

# SOUTHWESTERN

NEWS AND STORIES FROM SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE



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### COVER

Homecoming brought back some of SC's most enthusiastic boosters. Photo by Jonathan Woon '14.

### SECOND COVER

Senior Jonathan Woon has been responsible for some of the most striking *Southwesterner* photos over the past four years. During the summer of 2013 he interned in Israel and writes here about that experience. Photo by Jonathan Woon '14.

Have you missed Jinx and Bobo since last year's video Christmas card? It's still online – revisit the fun at [sckans.edu/christmas/](http://sckans.edu/christmas/)

Photos in *The Southwesterner* are by Jonathan Woon '14, Tabitha Larkin '18, Andrea (Schneider) Nuss '09, Terry Quiett '94, and Charles Osen '94 unless otherwise indicated. Unless otherwise indicated stories are by Sara Severance Weinert.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Dear friends,*

This issue of *The Southwesterner* highlights the college's ambassadors, people who reach out to tell the world about Southwestern.

Ambassadors for the college's *Cole Family Summer Music Festival* are working actively to attract young musicians to the college for a magical summer experience that, we're certain, will turn some of them into Builders. Dawn Pleas-Bailey, who leads the college's community engagement program, has created important new partnerships with schools in Kansas and Oklahoma that encourage students to make a plan for college. Again, we're certain – because it's already happened – that these programs bring new students to the college.

Harold Deets, one of the college's greatest champions and most generous benefactors, never hesitated to speak up and express his great pride in Southwestern. With his death, the college lost a great ambassador, but his legacy as a Builder will live forever at Southwestern.

We can never have enough ambassadors and advocates. Please wear your purple proudly, tell people about Southwestern, and particularly encourage high schoolers and their parents to learn more about SC.

Thanks for all you do for Southwestern!

*Best regards,*

*Dick Merriman*

Dick Merriman, *President*

## ADMINISTRATION VIEWPOINT



When President Merriman asked me to lead an initiative in cultivating urban areas regarding Southwestern College and higher education, I was more than excited!

There is no bigger cheerleader in the Builder Nation than dpb. In my two decades here, I have grown deeply in love with this college, its mission, the students and anything associated with Southwestern College.

The community engagement work began almost seven years ago in Wichita. We have had year-round partnerships including academic summer camps for Truesdell and Jardine middle schools. We spent significant time in Wichita high schools, college preparatory programs, community organizations, and churches. Most importantly, we are the preferred field trip decision for elementary, middle, and high school groups across the region. Visitors love the fun campus visit as they tour our beautiful setting, meet approachable students and professors, learn

about our traditions, and the most popular stop...the all-you-can-eat cafeteria.

Dr. Merriman's vision is that everyone should aspire to pursue some type of higher education. First, the community engagement work demystifies that private school higher education is an unattainable goal for first-generation, low-socioeconomic, and ethnic minority young people and their families. Second, this work exposes the region to our amazing learning environment. Needless to say, we have had a blast spreading purple pride. With our success in Wichita, we have expanded the work to other urban areas such as Tulsa, Oklahoma City, and Dallas. The world awaits!

*Blessings,*

*Dawn Pleas-Bailey*

Dawn Pleas-Bailey, *Vice President for Student Life  
Special Asst. to the President for Community Engagement*

### Southwestern College President

Dick Merriman

### The Southwesterner

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

USPS #0612-560.

**Postmaster:** Send address changes to *The Southwesterner*, 100 College St., Winfield, KS 67156-2499.

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# Hopes, dreams, and telling the Southwestern story

A presidential emphasis on education for all young people is spreading through the Builder nation as students, staff, and faculty are joined by alumni and friends to tell the Southwestern College story. This emphasis on community engagement is paying off as students as young as middle school catch the SC vision.

“Community engagement is about the collective energy that we’re creating, and everyone has a part in that,” says Dawn Pleas-Bailey, vice president for student affairs and special assistant to the president for community engagement. “It is a special project created by President Dick Merriman, who sets the vision and standards of what I do. Some presidents believe in conservation, others emphasize foreign travel. Dick’s platform is the education of ALL young people.”

As a result, campus groups (often coordinated by Pleas-Bailey) focus on partnering with people, organizations, and groups to connect with young people.

“We especially focus on middle schoolers to make sure they take their high school years seriously,” she says. “The key component of the work is the summer academic camps, which are a partnership between the Wichita school district, the partnering school, and Southwestern. I work with Ed Loeb, Lai-L Clemons, Brandon Hess-

ing, Jessica Falk, and Korie Hawkins to make a phenomenal camp experience.”

But bringing students to campus is only one form of community engagement: A recent trip through Texas convinced Pleas-Bailey that the college’s ambassadors are everywhere. She met with Janie (Carballo) Brooks ’00, who is in her first year as assistant principal at L.G. Pinkston High School in Dallas, and another day with Justin Diggles ’09/’10 in Duncanville, where Diggles teaches high school business and is an assistant coach.

“Yesterday a student asked me of all the universities I have attended (SMU, TAMU-Commerce, UNT-Denton, Southwestern College) which was the best. I answered Southwestern College,” Brooks wrote later. “I attended



## Ambassadors spread the word about summer music at SC

The Cole Family Summer Music Festival is gearing up for its seventh summer, and the increase in participation seen over its first three years is expected to be even more pronounced this year, thanks to some student Pied Pipers.

Musical ambassadors who also are exceptional Southwestern students have been chosen to drum up interest in the camp, which will be June 9-14, 2014, on the SC campus. Tracks in choir, orchestra, band, jazz, and piano will be open to students ages 14-20.

The ambassadors will help build relationships with those involved in the festival including participants, faculty, families and alumni, explains festival dean Timothy Shook. Additionally, they will shepherd the festival participants from introduction of the festival through registration, the week on campus and Family Day 2014, then will help build enthusiasm for the 2015 festival. During the spring ambassadors will visit regional schools to meet with music educators in a recruitment effort for the 2014 event.

“We’ve been very excited about the growth in the festival since we began in 2008, but this year we’re really ready to jump to the next level,” Shook says. Shook, who also is head of the division of performing arts, has worked closely with primary bene-

factor Dr. George Cole. “Dr. Cole is completely invested in this event,” Shook says. “His entire family has been important to Southwestern, but he remembers attending music camp at SC when he was young, and he’s helping us with both ideas and with funding to make sure high school students still can have this kind of top-quality summer experience.

“We have grown from 35 to 70 participants and with the help of the SC Ambassadors, new faculty, and the guest conductor, our goal is 100. We hope our alumni can help us reach that goal of 100 participants by sending us the names of young musicians they know will benefit from this magnificent opportunity.”

Noted composer Steven R. Barnett will be guest conductor. Barnett is in his 11th year as director of bands and professor of music at Marshall University. He conducts the Marshall University Wind Symphony and the “Marching Thunder” marching band, where he also serves as music arranger and drill designer.

For more information on the Cole Family Summer Music Festival, contact Jessica Falk, director of camps and conferences, at 620-229-6141, or visit the festival website at [sckans.edu/musicfestival](http://sckans.edu/musicfestival).



Janie (Carballo) Brooks ’00 (shown at left with a student) and the men’s soccer team have become effective ambassadors for Southwestern college.

SC because Sarah Wilke took me on a college trip. I stayed at SC because Dawn Pleas-Bailey mentored me. Southwestern College prepared me to build other Builders.”

An especially effective form of engagement involves athletic teams. The men’s basketball team, (led by coaches Matt O’Brien, Tim Miser, and Gene Hartman) have been frequent speakers and clinicians for middle- and high-school teams. In October, SC’s men’s soccer team visited Truesdell Middle School in Wichita. After the soccer game a teacher wrote President Merriman in appreciation of the community engagement efforts:

“I was reminded of the value of exposing middle school students to

college when Southwestern brought their soccer team to Truesdell to play against our soccer team. After the game I stopped a few students and asked them what the game meant to them.... (A)student, Jose, said that he lived his dreams after he spent some time with the Southwestern players and had a chance to put on Builder Purple and play with the college students. The next day Jose told his Spanish teacher that he wanted to go to college and asked the teacher if he would help him get there, promising he would work hard. I believe this student’s promise is because the Southwestern students took the time to come to Truesdell and give him a glimpse of college.”

## Rude receives top award

The Kansas Campus Compact named Cheryl Rude, director for Leadership Southwestern, its Community Engagement Professional of the Year. The award was given at the Heartland Campus Compact Conference held Sept. 19-20 in Tulsa.

The award recognizes one professional who has worked toward the institutionalization of academic service-learning and/or service, created and strived toward a vision of service for his/her campus, promoted higher education as a public good, provided exceptional support to faculty and students, and has been instrumental in forming innovative campus-community partnerships.

According to Lindsay Wilke, assistant director for Leadership Southwestern, the award is one of three (and the most prestigious) given in the state of Kansas and required nomination es-

says from academic dean (Andy Shepard), a faculty member in her division (Carrie Lane, associate professor of psychology), and Wilke.

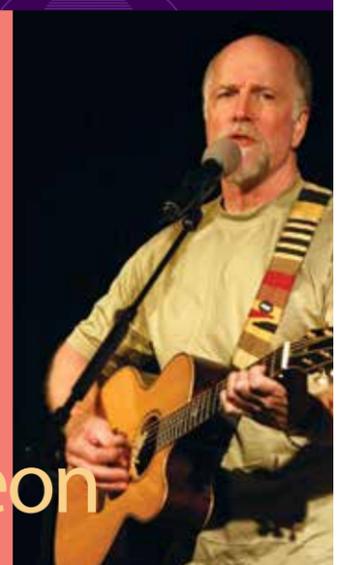
“Through successful and caring partnerships throughout the community, Dr. Rude has managed to bridge divisional boundaries between different sectors including academia, religion, business and government,” Wilke says. “The service projects, presentations, service learning initiatives, consultations, committees and boards that Cheryl has been a part of throughout her 22 years of service to Southwestern College are many. She has been integral in helping service learning grow to a vibrant force on the campus of Southwestern College through the integration of service learning into major campus events and served as a Kansas Campus Compact Engaged Faculty Fellow in 2012-2013.”

RICHARDSON PERFORMING ARTS CENTER PRESENTS

Perennial Walnut Valley Festival performer John McCutcheon will return to Winfield Sunday, Feb. 8, 2014, when he presents a 7 p.m. concert in Richardson Performing Arts Center. The McCutcheon concert is the first in an expected series of RPAC events designed to showcase the renovated auditorium. “Our own college performers have loved the space, and now we want to show it’s a regional treasure as well,” says Steve Wilke, vice president for planning and new programs.

For ticket information, contact Jessica Falk at (800) 846-1543 ext. 6141 or email: [jessica.falk@sckans.edu](mailto:jessica.falk@sckans.edu).

John McCutcheon



# Harold Deets, a generous and gentle man, dies at 91

**H**arold Deets, who has been one of Southwestern's most faithful and generous alumni, died peacefully on Friday, Sept. 13, 2013. His memorial service was held on Sept. 21, which would have been his 92nd birthday.

"Harold left Southwestern's halls 70 years ago, but he never forgot the life-changing experiences he had here," says President Dick Merriman. "His time in the classroom, singing in the A Cappella Choir, and meeting and courting his future wife, Mary Ellen, created in him a profound sense of gratitude toward the college. Harold was a tremendously generous supporter of the college and was, for me, a special and true friend."

Deets grew up in Garfield, Kansas, and arrived at Southwestern in 1939, when he and his mother arrived on campus to enroll him for his first classes. He took a job as a student janitor and cleaned the library at night, sweeping out the stacks in the basement of Stewart Field House.

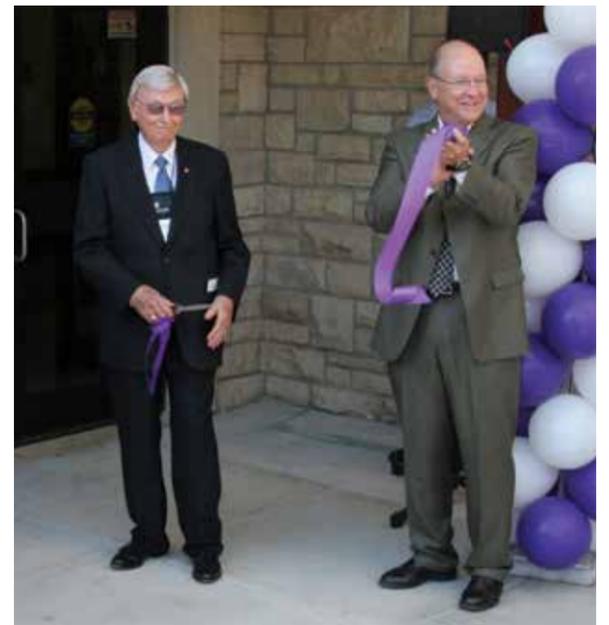
It was during his early days at Southwestern that Harold experienced what he spoke of as the most important moment of his life: He met Mary Ellen Meador. Even though they had grown up within miles of each other, the two didn't cross paths until they were both freshmen at SC. Harold was immediately smitten with the red-haired soprano in the A Cappella Choir. Their eventual marriage would last 62 years and although they didn't have their own children, they were devoted to the nieces and neph-

ews in their extended family.

Harold was only able to complete two years at Southwestern; the financial burden of being a student became too much just as World War II loomed on the horizon so he left school to enter a national defense training program and in September 1941 was hired at Beech Aircraft Corporation as a sheet metal worker. His natural abilities soon showed themselves, though, and he joined the accounting division, becoming supervisor of all accounts payable operations. In 1950 he transferred to the materiel division and progressed through a series of supervisory responsibilities until 1972 when he was elected vice president, materiel. (One of his responsibilities included purchasing for the Apollo space program.) Mary Ellen also was working for Beech, eventually as executive assistant to president Frank Hedrick.

Through the years, Harold and Mary Ellen kept close ties with Southwestern. He was a member of the college's business program advisory council, was an honorary trustee of the college, and was inducted into the SC Business Hall of Fame. In 1995 he received the Outstanding Alumni Award.

A quiet, gentle man, Harold was devastated by the death of Mary Ellen in 2002. He gave a generous gift toward the renovation of Memorial Library during the mid-2000s, and when he agreed to have the building renamed in his honor, he insisted that his red-haired sweetheart also be honored. A corner just inside the entrance to the building includes portraits



Harold Deets and President Dick Merriman at the dedication of the Harold and Mary Ellen Deets Memorial Library in October 2008.

of Harold and Mary Ellen that he selected.

"We were a very compatible couple," he had said. "We both came from good, solid, church-going families, and we supported each other."

They supported each other, they supported their college, and students will remember this support each time they enter Harold and Mary Ellen Deets Memorial Library.



## Alumni Award winners

Outstanding alumni and friends of the college were honored during Homecoming 2013. Shown above with President Dick Merriman is Travis Hastings '03, Young Alumni Award; (above right) Florence '64 and Ted '64 Metcalf, Alumni Award; and (right) Ron Holt, Ambassador Award.

## Alumni & Friends Event Schedule

- DECEMBER 5 | 3 p.m. Cumbernauld Village Christmas Party**, Winfield. Martin Rude and the SC Outreach Teams will provide holiday music. Cumbernauld will provide refreshments.
- DECEMBER 6 | 6:30 p.m. Women's Basketball Reunion**, Winfield Country Club. Hosted by Coach Dave Denly. Contact Coach Denly for more information, 620-229-6218.
- DECEMBER 7 | 1:30 p.m. SC Athletic Hall of Fame**, Roy L. Smith dining hall. Social will be immediately followed by the hall of fame ceremony. Inductees will be: Terry Barnett, Nicole (Ledbetter) Brannon '00, Niki (Nicholas) Schadegg '04, Janaye (White) Shaffer '97, Bill Shaw '76, and Andrea (Mohr) Stafford '04. Women's and men's basketball games that evening will be against Friends University.
- JANUARY 15 | 6:30 p.m. Phoenix Area "Party with the Prez"** at Eva's Mexican Restaurant, 2033 N Pinal Ave, Casa Grande, Ariz. Hosted by Frank '79 and Nancy Davidson. Reservations required by Jan. 7. Call the alumni office at 620-229-6279.
- APRIL 12 | 7:30 p.m.** If you are in Winfield for **Founders Weekend** be sure to attend the theatre performance of Jonathan Larson's rock musical **Rent** on Saturday in Richardson Performing Arts Center. For more information or tickets to the theatre, call the fine arts office at 620-229-6272. For reservations/information on any of the halls of fame, contact [susan.lowe@sckans.edu](mailto:susan.lowe@sckans.edu) or 620-229-6334.
- APRIL 11 | 5:30 p.m. Leaders in Service Hall of Fame for the Social Sciences**, Deets Library. Inductees will be Pedro M. Esquivel '62, Harry H. Dunn '23, and Bishop Bruce Blake. Cost of dinner is \$20 per person. For reservations call the alumni office.
- APRIL 12 | 10:30 a.m. Fine Arts Hall of Fame**, Darbeth Lobby/ Messenger. Inductees will be George M. Cole '63, Loren B. Crawford '34, and Ronald K. Curfman '64.
- APRIL 12 | 12:30 p.m. Business Hall of Fame**, Deets Library. Inductees will be Rodney C. Kreie '77, James L. Richardson '70, and Merle D. Sharick '68. Cost of lunch is \$15 per person. For reservations call the alumni office.
- APRIL 12 | 3:30 p.m. Educators Hall of Fame and Scholars Hall of Fame**, Deets Library. Inductees will be Frank D. Davidson '79, John W. Marshall '70, Ronda J. (Sims) Marshall '70 and Marilyn (Brown) Corbin '70 and Everett V. Samuelson '48.
- FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE RESERVATIONS, CONTACT THE ALUMNI OFFICE AT [SUSAN.LOWE@SCKANS.EDU](mailto:SUSAN.LOWE@SCKANS.EDU) OR 620-229-6279.**

## BE A BUILDER BANNER BOMBER

Join the SC Alumni Pennant  
Photobomb Project  
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# Helmer's 35-year run of excellence ends

By Scott Nuss '07 SC Sports Information Director

Jim Helmer has seen a lot in the last 36 years. He's seen the cost of a gallon of regular gasoline jump from 62 cents to nearly four dollars. He's seen a first class postage stamp go from 13 cents to nearly 50 cents. He's also coached the Southwestern College cross country program to a Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference championship – 50 times. Helmer will retire in May and was hoping to hang at least one more banner Nov. 8 when Southwestern hosted the 2013 Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference Cross Country Championships.

Tucked away in a basement office on the north side of historic Stewart Field House, just off the track that now bears his name, Helmer's office more closely resembles a Southwestern College Cross Country and Track and Field museum. Hundreds of plaques and trophies line the office's walls, but to understand the significance of the awards, one must look to the humble beginnings of the program.

Helmer was hired as the Southwestern College head cross country coach in 1978. The 1971 Southwestern College graduate, who was a three-time All-KCAC selection, and a three-time NAIA National Cross Country Championship participant, simply wanted to revive a Moundbuilder cross country program that had fallen into the middle of the pack in the KCAC. As a former member of some of Southwestern's most competitive cross country programs, Helmer had watched the program decline while he taught and coached at Winfield High School.

"I wanted to get the program back to a level of respectability," Helmer said. "I wanted to be able to be competitive at the conference level, I wanted to compete with class, and I wanted to develop the program to a level where we might be able to compete for conference championships. But I also wanted to bring quality student-athletes to Southwestern College and give them every opportunity to grow, develop and mature as students and as athletes. And to be honest, when I first started, I wanted to maybe have an All-American someday."

He didn't have to wait long. The Moundbuilders won the first KCAC championship of the Helmer era in 1980, his third year. It would be the first in a series of 31 consecutive men's cross country conference titles, and one year later, Steve Delano became Helmer's first All-American.

"I was blessed by some strange and amazingly good luck along the way," Helmer said. "I had coached Steve Delano at Winfield High School. He was a seven-time state champion and had gone to the University of Arkansas and had great cross country success in his freshman year before he got injured. That led him to Southwestern. He definitely jump-started the program."

"That streak is still bizarre to me," Helmer said. "I was just trying to build on what we had and make them better. I never dreamed of winning 31 conference championships in a row. It wasn't my goal at all."

Helmer's teams also found success at the national level. Southwestern posted 11 top-10 finishes at the NAIA National Cross Country Championships during those 31 years, finishing seventh twice. No other NAIA school has more top-10 national finishes than Helmer's Moundbuilders. The coach's squads also found national success in track and field. Southwestern was fourth at the outdoor championships in 1983 and fifth in 1984, with a fourth place finish at the 1987 indoor meet.

Helmer's success led to induction into the SC Athletics Hall of Fame in 1991, and into the NAIA Cross Country Hall of Fame in 2001. He was recognized by his peers as the KCAC Cross Country Coach of the Year on 48 different occasions, 31 times



Jim Helmer coaches at his final KCAC championships Nov. 9. He will retire in May with an astonishing 31-year conference championshipstreak to his credit.

**"The championships were fun, but the opportunity to work with hundreds of kids and their families has been the most rewarding. I've been very fortunate. I've had a great career."**



for his men's teams and 17 more times for women's teams.

His most memorable moments, though, were personal.

"I was fortunate enough to coach my son (Corey) and daughter (Cassie) as they became All-Americans," Helmer said. "It was really a joy to coach them, both from a parent perspective and from a coach perspective. I've never coached anybody who tried harder to do things right, and it became personal to me that they had fun and enjoyed their time at SC while achieving their highest potential."

As the decades started to add up, Helmer began to observe changes.

"There is a lot more information out there today," Helmer said. "Things have gotten a lot more technical in some respects, but sometimes the old-fashioned way is still better. There are more good coaches in our profession than there ever have been, and that makes recruiting more of a challenge. And the facilities everywhere seem to be improving. We ran on cinder until 1985, and now we run on one of the best tracks in the Midwest."

Helmer knew his team's reign as conference champions would one day come to an end and in 2011, that day came. Southwestern's rivals from Friends University assembled a team with the primary goal of unseating the Moundbuilders. On Nov. 5, 2011, SC's men's team finished as runners-up in the KCAC championship for the first time since 1980.

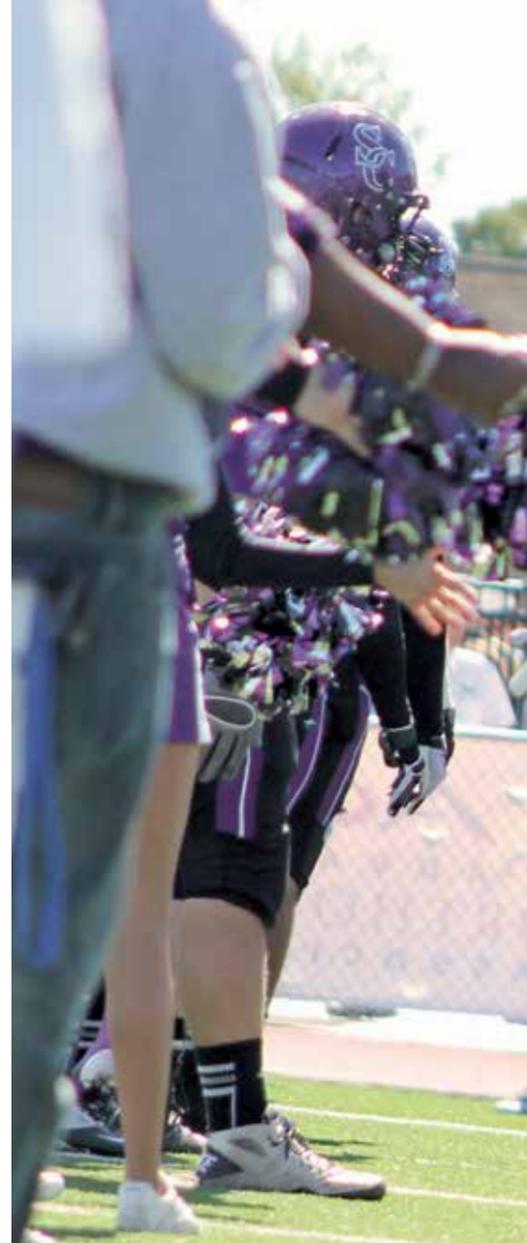
"We had a good team too, but we were young," Helmer said. "I felt bad for the kids who had tried just as hard as previous winners, but there was also a sense of relief. We survived, and we didn't do anything wrong. Somebody else got better. It wasn't the end of the world, but it let me focus on what's really important: working with people."

It was around that same time that Helmer began to think about retirement. As the 2013 season progressed, he began conversations with administrators at Southwestern to develop a plan.

Soon things started to fall into place. Southwestern avenged its loss to Friends by winning the 2013 KCAC Men's Cross Country Championship. A year later, it was Southwestern's turn to host the KCAC championship. That same year was Colton McNinch's senior season. McNinch was the son of Dennis McNinch, who ran for Helmer in his early years. Colton and his brother, Tanner, combined to form the only father-son combination to run for Helmer. Suddenly a perfect swan song had been born.

Dozens of Southwestern cross country alumni gathered at the Winfield Veterans Home on Nov. 8 to watch Helmer's final group of Moundbuilders pursue one last KCAC championship for their coach. They could only sit and watch as the Southwestern men finished second to Saint Mary, and the women finished third in one of the most tightly-contested races of the season. The disappointment of second place quickly faded, though, as those who had gathered took a moment to celebrate the career of Jim Helmer.

"After you've put so many plaques on the wall, what more is there to prove?" Helmer said. "I know I'm only borrowing my time here. I've invested so much into this program, but I will leave with no regrets. The championships were fun, but the opportunity to work with hundreds of kids and their families has been the most rewarding. I've been very fortunate. I've had a great career."



# FUN & GAMES

SC HOMECOMING 2013





## WINNING PLAY

The most exciting play of the Homecoming 2013 football game against Bethany came in the final seconds and was a big one for wide receiver Joe Vargas (22). The Winfield senior caught a contested pass then dragged a half dozen Bethany players into the end zone, scoring the winning touchdown in a 28-21 win. The play was so impressive it was picked up by ESPN's *Great Eight* producers. Vargas's play was a two-week winner and can be seen at <http://youtu.be/wOL6R-Wipbo>.

# MES



Homecomings can sometimes be loaded with dedications and announcements. Homecoming 2013, held Oct. 10-12, let returning Builders enjoy their fill of fun and games. From alumni tennis (at the new T.H. "Curley" Vaughan Tennis Complex), to annual alumni soccer matches, to sweet potato tosses, to student dodgeball matches, everyone had a shot at friendly competition among old classmates and new friends. It's not too early to mark your calendar for next year, when Homecoming will be Oct. 3-5, 2014.



TO SEE MORE PHOTOS OF SC HOMECOMING 2013  
[SCKANS.EDU/HOMECOMING](http://SCKANS.EDU/HOMECOMING)

## 1940s

**Rev. Samuel R. Boman '48** was the clergy recipient of The Bishop's Cross for outstanding service to the diocese at the 145th Annual Council of the Diocese of Nebraska, Episcopal Church, in Omaha, October 2013.

## 1960s

**Larry and Elaine (Evans) Clark '63** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a summer trip to Hawaii, Seattle, and Canada. Their three sons joined them for a week in Hawaii: **Cy Clark '89** and fiancée Lynnelle Shaw, Rustin and wife Mariah, and Troy.

**Larry '63** and **Judy '63 (Anderson) Miller**, both retired teachers, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 2. They have four children and seven grandchildren.

**James D. "Jim" Wilson '67** may have retired from education, but he is not done yet. Jim retired in 2007 as the superintendent of schools in Salida, Colo., after four decades in education. In the fall of 2012, he was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives where he serves on the House Education Committee. Following his freshman session, Jim was honored by the Community Colleges of Colorado as their 2013 Legislator of the Year. He represents a four-county area in the heart of the Rockies and continues to reside in Salida with his wife Kristi.

**Don Hapward '68** was recently highlighted in the *East Wichita News*, metro spotlight. Don is president of his own consulting firm, College Connections of Kansas, where he helps students/families in the college search process, scholarships, etc. Don and wife Carol reside in Wichita.

**Deb (Settle) Helmer '69/'71** has retired from her position as Irving Library Media Specialist, 1972-2013. She had been named Master Teacher of the Year in 1996 by the Winfield NEA.

## 1970s

**Lynn (Watkins) Felts '77**, art teacher at Winfield High School, has been named Overall Outstanding Art Educator of the Year 2013-2014. The Kansas Art Education Association (KAEA) officially presented the award at its fall conference on Oct. 25, 2013, in Overland Park. Over the course of her 36 years of teaching, Lynn has served the field of art education at a local, state, regional, and national level. She is an accomplished pastel painter whose work has been exhibited in several locations.

**LaMar Burks '79** continues to expand the collection of sports artifacts at the athletic museum at Booker T. Washington High School in Tulsa. LaMar founded and oversees the museum. His outstanding efforts recently received acclaim in the August 2013 issue of *Tulsa People* magazine.

## 1980s

**Rob Fields '83**, a member of the Winfield High School staff for the past 13 years, was named this year's Healthcare Hero at the William Newton Hospital Foundation gala Sept. 28. Fields is the founder and leader of the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) chapter at WHS. His students have won numerous individual state championships and gone on to compete nationally.

## 1990s

**Eric Kurtz '92** was inducted to the Kansas Bankers Association board of directors as a regional representative and will serve a three-year term. Eric, president of Union State Bank in Arkansas City, has been active with the KBA, serving on the Employee Benefits Committee.

**Thad Leffingwell '92** was recently promoted to professor and named head of the Department of Psychology at Oklahoma State University. Thad had been director of clinical training for the doctoral program in clinical psychology since 2006.

**Charles Tatro '94** retired from William Newton Hospital in August 2013. He and wife **Karen Tatro '93** became grandparents of twin girls on Sept. 3.

## 2000s

**Anthony McKissic Sr. '06** was married this summer. He is now the head cross country, head women's basketball and head tennis coach, as well as recruiting coordinator for Morrow High School. His cross country team advanced to the state meet for the second year in a row.

**Melissa Williamson '06**, Development Associate at the Commonwealth Shakespeare Company in Boston, helped secure a \$100,000 "Our Town" matching grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. The NEA grant will support Shakespeare OFF the Common, a program that includes theater workshops in Boston public schools and free performances in neighborhood parks.

**Darren W. Claphan '07/'12**, Andover, is a national account manager with U.S. Security Associates.

**Tallon Mitchell '08** has accepted a new position as environmental engineer at John Deere Coffeyville Works in Coffeyville. He and his wife, **Jenny (Crank) Mitchell '07**, now reside in Independence, Kansas with their two children, David (4) and Anna (1).

**Abbey Lowry '08** has been named chair of the nursing program at National American University. As a full-time staff member, she mentors faculty and staff, as well as developing curriculum and working with nursing students and pre-nursing students. She is a certified emergency nurse and continues to work as needed (PRN) at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita. In addition to her SC degree, Abbey has earned two master's degrees – a master of science in nursing/master of health care administration, from the University of Phoenix. She is in progress toward a doctorate of nursing practice from American Sentinel University.

**Kelsey (Milburn) Barrier '09/'10** and Captain Andrew Barrier recently celebrated their one-year wedding anniversary. They live in Seattle where

**Thanks!** If you were in one of the reunion year classes at Homecoming this year, please remember to say thanks to the class hosts for your class who were among the 41 volunteers who helped make the reunions such a great success this year. Hats off to SC Class Hosts!

**Save the Date**  
Oct. 3, 4 & 5, 2014 SC Homecoming

Andrew is a U.S. Air Force pilot and Kelsey has transitioned from marine mammal training into dog training, and hopes to open a training/kennel business for members of the military who do not have family to care for their pets when they are deployed overseas.

**Robyn Voss '09** has been appointed executive director of Marquee Inc. Voss will oversee the Marquee Performing Arts Center as it moves forward through renovations to the launch and use of the new multi-purpose facility in Winfield. Voss had served as information technology manager and personnel director for the Walnut Valley Association for 10 years.

## 2010s

**Lindsey Knak '10** and Mason Keck were married on August 3, 2013. They live and work in Fairview, Okla.

**Darrell Wilson '10/'12** is now assistant coach for Washington College's men's and women's tennis teams.

**Chastity Osen '12** and **William Abernathy '12** were married July 20, 2013 and now reside in Hutchinson. Chastity teaches at USD 310 Fair-



BACK ROW (L TO R): Jane (Broadie) Wilson, Cindy (Marvel) Swanson, Glenn Wooddell, Gary Keen, Warren Randall, John T. Smith, Bill Stephens, Nancy (Okerberg) Kerr, Larry Miller, Fred Kerr, Rick Urban

THIRD ROW: Charles Kaufman, Ron Lohrding, Judy (Anderson) Miller, Elaine (Evans) Clark, Kay (Hallman) Bigler

SECOND ROW: Jerry Quigley, Russell O. Vail, Joan (Broadie) Feldmeier, Marilyn (Stanton) Davidson, Connie (Caywood) Wagner, Anne (Shetlar, Olmstead) Rush

FIRST ROW: Marvin Hampton, Floris Jean Hampton, Ted Metcalf, Florence (Cutter) Metcalf, JoAnn (Wallace) Holt, Nancy (Bergdall) Bowman, Judy (Brown) Birch, Ila Bratcher, Judy (Fairchild) Brown, Phyllis (Young) Howerton, Rogene (Bahm) Anderson, Lorraine (Lowrey) Morton, Jan (Savely) Jacobsen, Jeanette Daniel

NOT PICTURED: Bud and Maridene (Witter) Akin, and Larry and Gwen (Burditt) Huck.

# Class of 1963

field and is assistant volleyball coach at Fairfield High School. William is a microbiologist in the research and development branch of Hospira, Inc. Chastity's parents are **Charles '94** and **Kelli '92/'94 Osen**, Winfield. William's parents are **William '04** and Deborah Abernathy, Burden.

**Kirstie Gronau '13** and Jarrett Cates were married on Aug. 31, 2013, in Winfield.

**Rachel Simmons**, who is enrolled in SC's music education master's program, was named the 2014 USD 402 Secondary Teacher of the Year. She is a vocal music teacher at Augusta High School.

## NOTES ON FRIENDS

**J. Hamby Barton Jr., 92**, died on Oct. 10, 2013, in Naples, Fla. He was a former academic dean at Southwestern College. Hamby is survived by his sons, Jesse Hamby III and George Barton.

**Ron Broadhurst**, former vice president of The State Bank of Winfield,

died on Sept. 2, 2013. He is survived by his wife, Dixie; son, Jamie; and daughters **Kelly (Broadhurst) Nichols '89** and Amy Broadhurst. Memorial gifts are for Southwestern College Cross Country/Track and Field.

**Alfredo Rodriguez**, who taught Spanish at Southwestern College in the 1960s-'80s, died Sept. 26, 2013. He was beloved by Moundbuilders, including his daughter, **Gladys '73**.

**Margaret Settle** passed away Sept. 12, 2012, in Kingman. Margaret was a retired kindergarten teacher. Survivors include children, **Curtis Settle '70** and **Deb (Settle) Helmer '69/'71** and husband, **Jim '71**, and grandchildren, **Cory Helmer '99**, **Cassie (Helmer) Turner '02/'08**, and **Ashley Helmer '12**.

**Jack Speer** of Arkansas City died September 5 at the Galichia Heart Hospital in Wichita. Survivors include his wife, **Mildred '70**, daughter, **Susan Schmitt '77** and son, Barry.

# Natural Sciences Hall of Fame

New members of the Natural Sciences Hall of Fame were inducted Nov. 9.

Honorees were (left to right) Brian Howard '82, Ann Allegre '72, and Ron Lohrding '63.



## DEATHS

**Pauline (Stanley) Farnam '34**, age 101, died peacefully in her own home on Oct. 24, 2013. She is survived by her sons, John and Philip; and her daughter, **Ann (Farnam) Van Norman '64**.

**Irene (Buhler) Miller '36** died Aug. 20, 2013. She was the widow of **Gerald Lee Miller '34**, and is survived by her son, Gerald Lee Miller Jr. and daughter, Sheila (Miller) Long. Irene was active in her church and was a dedicated docent at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art for 37 years, where she was happy to be learning, volunteering, and teaching visitors of all ages.

**Dr. Billy Carlton '42** passed away peacefully on Sept. 3, 2013, in Englewood, Colo., with family at his side. Billy was a dentist in St. John, Kansas and retired in 1984. Survivors include his wife of 72 years, **Eileen '43**.

**Philip "Phil" Pestinger '50** died Sept. 16, 2013, at his home in Wichita. His career was spent making a difference in the lives of young people as a teacher, counselor, and coach. After retiring from education in 1987, he worked on the chain crew at KU's home football games for 31 years; he was an avid golfer, and loved to dance. Phil's first wife, Rheta, died in 2001. He married Rosie Miller in 2011. In addition to Rosie, Phil is survived by daughters Kim Cook and Joyce Marsh, and son Jay Pestinger.

**LeRoy Young '50** died Oct. 21, 2013, at the Forrest Manor Nursing Home in Dewey, Okla. LeRoy was employed as an aircraft sheet metal worker for most of his working life. His hobby was playing bluegrass music in the Desert Rhythm Band.

**Donald K. Lowry '51** died on Sept. 17, 2013. A farm kid from Great Bend, Don played basketball, football, and baseball as a Moundbuilder. After graduation, he moved to Kansas City, where he was a life insurance agent. He is survived by his daughter, Leslie Lowry-Super; and sons Barry Nordyke and Mark Bowman.

**Sheldon McGuire '53** died Oct. 23, 2013, in Albuquerque, N.M. He was a teacher and principal in the Albuquerque public schools for many years, and a member of the SC Education Hall of Fame. He is survived by his wife, Pat; stepchildren, Rob and Mariann Groman; and his brother, **David McGuire '47**.

**M. Nanon (Bird) Clare '55** died on Oct. 24, 2013. She is survived by three daughters and two grandchildren.

**Keith Dudeck '57**, retired minister, passed away Sept. 27, 2013. Keith worked for the FBI in Washington for a short time before coming back to Kansas. He became a United Methodist minister, serving numerous churches including Grace UMC in Winfield. Keith is survived by his wife **Joyce '58**; children, **Mike '81**, **Kathy Porter '82**, and Kim Bays.

**Eulah (Holle) Pieschl '57** died on Aug. 5, 2013. She is survived by her husband, **James Pieschl '60**; three sons, Kevin, Kyle, and Marc; one daughter, Marcia Orgish; and a brother, Joe Holle.

**Thelma (Johnson, Nuse) Struble '57** died on Oct. 6, 2013. She was an exemplary teacher and conducted workshops and seminars in her field of special reading, retiring in 1996. In 1991, President Bush honored her as

one of the "Thousand Points of Light" in the U.S. Thelma is survived by her husband Harold Eugene Struble; sons Dale Nuse and Derald Nuse; daughter Danita Williams; four grandchildren; and brothers Melvin Johnson and **Clifford Johnson '61**.

**Wendell Morgan '58** died June 25, 2013 in Hutchinson. Wendell was a chemistry professor at Hutchinson Community College for 34 years and had taught at several Kansas high schools. He is survived by his wife, Monica; and five children.

**Rev. Phyllis (Choate) Southard '58** died on Oct. 11, 2013. Survivors include her daughters, Susanna Southard and Melody Choate; and her brother, **C. Arthur Choate '54**.

**Carol Biberstein-McGee '59** died Oct. 5, 2013, in the Attica Long-Term Care Facility. Carol met her husband, **Howard '58**, while attending Southwestern. She is survived by her sons, Alan and **Jeff '85**; and her brother, **Glenn Biberstein Jr. '57**.

**Robin Jacquart '63** died on Aug. 4, 2013. He and his wife of 52 years, Marsha, raised their family on a farm north of Sublette, before retiring to Colorado. In addition to his wife, he is survived by sons Rollie, Ragan, and Clint; and daughters Kristi Thompson and Kerri Finegan.

**Dick L. Swindler '66** died on Oct. 12, 2013. He taught mathematics at Lawrence High School for 28 years before retiring due to early onset Parkinson's Disease. He also coached gymnastics for many years, and was regularly named "Coach of the Year" and "Judge of the Year." He is survived by his wife, **Marjorie '67**; son Sean

Swindler and daughter Shana Morris; and his siblings, Patty Coons, Betty June Patton, Don Swindler and Jim Swindler.

**Rebecca "Becky" (Laws) Gulick '77**, passed away Aug. 12, 2013, in Oklahoma City. Becky's love of nature led her to many years of volunteering with the local Girl Scouts, especially at camps Bradbury and Four Winds. Becky is survived by her husband, James; a son, Tony; daughters, Kristi Desinise, Rachel Gulick, and Jessica Sommer; and brothers, Greg and Ken.

**Elizabeth "Beth" Anderson '80** died on Sept. 10, 2013, after a long and courageous battle with lung cancer caused by radon. Reading was a passion for Beth – as a classroom teacher and administrator for Clearwater, as Executive Coordinator for Literacy Instruction for USD 259, as president of the Kansas Reading Association, and as a book club organizer and member. She is survived by her parents, **Don and Margaret '72 Anderson**; sister **Karen '89**; brothers **Robert '81** and wife, Mary; and **David '85** and wife, Charlene.

## BIRTHS

A son, Kase Lee, born July 2, 2013, to **Micah and Mindy (Woydziak) Kile '05**. The Kiles are at home in Derby.

A son, Ryan Calvin Cochran, born July 16, 2013, to **Chris '06** and **Jessica (Harr) Cochran '06**. The Cochrans are at home in Wichita.

A son, Salvatore August, born Aug. 25, 2013, to reference and instruction librarian **Alicia Lillich**.

# ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

**Cameron Carlson**, dean of education, is co-author of “Making Sense of Organizational Change in Entrenched Schools: A Case Study of Leading Instructional Innovations in a High Performing High School” that has been accepted by *The Journal of School Leadership* for publication in a future edition.

Several SC students participated in the Oklahoma Speech Theatre Communication Association Convention Sept. 28.

**Hannah Watkins**, senior in communication studies, presented “The Eroticization of Violence in Advertising” and was in the top three undergraduate papers.

**Alyssa Richardson**, junior in professional communication, presented “Rickie Fowler’s Influence on Updating Golf’s Outdated Image,” one of the top three undergraduate papers.

**Erin Morris**, junior in professional communication, also had her paper, “Pinterest’s Success,” accepted.

**Hannah Watkins, Hayley Weston**, junior professional communication major, and **Alyssa Richardson** participated in the public relations competition. Richardson’s team won first place.

**Tracy Frederick**, professor of communication, was the president of the Oklahoma Speech Theatre Communication Association during its Sept. 28 convention. She also was asked to sit on a panel for the National Communication Association Convention in Washington D. C. The panel is titled “Connecting the past to the present: Conversations over the past 50 years on work-life balance through the words of Friedan, Slaughter, and Sandberg.”

**Jacob Goodson**, assistant professor of philosophy, is author of *Narrative Theology and the Hermeneutical Virtues: Humility, Patience, Prudence* that will be published by Lexington Books in 2014. He also wrote a chapter in a book on the HBO television series, *The Wire*. “The Ethics of Counter-Insurgency in The Wire” is published in *Corners in the City of God: Philosophy, Theology, and The Wire*. Goodson is giving two conference presentations in the fall—“Future Directions for Philosophy and Scriptural Reasoning” at the Scriptural Reasoning Academic Network in November, and “Humanism in William James’ Principles of Psychology” at the American Philosophical Association in December.

**Shelley Hoffman**, Professional Studies affiliate faculty, was named Elementary PE Teacher of the Year 2013 by the Kansas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (KAHPERD). Hoffman teaches physical education at Franklin Elementary in Wichita.

**Kristin Kraemer ’02** completed a Ph.D. in physics at the University of Nebraska and is an assistant professor of physics at Kansas Wesleyan University.

**Carrie Lane**, associate professor of psychology, was chosen as a 2013-2014 Engaged Faculty Fellow by Kansas Campus Compact. She also is author of a supplemental textbook publication, “Discussion-Worthy Readings in Child Developmental Psychology,” that will be available in December.

**Deborah Martin**, sophomore applied piano major, was bronze medalist in the freshman/sophomore level of the KMTA state honors auditions this fall.

**Cheryl Rude**, professor of leadership, was a conference co-presenter, “Service Learning and Institutional Recognition and Rewards in Higher Education – Is there a Disconnect?” at the Heartland Campus Compact Conference in Tulsa in September 2013. Rude also received the Community Engagement Professional of the Year Award for the state of Kansas at the Heartland Conference in Tulsa in September 2013.

**Timothy Shook**, chair of the division of performing arts, presented a session titled “The Transition from Collegiate Member to Young Professional in the World of Independent Music Teachers” to the 3rd Annual MTNA Collegiate Chapters Symposium at Brigham Young University. A member of the board of directors for the National Association for Schools of Music, Shook organized a session for Region 3 – “Music Leadership in the Music Unit: Why, How, and How-to.”

**Matt Sigler**, Institute for Discipleship Visiting Scholar, wrote “Not Your Mother’s Contemporary Worship: Exploring CCLI’s ‘Top 25’ List for Changes in Evangelical Contemporary Worship,” published in the September 2013 *Worship*. He presented his paper, “Irenics and Polemics in 19th Century Methodist Liturgical Revision: Thomas O. Summers’ Approach to Liturgical Reform,” at Societas Liturgica, Wurzburg, Germany, Aug. 7, 2013.

**Lindsay Wilke**, assistant director of Leadership Southwestern; sophomores **Michael Becker** and **Brenna Truhe**, and juniors **Lauren Strain** and **Tavinia Tucker**, presented at the

2013 Kansas Conference on Service and Volunteerism in Manhattan Oct. 17. The group spoke on the “Top 10 Ways to Utilize College Student Volunteers.”

**Stephen Woodburn**, associate professor of history, is author of a translation of Nikolai Danilevskii’s “Russia and Europe: The Slavic World’s Political and Cultural Relations with the Germanic-Roman West” published by Slavica Publishers at Indiana University. The book was first published in 1869; after 1895 it went out of print in Russia for almost a century, but since 1991 it has been printed in at least eight new editions and over 100,000 copies. It has never before been translated into English. **Kishimjan (Bektashova) Ketner ’09** proofread early drafts of each chapter.

**Amy Yan**, senior analyst for academic systems, became a Blackboard certified system administrator in summer 2013.

**Qianyu Zhai** and **Xiaohua Yu**, students in the early childhood education graduate program, were to present a paper on “Early Childhood Program in China: A Case study on Ding Qi” Early Learning Center at the National Association of Young Children Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., Nov. 22. The students are mentored by Nili Luo. **Xiaoquan Li**, student in the early childhood education graduate program, participated in the conference. Luo starts her service on the National Association of Young Children governing board in an at-large position this June and will support more than 20 participants from China at this year’s conference and serve other participants from various locations in the U.S.A.



## 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.)**

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**Here’s a student who may be interested in SC:**  
(please fill in all information you know)

Name	Year of Graduation	
Street Address	P.O. Box	
City	State	Zip Code
Parents’ Names		
Phone Number		

E-mail Address (if you know it) High School/College

Relationship to you (daughter, friend, nephew, etc.)

Any special interests you know of?

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**OR E-MAIL INFORMATION TO: [southwesterner@sckans.edu](mailto:southwesterner@sckans.edu)**



## SC connections lead to the Promised Land

Story and photos by Jonathan Woon '13



A conversation to secure an internship two years ago afforded me the opportunity to travel to Israel for multimedia production work. Southwestern has been the platform on which these connections and opportunities are built.

After completing an internship two summers ago with *The Upper Room*, Nashville, I was invited to join a production effort in Israel in September to film a Lent devotional. The devotional features Rob Fuquay, senior pastor of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, leading video devotions based on the "I am" sayings of Jesus Christ in Israel. It is scheduled for sale next summer.



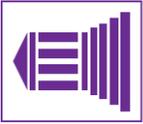
Although this internship was unpaid, the all-paid expenses justified the 14-hour flight to Tel Aviv, Israel. My duties include filming b-roll footage, capturing images and documenting the production process for marketing purposes. I also filmed a promotional interview with the host, Rob Fuquay, and was the main videographer for one devotional segment at Lazarus's Tomb located in an Arab community. The film crew refused to enter due to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Working with a three-man Israeli crew as the production assistant, I was amazed by the thought of working with a film crew of such caliber. The crew has done film work with Bill Clinton as well as the popular television series *Survivor*, among others. As a college senior, nothing is more valuable than these connections.

The technical experience gained through this work travel is wonderful. However, the most valuable element is being placed in a professional setting and doing professional work while being an undergraduate student. I see this as a unique and opportune experience that only Southwestern can provide.

My connections at Southwestern have not only afforded me the experience of another culture, but also have allowed me to explore and hone my skills in media studies. This opportunity has enabled me to learn professional-level production while completing my senior year.

Without the solid connections and flexibility of class schedules at Southwestern, it would be impossible to seize an opportunity such as this.



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NEWS AND STORIES FROM SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE



Jonathan Woon '13 interned in Israel thanks to his SC connections. See his story and photos on page 11.