Esche ’69 is an attorney and writer of occasional liner notes for theatre recordings, but most of his time is spent teaching courses in Cultural History, Writing and Communication, and seminars on G.B. Shaw and Mystery Writing at New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark. This fall will mark his ninth year there. His partner of 27 years, Jim Dwyer, is also a practicing attorney.

**1970s**
Danny Parker ’71 was recently hired as police chief for the Winfield Police Department. Parker served with the Wichita Police Department for 22 years. Most recently he was the police chief for Concordia.

Jim Helmer ’71 was interviewed in July 2009 for the Sunflower State, a part of the Wichita Eagle Blog. The interviewer focused on the fact that this year Coach Helmer will be trying to lead his Southwestern College cross country team to victory for the 30th league title in a row.

Jo Lynn (Skaggs) McWilliams ’76 attended the American Society of Safety Engineers 2009 Conference in San Antonio, Texas, representing the Wichita Chapter of ASSE as an chapter officer and delegate and representing Spirit AeroSystems. Jo Lynn accepted the Chapter Star award for the Wichita Chapter. The Chapter Star award recognizes chapters that give their members superior service and programs to advance continued professional growth.

Dr. Randall L. Duncan ’77 was named the chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Delaware on Jan. 1, 2009. He recently completed his two-year term as chair of the Skeletal Biology, Development and Disease Study Section of the National Institutes of Health.

**BIRTHS**
A daughter, Samantha Gene, born June 9, 2009, to Barton G. and Julie (Leonard) Oestreich ’92. Samantha has a big brother, Isaac David (8).

A son, Cian James, born July 29, 2009, to Caleb and Kysa (Nelson) Hass ’97 ’98. Cian has a brother, Kaden Lee (7) and a sister, Kaiya Hay (3).

A daughter, Adalia Jane, born July 28, 2009, to David ’97 and Joanna Brazil. Grandparents are Rev. William ’66 and Lynda Brazil.

A daughter, Hayden Linnie Ann, born June 8, 2009, to Bryan and Judy (Stine) Haynes ’96. Hayden has a big sister, Harper Katherine (6).

A daughter, Kennedy Beth, born May 12, 2009, to Patrick ’98 and Kenna Whelply.

A daughter, Jysiljia Jo, born May 3, 2009, to Mike and JoLynn (Dennett) Parsons ’98. Grandparents are Vernon and Susan (Jones) Dennett ’71.

A daughter, Isabel Doraetea, born July 5, 2009, to Joquint and Megan (Cruit) Zapata ’98.

Twin girls, McKeenna Rose and Brennan Elizabeth, born June 8, 2009 to Elliott and Mary (Black) Loftis ’99. Big sister Katie (5) welcomed them home.

Mike Brummett ’79 was recognized as a Master Teacher at the Greensburg (Kan.) High School graduation ceremony. This award is given to those who make a difference in the lives of school children. Brummett has been teaching band and vocal music at Bucklin since 1984.

Ed Popplewell ’79 completed his first year as Winfield Viking head baseball coach, during which he led the high school team to its best season since 1999. Popplewell was voted AV-CTL II Co-Coch of the Year, along with Newton’s Mark George.

**1980s**
Ruth (Jacobs) Gordon ’80 ’98 is retiring after 10 years as a social worker with Social and Rehabilitative Services. Prior to working for SRS, Ruth spent 24 years at the Winfield State Hospital and Training Center.

Wayne and Kathy (Kahr) Bodkins ’82 ’84 celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary July 24, 2009. Kathy teaches at Whittier Elementary School and Wayne is a dispatcher for the Winfield Police Department.

Ed Kingsley ’84 graduated in May 2009 with a master’s degree in teaching from Friends University. Ed continues to teach high school biology and junior high science at USD 439 (Sedgwick), and coaches high school cross country and golf, and junior high girls basketball.

**Marion Everson: Supporter of the arts**

Marian (Deever) Everson ’38 died Aug. 11 at age 92. She is survived by her husband, Claude, and four children. Music was a focus throughout Marian’s life as both performer and educator, beginning when she played piano (by ear) for her kindergarten class. She and her sister had their own half-hour variety radio program in their teens and she had the leads in her high school musicals. With her beautiful soprano voice, she was a soloist and voice teacher wherever she lived. She was an eighth-grade teacher. A highlight of her life was a favorable audition with Maestro Pellegrini of the Metropolitan Opera. She taught adult music education, parenting classes, and was a substitute high school teacher in Santa Clara County, Calif. Marian continued to support the arts at Southwestern College throughout her life by sponsoring scholarships for music students.
Karen Craig ’84 has been selected to perform in the Scottia Music Festival held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Musicians were selected through a professional competitive audition and represent many different countries.

Karla Jo (McCollum) Farmer ’84 has been elected and installed as the 2009-2010 Kansas state chapter president of the P.E.O. Sisterhood. P.E.O. is an international philanthropic educational organization whose mission is promoting educational opportunities for women. Dorothy (Higginsbottom) Flottman ’46 also attended the 107th annual convention of Kansas State Chapter in June.

Charles Elder ’84 continues in his 15th year as press and public relations manager for Bournemount University, on the south coast of England. Bournemount was recently named the top “new” university in the country. As of June 2009, Charles has lived “across the pond” for 25 years. He encourages any Moundbuilders traveling to the UK to look him up!

Les Cowger ’85 was married to Kimberly Ann Cowger on June 27, 2009. They live in Englewood, Colo., with their three children, Coryn, Keenan, and Christopher.

Bell (Goff) Pingel ’89 recently graduated with her master’s degree 20 years after receiving her bachelor’s degree from Southwestern.

---1990s---

Paul McDonald ’91 has joined Wadde- dell & Reed as a financial advisor in the Overland Park area. In his new position, Paul will help develop customized financial plans, recommend investment strategies, and counsel clients throughout the area.

Phil Moorhouse ’92 is currently deployed to the Maywand Province of southern Afghanistan. In July 2009, he was singled out for recognition during a visit by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, for his work developing a Theater Ca- sualty Tracking System for U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

Debra (Wright) Richards ’94 ’03, and her husband, Mark, moved to Rochester, Minn., where Debra ac- cepted a job as a nurse supervisor at Mayo Clinic in the Baldwin Primary Care Clinic. She oversees the daily management of more than 65 nurses in primary medicine.

Sandra Gasca ’94 began duties in July 2009 as president of operations, in Nebraska, for KVC Behavioral HealthCare, Inc. She will be work- ing in a similar social service system as that of Youthville, Wichita, where she was previously employed. The new position system covers 19 counties and includes the Lincoln and Omaha area. Her role will be to join current KVC administration to help build teams of professionals and create programs that will enrich and enhance the lives of children and families.

Deborah (Shaffer) Mattal ’96 was recently promoted to supervisor/qualifi- fied mental health professional at the Sedgwick County Offender Assessment Program. This program works with people whose mental illness leads to incar- ceration or other legal entanglement.

Kerrie (Parsons) Bryant ’97 was awarded a US Cellular teacher grant. Bryant is a first grade teacher at Lowell Elementary School in Winfield. She will use the grant to purchase 10 Vi- sion Tracking Tubes for her classroom. Bryant has many students who have visual tracking issues and the tubes will allow them to do visual exercises that will improve their ability to focus and improve brain function.

Ruth (Jacobs) Gordon ’80 ’98 is re- tiring after 10 years as a social worker with Social and Rehabilitative Ser- vices. Prior to working for SRS, Ruth spent 24 years at the Winfield State Hospital and Training Center.

2000s---

Shawn and Carrie (Cook) Papon ’99 ’00 are living in Waupun, Wis., where Shawn is a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Fox River and Horicon National Wildlife Refuges. He completed his master’s degree in wildlife science at the University of Missouri in Decem- ber 2002.

John and Stacie (Frale) Nelson ’00 ’02 have moved to Winfield where John has accepted a position with the Winfield Veterinary Hospital as an associate veterinarian. They have three daughters, Chloe (4), Lydia (2½), and Hannah (1).

Chris Brunnett ’01 is in his sec- ond year as head golf professional at Highland Golf and Country Club in Indianapolis, Ind. Jamie (Carpen- ter) Brunnett ’01 has completed her medical residency in emergency medicine through the Indiana Univer- sity School of Medicine and is joining a group in Avon, Ind. (See also Births.)

Kay Helmer ’01 was recently sworn in as a member of VISTA, the nearly 40-year-old national service program dedicated to helping fight poverty in the United States. Helmer has been assigned to the Butler Homeless Initiative to help open an emergency shelter for Butler County citizens who are homeless.

Christin Schmidt ’01 married Seth Parrish on April 25, 2009, in Junction City. They now live in Mission, Kan.

Jeffrey Lowe ’01, an attorney in Wichita, was co-author of an article published in the May 2009 issue of the Journal of the Kansas Association for Justice. The article dealt with Kansas fam- ily law, pertaining to the adoption of a child for a same-sex couple after a divorce. It was later included in the 2010 amendments to the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act.

Lindsay Nusz ’02 recently finished her teaching credentials at Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village, Nev., earning a 4.0. She is now work- ing on her thesis for a master’s degree in teaching and will be finished this spring. Currently, Lindsay teaches at the Clark County School District in Las Vegas.

Gloria Tham ’02 has joined the music faculty of Cowley County Com- munity College.

Ali Wait ’02 recently graduated from KU School of Medicine. She has moved to Roanoke, Va., to begin a general surgery residency.

Seth Roach ’03 received a Master of Music Education in May 2009 from Emporia State University.

Brooke Denney ’05 recently accepted an adjunct mathematics teaching posi- tion on the Southwestern College main campus. Brooke is engaged to Robert Istrail, and will be married in May 2010.

Sunni Sheets ’07 has been hired to head Cowley County Community College’s graphic design program.

Norman Callison: Actor, teacher, innovator

Norman Callison ’63, who pioneered innovative theatre during a 13-year stint on the faculty at his alma mater, died Aug. 5 of bladder cancer. He was 68.

Callison performed his final role at Southwestern in December, when he inter- preted the death of “Old Shepherd” in Eugene O’Neill’s “Ah, Wilderness!” in December. He had accepted the role knowing that his cancer was terminal.

“We all have to learn how to die, and maybe this will help,” he told Roger Moon, director of theatre.

Callison joined the faculty of Southwestern in 1965, and directed The Sound of Music the following spring. The next fall, he married his leading lady, Roxy Clark ’69. His tenure at Southwestern was marked by transition and innovation:

“He joined the faculty at the peak years of an oratorical, grand style of the- atre,” says Moon, who studied under Callison. “He helped move us into a modern, diverse style that really sought to reach the people.”

In the spring of 1972 Norman took a troupe of 14 SC students to the Pacific on a USO tour for the U.S. State Department, a first for Southwestern College. Part of the fundraising for that trip included performing the first collegiate dinner theatre in the area. The following spring Norman and Roxy created the Walnut Valley Horsefest and Appleseed Last Annual Summer Dinner Theatre Programme. Norman continues to produce this effort through the summer of 1978.

“When you think of Norm, you have to think of the first,”’ Roxy says. Callison also was a teacher at Winfield High School for 22 years, directing plays and musicals along with his duties teaching English and humanities.

Survivors include Roxy; and daughters Amanda Porter ’91, Jessica Fisher ’92, and Aggie McAsteller; brothers Danny and ’70 and Keith; and son-in-law Lael Porter ’90, and sister-in-law Patty (Houtz) ’71.

Above: Norman played the Stage Manager in SC’s 2005 production of Our Town.

“...everybody knows in their bones that something is eternal, and that something has to do with human beings.”

Stage Manager, Act II, Our Town

Sheets spent more than seven years working as a graphic designer at Southwestern College.

Caleb Hartman ’07 and Leah Rankin ’07 ’08 were married July 25 at First United Methodist Church in Winfield. The reception was in the SC dining hall. The Hartmans currently live in Kansas City—Caleb is work- ing as a teacher and coach in Ark City, and Leah is an admission counselor at Southwestern.

Michael Stolze ’07 and Hayley Holthus ’07 were married on July 11, 2009. Both are in the process of com- pleting their master’s degrees - Michael in philosophy at KU, Hayley in public health at the KU Medical Center.

Kaeli Podschen ’07 married Delonte Harrod on Jan. 10, 2009. The Harrods make their home in Trenton, N.J.

Joseph Hamlett ’07 graduated summa cum laude in September 2008 from TUI University with an MBA degree in information technology management. He is currently attend-

Alumni Notes continued on page 10.
By Ashlee Alley ’98, Campus Minister

headed to Southwestern College, as a freshman expecting to get a good education in a Christian environment. What I did not expect was to be called to ministry. My junior year I strayed from my normal biology classes and took a New Testament class, “for fun.” I remember Steve (Rankin) keeping me after class the day I did an exegetical presentation and asking me the question that stopped me in my tracks: “Have you ever thought about seminary?” To him, it was a simple question. To me, it was a watershed moment. For the first time in my life, I actually entertained the idea that perhaps God had different vocational plans for me than I had thought. Ultimately, the idea of being called to ministry in the college years is not isolated. Thousands of others in the United Methodist Church have also heard a call to ministry through their Wesley Foundation or other ministry on campus. In fact, in order to find some of these folks, my campus ministry colleague, Creighton Alexander, pastor of young adults at New City/ Central United Methodist Church in Kansas City, and I started a Facebook Group called “United Methodist Campus Ministry – Raising Up Christian Leaders” and have discovered over 850 people who heard a call to ministry through campus ministry! One of four areas of strategic focus that was adopted by the United Methodi st General Conference in 2008 was “developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world.” I can think of no better place to find these leaders than on college campuses. Every year thousands of students across the United States are introduced to relationship with Christ and serving in ministry through the auspices of their Wesley Foundation, campus ministry at the United Methodist Church-related college, or local church with an emphasis on collegiate ministry. Some of these students become leaders. Some of these leaders feel a call to ministry. And some of the called go on to seminary and prepare for ordination in the United Methodist Church. There is simply nowhere else in the world that has more potential young leaders than on our college campuses. Would it not make sense to put our brightest and our best servants of the church in this fallow ground? Of the 17 million students who will head to college this fall, are we as a church offering the heart of the gospel to a population looking for answers? These questions, and others, impel us to do more than just ask the questions. They impel us to pray. Starting Aug. 17, several of us in campus ministry are calling the United Methodist Church to prayer for 40 days with the goal of witnessing to United Methodist campus ministries as being vital centers of vocational calling, celebrating new clergy and new lay ministers who will answer God’s call over the coming decades, and praying for our campus ministries in the start of the 2009-2010 school year.

The prayers will extend from Aug. 17-Sept. 25, in conjunction with the first six weeks of school for many universities. As the new school year is launched, we are praying that campus ministers and students will be intentionally sustained by prayer. Our hope is that board of directors of Wesley Foundations, pastors of neighboring congregations, grandparents with grandchildren in college, campus ministers themselves, and anyone who wants to see a revitalization in the United Methodist Church will join us in the prayer effort. The prayers can be found at www.col legeunion.org/prayer.

(Condensed from the September 2009 issue of Good News magazine.)

Mabel V. (Simons) Fox '30, died June 22, 2009. She is survived by two sons, James F. Fox and Steven L. Fox.

Glee (Young) Albright '37 died June 13, 2009, at the age of 94. She was a fourth-grade teacher at Mount Hope Elementary School from 1960 to 1980.

Donald R. Coe '38 died on July 9, 2009, in Plains, Mont., at age 94. For 44 years, Don was owner, publisher, editor, and everything else for the weekly newspaper in Plains, The Plainman. He served as the president of the Montana Press Association and twice traveled to the White House in a representative role for that position.


Edward Baxter '43 died April 17, 2009. He was a sales manager for 35 years.

Paschal Jackson '53 died July 2, 2009. He served on the faculty at Woods Academy in Bartlett, Ill. He was a retired secondary school counselor. He is survived by his son, Bill '68, and his wife, Linda (Petit) '60. Contributions may be made to the Willard and Tula Franks Memorial Scholarship Fund at Southwestern College.

Brad Light '45 died Oct. 18, 2008.

Clarence Mason '48 died Feb. 11, 2009.

Esther Beth (Forryth, Winters) Funk '54 died July 2, 2009.

Franklin Barnett '59 died June 27, 2009.

Helen (Shaff, Foster) Rose '61 died May 15, 2009. She was an elementary school teacher, as well as a master gardener who always had a showcase of beautiful flower beds.

Billy Joe McLean '63, Nowata, Okla., died May 28, 2009. He loved being on the water, boating and fishing. He also loved history and studied the Kansas Cavalry. Billy was a retired member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Survivors include his wife, Diana.


Pam Barton '74 died of kidney cancer on May 25, 2009, after a brief illness. She was a beloved teacher of special education children at the Clare Woods Academy in Bartlett, Ill.

Rick Liby '70, Denver, died unexpectedly in his sleep on April 23, 2009, at the age of 40, due to an undiagnosed and untreated enlarged heart. During his time at SC, Rick was crowned an Ugly Man and excelled in debate. He graduated from the University of Kansas School of Law, and spent 12 years practicing worker's compensation law in Wichita. In 2005, he married long-time friend Shari Willis (on his snowboard) at Vail and the two moved to Denver where Rick joined the firm of Ruegsegger Simons Smith & Stern. Shari survives him.

Diana Casebolt-Hayes '85 '05 died May 12, 2009, following her nine-month battle with leukemia. She was vice president for Independent Living for Larksfield Place in Wichita. Survivors include her husband, Robert.

Julia Dillard '99 died July 15, 2009, after battling a very aggressive form of cancer. She had worked for Rubbermaid, for the Winfield State Hospital and Training Center, and for Binney & Smith. At the time of her death she was a sergeant at the Winfield Correctional Facility. Survivors include her husband, Jim.

Russell Barner died June 19, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Kathy (Walker) Barner '65.

Donis J. Boles, longtime friend of the college and wife of Dr. Hobart Paul Boles '39, died May 2, 2009.

Kay Burgess died June 7, 2009. Among survivors are her daughters, Lorna (Burgess) Davis '97 and Abigail (Burgess) Robinson '97.

Lois (Denton) Cromley died April 29, 2009. Among survivors is her son, Timothy Tong '96.

Carroll Cuffman died May 21, 2009. Among survivors is his son, Ronald '64.

Vivian (Smith) Drake died May 12, 2009. Among survivors is her daughter, Susan (Drake) Houghton '73.

Ruth (Nichols) Edmonds died May 7, 2009. She was preceded in death by her husband, Albert Edmonds '50.

Douglas Fell died June 27, 2009. Survivors include his sons Mike '77, Tom '86 and his daughter, Sheryl '84.

Warren Fitzpatrick died May 1, 2009. Surviving is his son, Warren Lee '96.

Lola (Miller) Foust died May 5, 2009. Among survivors is her son, Gary Foust '60.

Dora Graham died May 22, 2009. Among survivors is her son, Steven Graham '99.

Joe Gremban died Oct. 1, 2008. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Veola Jane (Smith) Gremban '45.

Sarah Ann Mason died Nov. 4, 2008. She is survived by her husband, Max L. Mason '65.

Rev. Dr. Glenn Matthew died June 13, 2009. Survivors include his wife, Eva Matthew, daughter, Jodi (Matthew) Ediger '68, and son, Steve '71.

Sarah Ann Mason died Nov. 4, 2008. She is survived by her husband, Max L. Mason '65.

Jack McDade died June 14, 2009. Among survivors is his son, Dennis McDade '83.

Cathi Mohr, Professional Studies advisor, died May 20, 2009.

Dr. Bernard A. Nickell, friend of Southwestern, died July 8, 2009. He practiced optometry in Winfield from 1949 through 1993, and was a generous donor to Southwestern College.

Lorena Pack died June 22, 2009. Among survivors is her daughter, Bwana (Pack) Drennan '82.

Wendell Rivers died May 9, 2009. He was preceded in death by his brother, Roland Rivers '77.

Constance Senneman died May 19, 2009, in a car accident. She is survived by her two children, Carol Senneman-Gormann '85 and Greg Senneman '91.

Elizabeth Snider died June 6, 2009. Among survivors is her sister, Katrina Tamsen '82.

Wendy Will died June 11, 2009, after a courageous battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband, Kevin Will '80.

Janice Williams died May 28, 2009. Survivors include her daughter, Stephanie Hider '92, and her sister, Denise (Shay) Downum '79.
FACES 2009 | Southwestern Homecoming | October 16-18
Reunion years ending in “4” and “9”

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16
10 a.m. | Jinx Invitational Golf Tourney, Winfield Country Club.
12 noon | Class of 1969 Welcome Luncheon
2 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Registration and class photos.
3 and 3:30 p.m. | Campus Tours, Pounds Lounge.
5:30-7:30 p.m. | All-Class Homecoming Dinner & Great Performances Campaign Kick-Off, Stewart Field House.
8 p.m. | *Theatre Production, The Norman Conquests: Trilogy 3, Messenger Recital Hall.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17
8-10 a.m. | Alumni Registration & Coffee, Pounds Lounge.
9 a.m. | Class of 1959 Continental Breakfast, lobby of old Fox Theatre, 1107 Main.
10 a.m. | Homecoming Parade, Main Street.
11:15 a.m. | Outreach Worship Service, south patio, Roy L. Smith Student Center.
11:30-1 p.m. | *Homecoming Picnic, Stewart Field House. Registration continues.
12 noon-1 p.m. | President’s Luncheon for 50+ years alumni at Country Club.
12:30-4 p.m. | Fine Arts Reception, Daniel Fine Arts Center, east lobby.
4-5 p.m. | Communications & English Reunion, Olin Hall lower level.
5 p.m. | Alumni Soccer Game, SC Soccer Field.
5:30-7 p.m. | *Class Reunion Gatherings (child care available), see online schedule.
5:30 p.m. | Campus Players Dinner/Callison Years, The Barns at Timber Creek.
7:30 p.m. | All Campus Players Alumni Reception, The Barns at Timber Creek.
7:30 p.m. | Soccer Alumni Reunion Social, The Ridge Restaurant.
8 p.m. | Kaleidoscope fine arts production, Richardson Auditorium.
8 p.m. | 1999 and 2004 Class Reunion Socials, O’Kelley’s Sports Bar & Grill.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18
9:30 a.m. | *Alumni Breakfast Buffet, Roy L. Smith Dining Hall.
10 a.m. | Homecoming Worship Service at Grace United Methodist Church, with Dr. Melvin Cheatham ’55, guest speaker.
11:15 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Lunch at Cumbernauld Village Retirement Community.
2, 3, and 7:30 p.m. | *Theatre Production, The Norman Conquests. The three parts of the trilogy can be seen in their entirety or individually. Messenger Recital Hall.
* Indicates a cost is involved

Please check the alumni Web site for complete details: www.sckans.edu/homecoming