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Dear friends,

Popular media, elected officials, think tank pundits, and other opinion shapers have recently unleashed a torrent of arguments questioning the value of a college degree and complaining about the “skyrocketing” cost of higher education. An awful lot of it is baloney.

On page 11 of this issue, we’ve presented Southwestern’s perspective on this argument. I hope you will find it interesting, but more importantly, I hope you will look for opportunities to talk up Southwestern with students, parents, and family members who are preparing for college. We have a great story to tell, and we’re not going to hide our light under a bushel (of baloney). Lux Esto!

Thanks for all you do for Southwestern.

Best regards,

Dick Merriman, President

PS. On page 10 of this issue, there is information for your use in telling us about a prospective Southwestern student. Tell us about someone you know (young person or adult) who ought to know more about the college. We’ll take it from there.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I’ve been at Southwestern College for four years now, and I run into Builders everywhere – in the check-out line of the grocery store, on airplanes, on the golf course, once even when I was on vacation in Mexico. All of these Builders have the same two questions for me: “How is the college doing?” and “What can I do to help?”

The answer to the first question is simple. As we tell prospective students, the college is doing great, with exciting new programs and facilities, and traditions that keep growing after 126 years. Tell the kid from down the block about the view of the Walnut Valley from the 77 Steps.

From my perspective, the answer to the second question is also simple: Talk about the college to young people. Let the kids in your church know what a great experience you had at Southwestern. Mention to the teen-aged children of your friends that SC is an affordable alternative to public universities, a place you can finish a degree in four years.

Tell the kid from down the block about the view of the Walnut Valley from the 77 Steps.

Then let us know that you’ve talked about the college, and with whom. My e-mail address is marla.sexson@sckans.edu and if you send us the names of these outstanding young people, we’ll follow up. We’ll take good care of them, and they need to be Builders.

Best regards,

Marla Sexson
Vice President for Enrollment Management

Southwestern College President
Dick Merriman

The Southwesterner
Sara Severance Weinert, editor; Susan Burdick, graphic designer; Susan Olsen ’94, news bureau; Terry E. Quirt ’94, Web producer; Alyssa Harshfield ’12, coordinator of social media; Susan Love ’95, director of alumni programs; Robin Crain, alumni notes coordinator.

Published quarterly by Southwestern College, 100 College St., Winfield, KS 67156-2499. Periodicals postage paid at Winfield, KS, and additional mailing office.

Board of Trustees


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100 College St., Winfield, KS 67156-2499
Happy Birthday to Etcyl!

Happy Birthday to Etcyl Blair '47

New certificate program built in ‘perfect storm’

It isn’t often that a college offers a new academic program that is both timely and topical, and even more rare when this program is not offered by other institutions.

But Southwestern College’s new Rural Health Care Administration certificate fits this “perfect storm” description, says Pamela Monaco, vice president for Professional Studies.

Approved by the Board of Trustees during their October 2012 meeting, the 18-hour program is aimed at administrators of health care facilities in rural areas – not only hospitals, but also nursing homes, critical access facilities, and other health care facilities. Enrollment has begun for classes that will start in spring 2013. Course focuses will include leadership, engaging with the community by an alumnus or friend of the institution, special recognition from the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education in 2009. Dawn has been an administrator at Southwestern since 1994. In her current role she also serves as special assistant to the president for community engagement. In this role she has built special relationships with several schools in Wichita that serve first generation, low socio-economic and ethnic minority students.

Her efforts at Stuckey Middle School have resulted in a partnership between the college and Stucky that encourages these students to aspire to college educations. She has organized summer academic camps on the SC campus for the middle school and high school students and fostered mentor- ing relationships between Southwestern College students and these students.

Dawn Pleas-Bailey is joined by the hon. C. Darnell Jones ’72 during the presentation of a University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education award for leadership. Pleas-Bailey earned her doctorate at the UPGSE, and Jones teaches at Penn. PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Penn honors SC’s VP for student life Dawn Pleas-Bailey

Marla Sexson, who has led Southwestern College’s admission efforts for four years, has been promoted to vice president for enrollment management.

According to President Dick Merriman, the promotion formalized Sexson’s increasing responsibility for the strategic directions of main campus recruitment.

“Student recruitment is changing rapidly and private colleges face some unique challenges,” Merriman pointed out. “Marla responds well to change and has both the technical know-how and instincts to lead in an environment like this.”

A graduate of Fort Hays State University and Newman University, Sexson was dean of admissions and financial aid at Newman. In 2005 she became executive director of admissions at Friends, and in 2008 was named SC director of admissions.

Sexson’s husband, Brad, is SC golf coach. They have two children.

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Defending champions

Fielding a national champion in a single sport is unusual at a NAIA college, with nearly 300 schools competing in the 23 sports. Fielding a national champion in two sports is even more rare.

But Southwestern College started the 2012-13 academic year with two teams that had been named national champions by the NAIA: The men’s basketball and the men’s golf teams were the top squads in the NAIA Champions of Character award competition.

Obviously this doesn’t get the same publicity or have the same emotional impact as a championship you win on the playing floor, says Matt O’Brien, but the award recognizes one of his primary goals as men’s basketball coach—that of shaping a team whose members are prepared for the future as well as for current competition.

Launched in 2000, the Champions of Character program has the ambitious goal of changing the culture of sport. With college athletes often carrying a reputation (earned or unearned) of being the pampered elite on campuses, the program’s mission is “to provide training to instill the values that build character so students, coaches and parents know, do and value the right thing on and off the field,” NAIA information explains. This is done by emphasizing five core values—respect, responsibility, integrity, sportsmanship, and servant leadership.

These emphases have dovetailed with Southwestern’s emphasis on service learning and community involvement. The 16 members of the men’s and women’s golf teams, for example, held an April clinic for Special Olympians participants at the Sierra Hills Golf Club in Wichita.

“We didn’t know what kind of physical or mental disabilities the participants would have,” coach Brad Sexson explains, “and I think some of our team members were a little apprehensive because there were a couple of our kids who expected to be uncomfortable around the disabilities.”

Instead, the golf teams and the Special Olympians bonded quickly.

“By the end of the day my golfers were talking about how much fun the kids they were working with were,” he says.

The golf event was only one example of the athletes’ volunteer work in the championship year. Like hundreds of other Builders (both athletes and non-athletes), the teams participated in the 2011 Numana food packaging project that prepared meals for more than 10,000 people in third-world countries.

The college again turned out to fight hunger this fall when 267 Southwestern College students, faculty, and staff teamed up to package and deliver 1,000 bags of food for the Homecoming Hunger Project.

The event was hosted by the service learning organizations at Southwestern. Students from all athletic teams, student life, student government, performing arts, and the service learning teams were in attendance.

The food supplements the “Backpacks for Kids” program at USD 465, which provides weekend meals for children who have been identified as food insecure. The bags of food also include a hand-written letter from a college student as encouragement.

O’Brien’s basketball squad also worked with other projects including a reading program for children at a local elementary school, chaperoning of a Halloween party for Big Brothers & Big Sisters, raising money for the Samaritan’s Feet movement, and participation in the Coaches vs. Cancer initiative.

“President (Dick) Merriman talks a lot about intentionality in what we’re doing. It’s important to me to be intentional in teaching our young men how to serve their communities,” O’Brien says. “This kind of participation builds resumes—they’ll find that to employers, playing basketball for four years may not be as impressive as six community service projects. The goal for my program is to be able to offer employers good, quality young men.”

The coach says this resonates with prospective players who are both bright and motivated—and with the parents of those players.

“Our team had the fourth highest grade point average in the nation two years ago, and last year we had a cumulative 3.0,” he points out. “We’re achieving at a very high level.”

Sexson agrees.

“We don’t do a lot of things to toot our own horns, but when we achieve something like the top Champions of Character award—we, the team was excited, but I think I was even more excited.”

Generosity, service important to Buxterbaughs

It’s tough for Jim Buxterbaugh to fit in a few minutes for an interview during the middle of November.

That’s when Veterans Day activities kick in for this Vietnam Navy vet— he cooks biscuits and gravy for veterans at his church, then goes over plans for a community commemoration, while1 ironing out final details of a ham-and-bean dinner at the American Legion post. It’s the kind of community service folks in Winfield have come to expect from this 1971 SC graduate. Generosity combined with hard work that have made an important contribution in his adopted home town.

A native of Erie, Pa., Jim came to Winfield after completing his military service.

“My brother (Richard) lived in Winfield, and told me that if I wanted to go to Southwestern I could live in his basement,” Jim remembers with a laugh. “The GI Bill exactly covered my tuition and books—$150 a month,” and a second shift job at Bine- ney & Smith took care of the remainder of his expenses.

Although there were not a lot of veterans on campus, this new generation of post-military students tended to be goal-driven and direct.

“These beanies we were supposed to wear? I think I wore mine for just a few days, and thought it was kind of pecular,” Jim remembers.

The maturity and discipline he had developed in the Navy continued through his college years. He had married Charlotte, an Arkansas City native, in 1969 and held jobs at Goot Manufacturing and Snyder Clinic before establishing his own real estate and insurance agency in 1977.

As the firm became one of Winfield’s business bulwarks, Jim and Charlotte began supporting Southwestern as annual fund donors. As regular participants in the Builder fund, their contributions are used for scholarships, faculty support, and other college expenses.

“I know what it’s like to need money to pay for school,” Jim says with a laugh. Then, with a twinkle in his eye, he adds, “Plus, I want these students to be able to earn enough money to pay for my Social Security.”

Jim is beginning to step back now from the day-to-day operations of Buxterbaugh and Handlin, and Jim and Charlotte’s daughter, Laura Buxterbaugh-Bradbury, is taking over leadership of the firm. (Laura also is co-owner of Bradbury Kitchen and Home, and the Buxterbaughs’ son, Matthew, is an Episcopal priest living in New Brunswick, N.J.)

Still, Jim and Charlotte aren’t retiring from active community service. Jim is the vice chairman of the Kansas Commission on Veterans’ Affairs (he’s been appointed several times) and is a past national officer of the American Legion. He has chaired the Winfield Association of Realtors, been commander of the Winfield American Legion Post 10 and the local Veterans of Foreign Wars, and was an early recipient of the local First Citizens Award. He also was inducted into the Southwestern College Business Hall of Fame. Charlotte (who has worked for the postal service for 25 years) is president of Kansas Church Women United.

“SC means a lot to this community,” Jim explains. “If you’re a businessman, you appreciate being able to contribute to that enrichment, but any time you give to a non-profit it’s a feel-good thing. We’re glad to have the chance to support my alma mater, and to help it continue and grow.”
In her actions and words she made a new reality possible
In 1 Samuel 25 we are first introduced to Nabal,
a very rich owner of land and flocks in Judah
We should be alerted by his name; it means “fool”
But we are further told that he is surly and mean
As his actions will prove he is self serving and lacking in hospitality and generosity
Then there is David; we already know him in the story of 1 Samuel
His name may mean “beloved” and he is “the man after God’s own heart.”
At this point in the story he is a fugitive from the jealousy of King Saul
He and his 600 men have been hiding in hill country near Nabal’s flocks
Even Nabal’s own shepherds later tell Abigail enthusiastically that
David’s men have protected their flocks from wild beasts and thieves
David sends 10 men to ask on a feast day for Nabal to share some provision of
food with his men
But Nabal treats them with contempt
He claims David is a nobody; no better than an escaped slave
Now at this point we might think the story is clear;
there’s a good guy and a bad guy
A fool and a beloved
David reacts to the report of his men with anger
He had his men strap on swords and he sets out with 400 of them
He vows to leave no male alive in all of Nabal’s household
Here is the problem, in David’s time and in our own
Sometimes it’s hard to tell the difference between the self-centered fool
and the hotheaded righteous
They both set courses that lead to division, suffering and
destruction of community
They stand at the extremes of individualistic entitlement and
self righteousness over reaction
But the difference is Abigail it is telling that
when the shepherds realize that David is bent on vengeance they
come to her and not to Nabal
She gathers ample provisions on donkeys and rushes to intercept
David on the road
Here she becomes both David’s teacher and our own
From the very beginning of her speech she poses the issues in terms of what
God is doing and how David’s actions (and our own) must serve what God intends
Those who would serve God cannot afford to speak and act first and then ask
after God’s will
But God’s purposes are larger than the impulses of the moment
David cannot become God’s intended king and be seen as a man who
returns folly for folly
Secondly, Abigail rightly sees that power and responsibility cannot be placed into
the hands of those who have blood on their own hands
Then as now, people of faith like Abigail, dare to ask a higher standard of those
in whom power and authority is entrusted
We should like Abigail be voices against returning foolish mean
spiritedness with our own dirty tricks
Like Abigail, we demand respect and engagement to resolve differences
Like Abigail, we trust to the Lord at work in all of life and seek to align
ourselves with that work
Compassion and not vengeance
Engagement and not superiority
Respect and not caricature
Abigail refused to stand by and simply accept the unfolding disastrous events
She believed God wanted her to make a difference
To make a different reality possible
Like Abigail, we do not need to be content with the status quo and its conflicts
We can become peacemakers in a world given to conflict between extremes
Fools may in fact never be brought around to wisdom
The righteous may insist on acting like the sinners we all are
But the vocation of the peacemaker is to stand in between, witnessing to the alter -
native of God’s way when the ways of the world so often return evil for good
God stands between the folly of those who insist on living only out of their own
self-centered nature and the sin of those who may act on impulse but can
be called into a life more consistent with God’s kingdom
Like Abigail, we can become the allies of God in this work in times of
challenging, even dangerous, divisions
Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God
Homecoming day 2012 dawned with rain and lightning but outside of a cancelled parade, the weather didn’t keep SC alumni and friends from celebrating the weekend.

Special awards were presented by President Dick Merriman to Ambassador Award winner Bill Docking (shown at left), Young Alumni Award recipient Bradley Newell and Outstanding Alumni Mike Lennen.

The Sunday morning Homecoming service at Grace United Methodist Church featured the A Cappella Choir and SC alumnus Bruce Birch ’62. See excerpts from Birch’s sermon on page 5 of this issue.

To see more photos from Homecoming 2012 and from the theatre presentation of The Miser, check out the gallery at skans.edu/Homecoming
Enthusiastic crowds saw the crowning of Homecoming royalty Kaley Rodriguez (opposite center top) and Colton McNinch (here) during halftime of a football win over Friends University.
Blaine Babb ’62 was inducted into the Independence Community College Pirate Athletic Hall of Fame on Sept. 15, 2012. Blaine graduated from Independence Junior College in 1960 before attending Southwestern, where he played football and basketball. In 1973, he joined the faculty at Independence Community College and was named the first-ever basketball coach for the Lady Pirates. He led the Lady Pirates to the regional championship in the program’s second year. At the end of that season, Blaine was named the Region VI Women’s Basketball Coach of the Year. He coached four winning seasons for the ICC—women with a record of 32–25, and was credited with coaching the first two NJCAA All-Americans in Lady Pirate history. Blaine also was the men’s golf coach at ICC from 1977 to 1979.

Titus Burkholder ’62 retired in June 2012 after 46 years of teaching high school mathematics. He taught for 35 years at schools in Kansas, and 11 years at schools in Missouri.

K. Tom Gregg ’67 was elected to the Wray, Colo., city council in 2012.

Nancy Parker ’68 competed in the 2012 Senior Olympics games held in Cheyenne, Wyo., in a field of nearly 700 competitors from over 30 states. She earned four gold medals in the 65–69 women’s age group for the 50m, 100m, free throw contest, and three-point basketball shot. She plans to compete again next year.

Tom Winters ’68 has been re-appointed to the Wichita State University Board of Trustees for a second three-year term. This is the board that oversees the small levy funds collected in Wichita and Sedgwick County for the support of WSU. Tom will be chairman of the trustees for 2012–13. Tom served as a Sedgwick County commissioner from 1992 to 2008. He and his wife, Gerry (Rieckenberg) ’68, are happily retired in Wichita, and recently celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary.

The Rev. Dennis Hett ’69 has moved to Laurel, Neb., where he is pastor of the United Presbyterian Church of Laurel, and pastor of the Union Presbyterian Church of Belden, Neb.

Jin Buterbaugh ’71 has been re-appointed to the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs. Jin is the co-owner of Buterbaugh & Handlin Insurance and Real Estate. (see also page 4 of this issue)

Dennis Hodges ’81, Budapest, Hungary, has been selected for “The 100.” These 100 people, ages 1 to 100, will document one week of their lives photographically and will have it posted on Facebook. He is number 54, since that is his age. Follow the project at facebook.com/100cameraproject.

Jerry Thomas ’81 created and dedicated a large bronze statue of a football player leaping in the air, titled “Tradition,” in memory of Ryan Haxton, a visually impaired young man from Thomas’s hometown of Scott City who died at the age of 26. The statue was unveiled in September 2012 at a ceremony prior to the Scott City/Holcomb football game.

Kelly Rundell ’82 is the recipient of the Louise Mattox Award of Achievement Award for professional excellence. Kelly recently accepted a new position as director of employee benefits and insurance management for the Wichita public schools.

Rob ’87 and Wendy (Reiser) Richardson ’87 recently moved to the Dallas area. Rob accepted a job as vice president and general manager of Active Organics (a company acquired by Lubrizol/Berkshire-Hathaway). They are enjoying watching their son, Chad ’12, and daughter, Alyssa ’15, golf for the SC teams and are proud that they are fourth-generation Moundbuilders!

Jubal Timmer ’88 has written a new book, The Wahrhouse, which was released on Oct. 1. Through a series of 16 pieces of short fiction with interrelated characters, the book explores modern culture’s increasing conflict between traditional male societal roles and the potential for reshaping masculinity.

Charles ’94 and Karen Trotz ’93 of Winfield were the parents of the groom when Mike Trotz and Katie Ziegler were married on May 26, 2012.

Jay Leach ’94 is now the division quality manager for 3M’s Material Resource Division, with responsibility for quality and operational excellence at four U.S. and two international manufacturing plants.

Chris King ’95 is the new owner of F.A.C. Marketing in Burlington, Iowa. The national marketing agency has clients in nearly every U.S. state and specializes in marketing for the funeral care industry. He and two additional previous employees purchased the company in late 2011. In addition to the marketing agency, Chris owns and operates a professional photog- raphy studio owned by his creative agency, Ravenscroft Creative, LLC, in Burlington, Iowa. After becoming a parasitologist in 2011, he began working in the field of emergency medicine and continues to do so, part-time, in Iowa City, Iowa.

Chris Holt ’97 is president and co-founder of PatentCore.com, which has combined forces with Reed Tech to deliver detailed analysis of patent examiner decisions. “The products and services offered as a result of our combined efforts will eliminate frustrating guesswork from the patent acquisition process,” Chris says.

Burt C. Humberg ‘98 was nominated Teacher of the Year 2011-2012 for the first- and third-year family medicine classes at Mercy Medical Center of Northern Iowa.

Carl and Cordelia (Chavez) Clapp ’99 celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 16. Cordelia (“Corky”) performs interpretive American Indian singing of songs in full regalia in opening ceremonies throughout the United States. They have three children, Mary Murphy, Trey Clapp, and Michael Clapp, as well as five grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Kelly Burgar ’06 has accepted a position as morning show director for
DEATHS

Geraldyne “Gerrie” (Tuttle) War- ren, 74, 940, died Oct. 21, 2012, in Tucson. Gerrie grew up in Winfield and became a librarian at Strother Air Base where she met her husband, John Warren. She was the librarian at Tulane University while John completed his degrees, before moving to Germany where they both worked for the U.S. Government for 30 years. In 1980 they retired to Tucson. Gerrie is survived by her daughter, Susan War- ren, and Susan’s husband.

John Joseph Spigarelli ’48 died Sept. 8, 2012, in Frontenac, Kan. John survived by his wife, Josephine (Caruso), a daughter, and several nieces and nephews.

Michael ‘07 and Hayley (Holthus) Stolze ’07 have completed their first year of HIV prevention service work with the Peace Corps in Botswana, Africa. Michael is working with 12- to 17-year-olds at a community school and Hayley works with the District Health Management Team coordinating health education and women’s empowerment projects.

Kari (Roth) Logsdon ’10 graduated from Friends University with a master’s in marriage and family therapy in May 2012. She is currently pursuing inde- pendent licensure in a therapist position for Apache Behavioral Health Services on the Apache Indian Reservation in White River, Ariz. She and her hus- band, Drew Logsdon ’08, make their home in Show Low, Arizona.

Lyndsie O'out '10 is teaching eighth-grade science at the Wellington Middle School and is head coach for the eighth-grade volleyball team. She is also working on her Master of Arts in Teaching at Southwestern.

Darci Mann '11/12 has accepted a position as the Youth and Discipleship Minister at Hesston United Methodist Church, Hesston, Kan.


Zac Mathews ’99 has been selected to serve as the operations officer for the Coast Guard’s National Capitol Region Air Defense Facility in Wash- ington, D.C. This facility protects the airspace above the nation’s capital under the operational control of the North American Aerospace Defense Command.

BIRTHS

A son, David “Gus,” born July 16, 2012, to Ryan and Holly Anne (Higbee) Bell ’04. Holly reports that Gus is already looking forward to becoming a Builder!

A daughter, Collins Capri, born July 10, 2012, to Dr. Derek ’99 and Natalie Long. Collins has a sister, Cayman (5).

A daughter, Sofia Ximena, born July 16, 2012, to Wesley and Carina (McGowan) Taylor ’03. Grandpar- ents are Dan ’79 and Sue (Lun- wicz) McGowan ’79.

A daughter, Leela Ann, born Sept. 12, 2012, to Sergej and Sarah (Edwards) Temkin ’03. Leela has a brother, Mikhail (2).

Rylee Ann, born Aug. 11 to Rob- bie ’09 and Stephanie DeLong ’07/’09. Big sister to Emma DeLong. (This information was incorrectly reported in a previous Southwesterner)

SKCANS

Sustainability efforts on the SC campus are now available on a campus map. To see the campus “green map” and learn more about the college’s efforts to live a more sustainable life, check out the map at: www.sckans.edu/ greenmap.

Need a special gift for your teenager? Give a gift of camp at Southwestern! Whether the in- terest is music, leadership, sports, or a variety of other subjects, we can customize a gift certificate to put under the tree. Contact Julie Headrick at 620-229-6141 for more information.
What’s new with you?

Name Class Year
________________________________________________________________
Street Address P.O. Box
________________________________________________________________
City State Zip Code
________________________________________________________________
Phone Number

Here’s something new in my life: (job, address, marriage, baby, etc.)
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________

RETURN THIS FORM TO: Alumni Notes Coordinator | 100 College St. | Winfield, KS 67156-2499
OR E-MAIL INFORMATION TO: southwesterner@sckans.edu

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT

Ashlee Alley, campus minister, has been serving on the launch team for a conference for college students in the United Methodist Church. The event is called Imagine What’s Next and was held in St. Louis on Nov. 9–11, 2012. SC student Jonathon Woon also has been on the launch team and has done social media promotion, video and graphic design work. A group of 16 from Southwestern was expected to be in attendance and Moundbuilder students were scheduled to lead worship at two of the worship services. (Caleb Chua, Jonathan Woon, Tiffany Rea, Macie Helgenberger, and alumni Sarah Miller and Josh Melcher)

More information is available at www.gbhem.org/next.

Crystal Cole-Winn, multicultural admissions counselor, published “Rheto- ric, Identity and the Obama Racial Phenomenon: Exploring Obama's Title as the First Black President” in the NIDA Journal of Language and Commu- nication, Vol. 15, Issue 17, which provides a platform for international researchers to present their effort in advancing the area of language and communication studies.

Gail Cullen, former Professional Stud- ies administrator, presented “Develop- ing an Asynchronous Model for Faculty Orientation,” at the Summer Institute for Distance Learning and Instructional Technology (SIDLIT) conference, Aug. 2–3, 2012. The conference was hosted by Johnson County Community Col- lege in Overland Park.

Brenda Hicks, director of financial aid, is starting her second year as a board member of the National Association of Financial Aid Administrators. She also is serving as the regional representative on the federal issues committee.

Roger Moon, associate professor of theatre and speech, is adapting Our Fam- ily Ousting: A Memoir of Coming Out and Coming Through for the stage. A work- shop reading of the play was presented Oct. 12 at SC’s Homecoming, followed by a feedback session.

Tami Pullins, associate academic vice president for advising and student suc- cess, co-authored a monograph titled “Thriving in Transitions: A Research- Based Approach to College Student Success.” In particular, she co-wrote a chapter on college sophomores titled “Beyond Sophomore Survival.” The monograph was published this summer by the National Resource Center for the First Year Experience and Students in Transition at the University of South Carolina. Her chapter co-authors were Dr. Laurie Schreiner, Dr. Sharyn Slavin Miller, and Troy Seppah, all colleagues from Arizona Pacific University where she earned her Ph.D. in higher educa- tion leadership.

Christopher Schmitz, associate pro- fessor of music, composed a jazz trumpet feature, Susurro, that was selected in an international competition to receive its premiere performance by world- renowned trumpet player Terell Staf- ford. The performance will take place in Ithaca, N.Y., on Dec. 7, 2012. Also, his concert band composition, Bedtime Fantasy, will be read and recorded by the award-winning University of Texas Wind Ensemble this semester.

Rena Rodriguez, coordinator of inter- national students, successfully defended her dissertation Oct. 26 and will receive the Doctor of Philosophy in museum education from New York University.

Jane Schlickau, professor of nursing, participated with the International EL- NEC (End of Life Nursing Education Consortium) team to present a five- day palliative care course to nurses and physicians in Cholpon Ata, Kyrgyzstan, from Oct. 23–27. Schlickau, Kristie Ball ’96, and Martha Butler, chair of nursing, published an article titled “A Day at the Fair: Updating Nurse Competencies” in Nursing Management 43 (9). This article described collabora- tive projects between nursing students and nursing staff at Newton Memorial Hospital in Winfield.


Timothy Shook, chair of the divi- sion of performing arts, was one of six MTNA Board of Directors members who directed sessions and activi- ties at the MTNA Leadership Summit – Sept. 21–23 in Cincinnati. He also was nominated and selected as an International Conference for Fine Arts Deans Fellow 2012, and participated in the Fellows enrichment activities in Minneapolis, Minn., Oct. 23–27. Dr. Shook presented the keynote address for the 2nd Piano Pedagogy Symposium at the University of Cincinnati Col- lege Conservatory of Music. He also is organizer of the NASM Region 3 Session Nov. 19 in San Diego. Title of the session is “Student Retention: The Final Phase of a Successful Recruitment and Admissions Process.” This presentation will explore successful strategies for the complete admissions process from recruitment to retention.
Every year President Dick Merriman sends a letter to parents of high school students in which he talks about the cost and the value of higher education, specifically the value of attending Southwestern College. If you know prospective students who may have dismissed SC as “too expensive,” please make sure they see this article.

Dear parents,

I’ve worked in higher education most of my adult life and I have never seen parents and families as concerned about the cost, and the value, of college as they are right now. Magazines and newspapers are full of articles about the cost of attending college and there are lots of articles questioning the relevance and value of college.

I’ll just announce my biases right up front, since you probably suspected them anyway:

I believe it is essential, in the economy of today and tomorrow, for your child to earn a college degree if he or she can. People who tell you otherwise are mistaken, pure and simple.

I believe it is smart, as you look at college options, to take a look at Southwestern College, a top private college in Kansas. The college is affordable and, as an investment in your child’s future success, it’s an outstanding value.

The Short Version. Here’s the argument for people in a hurry.

The case for college. Those who question the value of a college education are mistaken. The country has been in a tough recession for almost five years, but the unemployment rate for Americans with a bachelor’s degree is about 4.5%, half the national rate. For those with only a high school diploma, the unemployment rate has exceeded 10% for several years. In 2010 the median income for men with a bachelor’s degree was over $57,000. For those with a high school diploma, median annual income was $32,500. Multiply that gap times 40 years in the workforce and the difference gets awfully big. People with college degrees also live longer, are happier, and have more successful marriages. So, college is a sound investment.

The case for Southwestern. Southwestern College’s tuition is higher than the tuition at state universities in our region. But Southwestern awards a lot more scholarship and other financial aid than is given by state universities. That helps make Southwestern affordable. Moreover, Southwestern students are much more likely to finish their degree in four years than are students at state universities. Four years to finish at Southwestern vs. five years (or six!) at a state school costs out pretty quickly. That’s the cost argument.

Here’s the value argument. Southwestern’s classes are much smaller than those at public universities. The classes are taught by our faculty, not by graduate students. The college is personal (we’ll keep track of your kid) and career-minded (we’ll stay after your kid to get a plan). The outcomes achieved by our graduates show that our approach works. We survey our graduates every year and responses this year show that in the middle of the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, more than 90% of our new graduates are employed or in graduate school in the year after they graduate. That’s value.

The full version. Bells, whistles, and data included.

Here is a comparison that looks at the cost of attending Southwestern College and the cost of attending some of the familiar state universities in our region. The average net price of a year of college is what we’re comparing. That means the total cost of tuition, room and board, fees and other expenses minus the total amount of grant aid provided (grants don’t have to be repaid like loans do).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Average net price per year (2010-11)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kansas State University</td>
<td>$14,352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Kansas</td>
<td>$14,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Oklahoma</td>
<td>$15,289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas – Austin</td>
<td>$14,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwestern College</td>
<td>$19,359</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You can see, Southwestern costs more, between $4,000 and $5,000 more a year. There are a couple of obvious reasons for this difference. First, we don’t get any support from taxpayers, like state universities do. Second, and this is more important, we do things that are educationally sound but costly, like teaching our students in classrooms with 15 students, not 400, and having the teaching done by experienced scholars with Ph.D.s, not graduate students who are “practicing” on the undergrads.

When we look at the average student loan taken by students to attend for a year at these same schools we see the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Average student loan from all sources (2010)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kansas State University</td>
<td>$5,558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Kansas</td>
<td>$5,787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Oklahoma</td>
<td>$5,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Texas – Austin</td>
<td>$5,048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwestern College</td>
<td>$7,720</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The fact that Southwestern costs more per year is reflected in the fact that our students borrow more each year than do students at public universities. But this is where the math gets interesting.

Four years of borrowing $7,700 equals roughly $30,000. Four years at the big state universities at, say, $5,500 looks cheaper: $22,000. But is it really a four-year deal at the state universities?

The information that follows indicates that it isn’t. While 86% of Southwestern’s graduates earn their degrees in four years, the percentage of graduates who finish in four years at the big state schools is much lower. So, multiply $5,500 times five or six years, not four, and things even up.

A note of caution. I need to stop here and really drive home a point. Not everyone who attends Southwestern, or KU, or OU, actually graduates. One of the most counterproductive things a young person can do is borrow money to attend college and then not graduate. The employers of the world are not breathlessly waiting for yet another person with 32 hours of college credit. Earning a degree is about gaining a set of perspectives and skills, for certain, but it’s also a demonstration by the student that he or she can take on a complex and demanding task, persevere, and succeed. That’s what the diploma represents; that’s what employers value.

Going to college is an investment. Borrowing $30,000 to attend college will certainly repay your child more handsomely than borrowing $30,000 for a new car or truck, but only if he or she graduates. It’s critical that you and your child candidly evaluate his or her readiness for college and look carefully for a college that will offer the mix of challenge and support that will lead to success and graduation.

Summing it up.

In my experience, most parents don’t tell their children where to go to college, in part because 18-year-olds don’t follow parents’ orders very well. What parents do instead is encourage their children to look at several schools, evaluate which school feels like a “good fit,” and then talk about whether it’s financially possible to attend.

I believe you should include Southwestern College in your search. We offer exceptional instruction in a strong and supportive campus community. As a result our graduates enjoy exceptional outcomes that vindicate the investment they have made in attending. If you would like to learn more about the college you should experience SC firsthand. See what is distinctive about us! During your visit you can meet with a professor in the area of your child’s interest, tour campus with a student ambassador, sit in on a class, learn how to get admitted to SC, and learn about financial aid options from our certified financial planner.

Ready to schedule a visit? Sign up online at www.sckans.edu/admissions/visit or call Tami Schmidt at 1-800-846-1543 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Tami is also ready to answer any questions you may have. Saturday visits are available upon request.

Good luck with your college search! Please call on us if we can help in any way.

Dick Merriman, President, Southwestern College

*Average net price and graduation rate data from National Center for Educational Statistics CollegeNavigator. **Student loan data from The Education Trust College Results Online.
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Message and data rates may apply, but gifts to SC are tax-deductible no matter how you give. For more information, contact Jessica Falk at jessica.falk@sckans.edu or call 620-229-6155.

And always remember, don’t text and drive! We want you to see the life-changing results your text could have.