A few weeks ago two seniors stopped by the office to see me. They had big news. Both had landed jobs in accounting some six months before they were scheduled to graduate. Their first full-time positions are ready and waiting, in Dallas and in Topeka. They were so pleased and proud, and they were very vocal about the great encouragement and support they had received from our business faculty and student life staff. Who knew accounting could be so exciting? It was great! We know that a great college education is about much more than getting a job, but with so much attention being paid to the cost of going to college, it’s important for parents, friends, and alumni to know that the college is on the case concerning career preparation or, for our working adult students, professional advancement.

We are still working to find good ways to gather feedback from adult learners about the career advancement impact of their studies at Southwestern. Much of what we know is anecdotal. Each year we survey our recent main campus graduates to find out what they’re doing and how well prepared they were for the next steps in their lives. Over the period from 2008-2013 – a very difficult period for the American economy – a little under half of recent graduates were pursuing advanced study for a graduate degree, and a little more than half were employed. Very few survey respondents during this period – under 5% - reported being neither employed nor enrolled in further studies. Further improvement in the college’s career-focused work, along with an improving economy, should brighten this picture even a bit more going forward. It’s worth noting that our young alumni who are in graduate school are especially satisfied with the preparation they received at Southwestern.

This issue features profiles of the work and life achievements of a few of our young alumni. I think you’ll enjoy learning about these great young Builders.

Thanks for all you do for Southwestern!

Best regards,

Dick Merriman, President

As dean of students one of the hats I wear is director of our career services. That means if someone is looking for part-time wait staff or for help unloading a moving truck they call the Office of Student Life for help. If you need career advice, advice about classes, or just a person of the office administrator, makes sure the word gets out.

Preparing Moundbuilders for future careers, though, is a campus-wide effort. We stress the importance of internships, and internship coordinator Jim McEwen connects employers and undergraduates through this vital step. Two career fairs each year bring employers to campus to talk to prospective employees, and we’ve partnered with web service CareerBeam to make available the best career development information and research tools. And every faculty member helps students work toward the goal of a meaningful professional life.

Southwestern College is a great place to go to school, partly because we work hard to make sure our students are ready for the next step in their lives. Email me if you’d like more information – dan.falk@sckans.edu.

Thank you,

Dan Falk, Associate Vice President for Student Life,
Dean of Students

Board of Trustees


Honorary Trustee: Bruce P. Blake.
Career search software helps Moundbuilders build futures

By Jessica Schlageck
PS Social Media/Public Relations Coordinator

When 90 percent of Professional Studies students are online how does the college assist them in their job search after they have earned their degrees? Knowing the challenges our new graduates face, Southwestern College Professional Studies found the answer to this question in a partnership with KNOXX, a career networking platform created by Wichita-based firm Insights Career Consulting.

“Candidates who have just a minute or two of the company’s ear often feel they could convince an employer that they are worthy of attention if employers understood them better,” said Mike Mathia, founder of Insights Career Consulting.

SC’s Professional Studies is currently the exclusive educational institution partnering with KNOXX. This gives Moundbuilders an edge others don’t have when it comes time to put their credentials in front of potential employers.

“Many Southwestern student and alumni candidates will now have the eyes and ears of prospective employers focused on them and as a result will have the additional visibility necessary to discover the right opportunity,” Mathia said.

The platform combines job search and social networking formats. The user creates a profile and attaches a resume. They have the option to add a photo or a 60-second video. An “About Me” section gives the candidate the opportunity to showcase personality and interests and a “My Links” section holds more extensive information about credentials that can’t be featured on a resume alone.

The site also allows the candidate to narrow down a job search by the size of business for which they are hoping to work. And searching for jobs discreetly is made possible by three security features.

The site will also benefit military students attending classes through Professional Studies, who often find the transition from military jobs to civilian jobs taxing.

“As a student, I am very excited about the benefits KNOXX will bring to my search for a job after college as well as the rest of our veteran students,” said Nichole Ramirez, student and president of Southwestern College Student Veterans Association. “It can be really difficult for military students to make the transition into the civilian world and this is going to equip them with a better advantage when it comes to interviewing in today’s job market.”

The KNOXX site, which went live in September, is being actively used by employers and candidates alike. It is currently free for all Southwestern College students and alumni. Anyone wishing to receive assistance with a video can go to the Professional Studies Wichita office located at 2040 S. Rock Road, or to Insights Career Consulting, located inside the Orpheum Theatre at 200 N. Broadway in Wichita. For more information visit http://ps.sckans.edu/career-services or contact enrollment@sckans.edu.

SC adds service learning team for entrepreneurial students

Southwestern College has established a fourth service learning program, and the new group already has successfully applied for four grants to support its projects.

Sponsored by the Division of Business, the new Enactus team is supervised by Patrick Lee, assistant professor of accounting, and by James McEwen, internship coordinator.

Enactus is an international organization dedicated to enabling progress through entrepreneurial action. (Its name comes from the words ENtrepre neurial, ACtion, and US.) The group provides a platform for university students to collaborate with business and academic leaders in the development of projects that are evaluated by leading executives through a series of regional, national, and global competitions.

Southwestern’s new chapter has been awarded four project partner grants that the team had applied for through Enactus USA. Each grant is for $1,500 and is to be used exclusively on the project that the individual grant supports, Lee says.

“We found out that the most competitive grants were the AB InBev Better World and the Uncap Opportunities for Women and the SC team was awarded both,” Lee adds.

The four grants and the projects they will support at Southwestern include:

• AB InBev Better World (AB InBev). Enactus teams will design and implement scalable solutions to increase recycling at U.S. restaurants, bars and other on-premise businesses.

• Uncap Opportunities for Women (Coca-Cola Foundation). Teams empower women through collaborating with a community-based organization (Eagle Nest).

• Sam’s Club Step Up for Small Business (Sam’s Club) Enactus teams mentor and improve the fundamental business practices of small businesses for long-term sustainability and success (locally the team will work with The Barns at Timber Creek).

• Walmart Women’s Economic Empowerment (Wal-Mart Foundation). Design and implement comprehensive workforce development programs, empowering women to improve employability and/or further their careers.

For more information on activity Grant opportunities for students or to learn more about the SC Enactus team visit sckans.edu/enactus or enactus.org.

Contact a service team member at (620) 229-6367 | leaders@sckans.edu

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS of Service Learning at Southwestern College

ECONOMIC BENEFITS $451,923 to the COMMUNITY
Grants Service Hours Work Study
$50,845 $196,591

Fourth Annual Homecoming Service Project
330 students
675 volunteer hours
40

Whether you are a student (or know one) interested in joining one of our Service Learning teams, or a community member with a service opportunity for us, check out all we have to offer at: sckans.edu/servicelearning

Leadership SC

Fourth Annual Service Learning Team Alums in Service Careers
Educational Non-profit, Ministry, and Government

Contact a service team member at (620) 229-6367 leaders@sckans.edu
Fun, funky second career: Traveling espresso has perks

T
his is pretty much exactly what Kate (Hatchen) Clause '05 dreamed of doing when she was a kid, even when she didn't know this job existed.

“I always thought I would do something fun and funky,” she says.

And from its bus with bright red graphics to its state-of-the-art espresso machine, Sunflower Espresso fits that description: A portable coffee shop that will be serving up shots all over Wichita sometime this fall or early winter.

Kate got her start in the bean biz while she was a student at Southwestern, learning to pull an espresso during three years as a barista at College Hill Coffee. After she graduated, though, she was ready to put her English degree and journalism minor to work. She joined Oregon Public Broadcasting—a public radio and news station—as an operations manager. In December 2012 she was back in Wichita with KMUW, the local National Public Radio affiliate, and since then has been promoted to on-air early morning drive-time newscaster.

A daily 4 a.m. wake-up call means that for now Sunflower Espresso will be limited to afternoon, evening, and special event catering. Already Kate has scheduled special events, and she hopes to set a regular schedule near high-traffic businesses that are located far from other coffee shops. She has experimented with blends and roasts and Hermoine Grainger (the espresso machine) is ready to be installed in the converted church bus any day.

Someday, Kate hopes, this genera-
tor-powered operation will be so busy she will need to be in it full-time. But the process of getting it up and running (with the help of husband Ray) has been a dream come true.

“It’s neat to create something from the ground up and have it be yours,” she says. Then she continues with a laugh. “And even if it completely fails, I’ll end up with a beautiful espresso maker.”

For more information and location schedules, follow Sunflower Espresso ICT on Facebook.

Guantanamo general visits SC

For several years, Southwestern College in Winfield has enjoyed bringing in Woodrow Wilson Fellows to speak on campus. This year, as part of its 20th anniversary celebration, Professional Studies leveraged the opportunity as well, bringing together students, members of the public, law enforcement, and military in Wichita with a two-day visit in October from Marine Corps Major General Michael Lehnert (retired).

“We are grateful to the Woodrow Wilson Visiting Scholars Program for its support in bringing speakers like General Lehnert to our community,” said Southwestern College Provost Andy Sheppard. “Whether it was his talk with the SC football team or the time he spent with Airmen from McConnell, General Lehnert’s will- ingness to share his insights was a rare treat that challenged us all to think more deeply about serious issues.”

Lehnert is most notable for his role at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where he was originally placed in charge of 13 refugee camps in the early ’90s.

In 2002 Lehnert oversaw the transformation of those camps into a detention facility for suspected members of Al Qaeda and Taliban following the terrorist attacks on 9/11. He was deployed in 2003 to the CENTCOM Theater where he took part in Operation Iraqi Freedom as commander for Marine Logistics Command. He now travels the country speaking on college campuses.

Professional Studies hosted three events in Wichita. On Oct. 15, Lehnert was part of a four-person law enforcement panel discussion with Sedgwick County Sheriff Jeff Easter, retired Wichita Police Chief Norm Williams, and Lionel Santiago, lead faculty of the criminal justice and security management program at Southwestern and master police officer with the Orlando Police Department.

That evening Lehnert gave a lecture on the subject of terrorism to members of the public. The following day he gave a lecture at a luncheon to members of the military. The events were interactive with a question-and-answer session following each.

All three events were streamed live online so any student or member of the public unable to attend could have the opportunity to see Lehnert’s impassioned lectures.

Anyone wishing to watch General Lehnert’s lectures in Wichita can visit http://ps.sckans.edu/.

Ken Crandall is leaving Southwestern College after eight seasons as head football coach. His resignation at the end of the 2014 season marks the end of a pro-
gressive era for the Mountbuilders program. Although his overall record was 25-59 (with a 1-10 record in the recently-completed season) he has had an important role off the field.

“Win-loss records don’t tell the whole story of the importance of a particular person, and Ken has done much to move our program forward,” says David Denly, athletic director at SC. “One of his biggest contributions was his part in the fundraising efforts that led to the construction of the new Richard L. Jantz Stadium.”

The stadium is used by both Southwesterns and Winfield public schools, a model that proved so successful the two entities joined forces again to update Winfield’s tennis facilities for the entire community.

In addition, Crandall received the 2013-14 KCAC Coach of Character Award. This award is given for embracing, teaching, and displaying great character as a collegiate head coach. His mantra of “Do the right thing” became an important life lesson to his players.

A search for a new head coach is underway and is expected to be completed within the next few months, Denly says.

ALUMNI EVENT SCHEDULE

For more information or to RSVP for all alumni events, contact the alumni office at susan.lowe@sckans.edu or 620-229-6279.


April 17 | 5:30 p.m. Leaders in Service Hall of Fame for the Social Sciences, Deets Library. Inductees will be F. David Froman ‘68, Sandra Gasca-Gonzalez ’94, John William “Bill” Dodd ‘51. Cost of dinner is $20 per person, for reservations call the alumni office.

April 18 | 5:30 p.m. Fine Arts Hall of Fame, Darabeth Lobby/Message. Inductees will be Michael R. Bremett ’79, Terry L. McGregor ’73, Madeleine (Magnarsson) Norland ’83. Brunch will be provided, for reservations call the alumni office.

April 18 | Noon Business Hall of Fame, Deets Library. Inductees will be Shawn L. Fanshier ’83, Greg A. Howell ’73, Leo T. “Peter” Whalen ’51. Business Builder Award will recognize Winfield Economic Development. Cost of lunch is $15 per person, for reservations call the alumni office.

April 18 | 3:30 p.m. Educators Hall of Fame and Scholars Hall of Fame, Deets Library. Inductees will be Gyla (Brock) Conklin ’58, Cheryl (Bernard) Schasteen ’71, Kenneth E. Valentine ’50, Dale B. Sims ’80 and Philip R. Schmidt.

April 23 | Winfield Regional Event, “Growing Up With Titanic” presented by Louise Kavanagh, SC international student from Belfast, Northern Ireland. Both of her grandfathers worked on the Titanic and her sister worked at the Titanic museum in Belfast. This will be presented as a part of the Acts of Consequences, Southwestern theatre production.

May 11 | 6:30 p.m. San Diego Alumni and Friends Dinner on the Beach, at La Jolla Beach Club, 2000 Spindrift Dr, La Jolla, Calif. Hosted by Armon Mills ’64 and Sheryl (Evans) Wright ’80. RSVP by May 4 to the alumni office.

May 12 | 5:30-8 p.m. Mission Viejo/ Los Angeles Alumni and Friends BBQ at the home of Lonnie ’69 and Nancy Howerton, hosts. 27716 Calle Valdes, Mission Viejo, Calif. RSVP by May 4 to the alumni office.

May 13 | 6:30-8 p.m. El Dorado Hills/ San Francisco Alumni and Friends, hores d’oeuvres at the home of John ’87 and Kelly (Broadhurst) Nichols ’89. 2520 Belmont Way, El Dorado Hills, Calif. RSVP by May 4 to the alumni office.

May 18 | 5:30-8 p.m. Oklahoma City Alumni and Friends at Bricktown Brewery, 1 North Oklahoma, Oklahoma City. Hosted by Bryan Andrews in ’08/’09. RSVP by May 12 to the alumni office.

May 21 | 6:30-8 p.m. Tulsa Alumni and Friends, at The Rusty Crane, 109 N. Dorothy Ave, Tulsa. Hosted by Brian Carr ’04. RSVP by May 12 to the alumni office.

May 23 | Tri Chi Reunion comes to campus. Hosted by Vicky Raines ’77.

June 9 | Colorado Springs Alumni and Friends, location to be announced. Hosted by Rodney Johannsen ’73. RSVP by June 3 to the alumni office.

June 10 | 6:30-8 p.m. Englewold, Colo. Alumni and Friends BBQ at the home of Larry ’72 and Daniella Robinson. 6357 S. Iola Way, Englewold, Colo. RSVP by June 3 to the alumni office.

June 11 | 5:30 social/6 p.m. meal Greeley, Colo. Alumni and Friends BBQ at the home of Jim ’71 and Virginia (Lungren) Vanek ’69. 2101 44th Ave, Greeley, Colo. RSVP by June 3 to the alumni office.

June 12-14 | Texas Golf Event at Champion’s Circle, Marriott Hotel, 3300 Championship Pkwy., Fort Worth, Texas. Join hosts Linda Craig ’74 and Loren Bridge ’74 for a great SC weekend at an outstanding golf course. Contact Linda at craig.lyndon@gmail.com or 817-991-8960 for more details or to make reservations for golf and hotel. RSVP deadline to Lindy is April 1, 2015.
The picnic, the photo booth, the rock painting and the parade are all proven Homecoming favorites, but the two stars of this year’s Oct. 4 event were an inspired football team and a domesticated kangaroo. The Moundbuilders beat Tabor (then ranked third in the nation) 27-6 on a perfect afternoon in Jantz Stadium. At the parade and near the Mound Frank the Kangaroo added a touch of whimsy to a day of reacquaintance and renewal of old friendships as Builders came home to Southwestern.

See more photos at sckans.edu/homecoming

Alumni Award winners

SC Ambassador Award: Allan and Susan Norton (left) and Don ’53 and Betsy Drennan for their work with the international student host family program.
Young Alumni Award: Brian ’04 and Emily (Bauer) Holthus ’03.
Outstanding Alumni Award: Ambassador David Swartz ’84, who served 29 years in the Foreign Service of the U.S. Department of State and has used his professional expertise to help create the Center for Belarusian Studies at Southwestern College.
Timothy Myers is the face of the North Carolina Opera Company. As conductor and artistic director he is the person praised or pilloried for performances.

But in mid-October, as it looked over a cup of Raleigh’s finest coffee, that face was looking tired. An interview had been rescheduled to accommodate the funeral of a patron’s father, an important performance was coming up in a few weeks, and just a few nights earlier North Carolina Opera Company’s annual fundraising gala had taken place. This event’s success is crucial to the financial health of the company, and is expected to net more than a tenth of the annual budget.

It’s a huge production, Myers explains, but everything needs to feel smooth and easy to the 200 patrons from the top social strata of North Carolina’s famed Triangle. Food, a live auction, a jazz orchestra, all had to be perfect – and that was before the late-night event especially for the NCO Pulse, a group of young professionals who support the opera.

Suddenly, when he starts to talk about the Pulse after-party, Myers begins to brighten.

“I have a rapper friend, King Mez, and we flew him back from Los Angeles for the Pulse,” he says with a grin.

Right then, Myers looked just like he probably did in 2000 when he decided he wanted to put on an opera at Southwestern College. The music department had no budget for an opera, but that didn’t slow him down: He wrote a grant that was funded by the Kansas Arts Commission, assembled a cast and crew made up almost entirely of students, and sold out two performances of “The Medium” by Gian Carlo Menotti.

Today he is one of the nation’s foremost young conductors, with credits that include guest conducting stints with the Malaysian Philharmonic, the Portland Symphony, and the Toledo Symphony. In 2014 alone he has conducted the world premiere of Gordon’s “A Coffin in Egypt” with the Houston Grand Opera and with Opera Philadelphia, as well as conducting a summer concert with the Wolf Trap Opera. He has worked with and been mentored by such legendary conductors as Lorin Maazel, James Conlon, Sir Neville Marriner, Andre Previn and Robert Spano.

“When I came to Southwestern I knew
A place where you can do things.

nothing about opera, and last year I conducted Frederica von Stade," Myers says with a touch of amazement. He has thought often about how he arrived at this town, his position, and he knows he did not take a well-beaten route. He had studied music (specifically piano) as he was growing up in Great Bend but did not hear a live orchestra until he was 12.

“You know, I took three years off after high school before I went to college,” he says. “I really wasn’t comfortable going to a conservatory, and I didn’t know exactly what I wanted to do, but Southwestern seemed like a place where you could do things.”

But whether the venue is Messenger Recital Hall or the Washington National Opera (where he already is scheduled in 2016), Myers says his success has boiled down to hard work and making expectations clear.

“Seth Leeper was in charge of promoting ‘The Medium,’” Tim recalls. “I told him that five minutes before curtain I was going to check in at the box office, and whatever tickets were left he was buying.” Myers grins, but it is clear he wasn’t joking. These kinds of high performance standards have met with widespread approval in Raleigh, where he first guest conducted in January 2008. At that point the city had two opera companies – the Capitol Opera Company and the Opera Company of North Carolina.

“None of this was here,” he says, gesturing toward the bustling downtown of North Carolina’s capital. Still, he had a sense that the city was on the verge of a renaissance. When he arrived there over the years at SC, “I was a sophomore and had never played a role in an opera before. It was a great opportunity to gain new experience and work with really fantastic people.”

Today Sarah and her physician husband, Daniel ’00, are back in Winfield. They have two daughters, Ella (8) and Sofia (2).

Having a family makes it a lot more tricky to find time to sing – mostly I’m singing with my girls,” Sarah says.

She was soloist in the “Requiem” recently performed by Southwestern College and sings in First United Methodist Church’s worship band. This year she is mentor for Sarah, SC’s outreach team.

“It’s been great connecting with the students,” Sarah adds. “They rehearse in Messeneger and it’s been fun to be in that space and remember the countless hours I spent there over the years at SC.”

“I really wasn’t comfortable going to a conservatory, and I didn’t know exactly what I wanted to do, but Southwestern seemed like a place where you could do things.”

“Creativity is always a useful skill.”

Sarah (Melcher) Miller ’02

“I remember being honored to be part of ‘The Medium,’” she says. “I was a sophomore and had never played a role in an opera before. It was a great opportunity to gain new experience and work with really fantastic people.”

Seth Leeper ’01

Seth was a business major so Tim Myers recruited him as business and public relations manager for “The Medium.” It was a daunting prospect.

“Tim’s recollection is true – I was petrified of ticket sales not meeting or exceeding Tim’s expectations,” he admits. “But with Tim’s reputation and a solid cast of SC students, it was an easy sell. Hosting a sold out crowd both nights was a relief.”

After graduating Seth worked as a commercial loan analyst at Commerce Bank, then spent nearly a decade at Cargill in various roles before moving to Oregon in 2011. He is now product manager with BrucePac, a third-generation privately-owned food manufacturer headquartered in the Willamette Valley.

His two children – Emma Grace (8) and Parker John (6) – share Seth’s distinctive red hair.

Missy (McClening) Blanchard ’02

Missy and her husband, Jeremy ’03, now live in Westmoreland, N.H., where they recently moved into a house they built on the dairy farm where she grew up. She is a massage therapist.

“I loved being Baba in ‘The Medium,’” she says. “When it was all over it felt like such an accomplishment. That opera was the most challenging show I did at Southwestern. I was never a good sight reader and when we first started to look at the piece I thought for sure I was in over my head.

“Tim was awesome! He really helped me to break each piece down and I’m confident that it made me a better singer. I always loved playing those much-larger-than-life characters and that was sure Baba. Tim and (stage director) Eric Courtwright made a dynamic team and the cast was wonderfully full of talented singers that inspired you to be your best.”

She says she uses skills she learned at Southwestern in unexpected ways.

“A while after I started my massage practice I realized that how I approached business was influenced by experiences in putting together theatre productions. In addition to acting I designed sets, painted sets, directed plays, and created programs. These experiences translate to business – to marketing, presenting, communicating and networking. "Creativity is always a useful skill.”

A daughter, Clara Kay Sawyer Lirmware, born Oct. 13, 2014, to Tyler '10 and Lindy Lirmware. Tyler shared that it was a tradition in Lindsey’s family to give the first girl two middle names, with the second being the mother’s maiden name.


Both books are available on amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.

1980s

Dennis Hodges ’81 had a solo exhibit of “A Sense of His Soul” and the latest evolution of the series “Eyeden-tary” in the Elevator Art Gallery at Northern Oklahoma College, Tonkawa, Okla. The exhibit ran until Dec. 8, 2014. This work has been a four-year project, as elections moved through Central and Eastern European countries. “Eyeden-tary” takes the series forward as it juxtaposes unaltered eyes next to eyes vandalized by passersby. In addition to the exhibition, Dennis was also invited to speak on campus and do a workshop for the DiVinici Institute Fall Forum.

Kimberly Snapp ’81 is a wound care physician with Via Christi’s Wound and Skin clinic, and for the past nine years has also been working as the executive director of House of Hope Wichita. House of Hope Wichita works with troubled teens and their families to restore passion, love, honor, and respect to the home. With their counseling office established, plan for the organization’s next growth phase is building a residential home for the teens. Check out: www.houseofhopewichita.org.

Jerry Thomas’81 was recognized in June 2014 as Artist of the Year for the Little Bighorn Associates National Convention held in Winchester, Va. His new painting, “Dodging the Storm,” was unveiled and showcased at the conference. On July 3, 2014, he received a special honor from the Northern Cheyenne Tribe at the ceremony held at the Beartrack Pow Wow Grounds in Lance Deer, Mont. “Mythic Warrior” was unveiled and Jerry donated the limited edition prints of the painting to the Northern Cheyenne Reservation to raise scholarship funds for students to the colleges of their choice. In addition, the State of Kansas recently selected Jerry as one of four persons in the 2014 Class of Kansas Finest. KANSAS magazine will do a feature on Kansas Finest in the Winter 2014 edition. The award honors those who have promoted the state nationally and internationally.

Angie Combs ’09 and Rev. Joe Cobb ’83 participated in the clergy retreat for Metropolitan Community Churches in Del Ray, Fla. Angie is beginning her field education at MCC of the Rockies in Denver, and Joe serves as pastor of MCC of the Blue Ridge in Rosarita, Va.

1990s

Jake Berryman ’90, nursing faculty member at SouthernWest from 1993-2013, has been with the nursing faculty at Wichita State University since 2013.

Cary Stamps ’90 started as elementary principal at Decatur Northside Elementary School in Decatur, Ark., in July 2014. Previously, he taught nine years at Gravette, Ark., as a business education instructor at Gravette Middle School.

Robert “Don” Gifford ’93 was promoted to the rank of colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve where he serves as a member of the Army Judge Advocate General’s Corps (JAG). In his civilian capacity, Don is an assistant U.S. attorney in Oklahoma City.

Heather (Carmody) Bachman ’97 was honored as one of the 2014 “40 Under 40” outstanding people in the Wichita area. Heather is a lieutenant with the Wichita Police Department and is actively involved with many community organizations.

Raquel (Rios) Stucky ’97 made history on Oct. 12, 2014, by running the 26.2 Prairie Fire Marathon in Wichita
Luella (Scarrow) Neely at Western Electric. Survivors include her son, Randy; daughter, Kathleen; great potato salad. Survivors include her son, Randy; daughter, Kathleen; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Diana (Billings) Graham ’03. Rachel (Ferguson) Steiner ’04 received the 2014 “40 Under 40” recognition for outstanding young professionals in the Wichita area. Rachel is the director of CAFS and GRAD recruiting services at Friends University.

Katherine (Hutchens) Clause ’05 (See story on page 4)  

COCHRAN ’06 (See note for Mark Conard ’70)  

LANCE PATTEN ’07/08 (See note for Mark Conard ’70)  

Byron J. Williams ’10, has been selected as the management and program analyst of corporate veteran recruitment and marketing, for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Byron is currently completing a doctorate of business administration with Capella University.

Jolene Moore ’11 has accepted a new position at ITC Holdings, in Novi, Mich., as a compliance analyst.

Luke Arneson ’14 has accepted an accounting position with Creekstone Farms in Arkansas City. He gives credit to Southwestern for the guidance and motivation to pursue his career.

Trey Bruton ’14 has been accepted into graduate school at Western Illinois University, pursuing a master’s degree in physics. He will also be a volunteer assistant coach for the cross country and track teams.

William R. Neely ’21 died on Oct. 26, 2014. In addition to being an alumnus of SC, Dr. Neely was a beloved professor, joining the Southwestern music faculty in 1954. He taught voice and music education courses. In 1962, he received SC’s Student Council Faculty Citation, and the 1964 Moundbuilder yearbook was dedicated to him. He is survived by his children, Ronda Jo, Dolly, and Teresa Bailey; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Margaret; two children, John Hough ’50, and Terry Sims, D.J. Sims, Larry Riggs, and Jason Patterson. He was known as a tenacious football linebacker, was the Kansas football team’s free safety and he was known for his humor, his words of wisdom, and his love of life. In addition to his wife of 57 years, he is survived by daughter Belinda Pruyne, son Jeffrey Pruyn Sr., brother James Pruyn and two grandchildren.

Edward Elden Schroeder ’53 died on July 19, 2014, following a lengthy illness. Ed grew up in Winfield, and following his service in the U.S. Navy, he enrolled and graduated from Southwestern. His career was with the Boring Company, including work with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Vivian (Bolland) Schroeder ’92; children, Sonseeha-Manker, Gloria Sherwood, Schott Schroeder, Chandler Schroeder, Valerie Foose, and Eric Schroeder; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

Sherrie (Cantrell, Hancock) Tucker ’54 died at her home on Sept. 27, 2014. She is survived by her children, Robert Tucker, David Tucker, Carol Lejeune, and Sharon Lillian; three grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Mark Shrewsbury ’61 died Sept. 8. Mark worked as a construction superintendent for Sooner Construction and Commerce Construction until retiring due to health reasons. He is survived by his wife, Janet, three stepchildren, and his brother, Matt.

The Rev. Dr. Darrell Huddleston ’64 died on Oct. 23, 2014. He served churches (United Methodist, then Episcopal) in Kansas, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. He was the regional director of Heifer International for 16 years. Survivors include his wife, Bunny; son, Justin Huddleston; daughter, Sarah Dickinson; two granddaughters, and two brothers, Lawrence and Donald Huddleston.

Chuck Brass ’70 (See apr. 2014, 2014, at his home in Coldwater, Kan. Inducted into the Southwestern College Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005, Chuck was known as a tenacious football lineman, was the Kansas state champion in pole vault, and was a good friend to many of his Builder teammates. He is survived by his wife, Diane “Chickie” (Addison); children, Benjamin Brass ’99 and wife Free-dom ’98, and Jessie (Brass) Fish ’99; and husband Chris, mother Betty Brass; brothers Steve ’71 and wife Patty Brass ’73, and Ron Beeley; sisters Martha Bewley, Crawley Brass, and Ellen Sweeney; and four grandchildren.

Jon David “Dave” Book ’71 died on July 28, 2013 in Brandon, Fla. He had been ill with heart problems for a few years. Dave is survived by his wife, Lois J. Weinstein; children, James, Anna, and Becky; son-in-law, Jason; daughter-in-law, Christiina; mother, Norma June; and sister, Carol.

Lela Boyer ’71 died Sept. 11 in Dubuque, Colo. Lela was a superb pianist and taught piano for over 30 years. She is survived by her husband, Bob; two children; mother, Lois Biby ’40; brothers Roger ’70 and Parke ’74; and sister, Carol Myers ’67.

Michael Foster ’71 (See story on page 1). He served churches (United Methodist, then Episcopal) in Kansas, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. He was the regional director of Heifer Internation- al for 16 years. Survivors include his wife, Bunny; son, Justin Hudd-leston; daughter, Sarah Dickinson; two granddaughters, and two brothers, Lawrence and Donald Huddleston.

Chuck Brass’70 (See apr. 2014, 2014, at his home in Coldwater, Kan. Inducted into the Southwestern College Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005, Chuck was known as a tenacious football lineman, was the Kansas state champion in pole vault, and was a good friend to many of his Builder teammates. He is survived by his wife, Diane “Chickie” (Addison); children, Benjamin Brass ’99 and wife Freedom ’98, and Jessie (Brass) Fish ’99; and husband Chris, mother Betty Brass; brothers Steve ’71 and wife Patty Brass ’73, and Ron Beeley; sisters Martha Bewley, Crawley Brass, and Ellen Sweeney; and four grandchildren.

Jon David “Dave” Book ’71 died on July 28, 2013 in Brandon, Fla. He had been ill with heart problems for a few years. Dave is survived by his wife, Lois J. Weinstein; children, James, Anna, and Becky; son-in-law, Jason; daughter-in-law, Christiina; mother, Norma June; and sister, Carol.

Lela Boyer ’71 died Sept. 11 in Dubuque, Colo. Lela was a superb pianist and taught piano for over 30 years. She is survived by her husband, Bob; two children; mother, Lois Biby ’40; brothers Roger ’70 and Parke ’74; and sister, Carol Myers ’67.

Michael Foster ’71 (See story on page 1). He served churches (United Methodist, then Episcopal) in Kansas, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. He was the regional director of Heifer International for 16 years. Survivors include his wife, Bunny; son, Justin Huddleston; daughter, Sarah Dickinson; two granddaughters, and two brothers, Lawrence and Donald Huddleston.

Chuck Brass’70 (See apr. 2014, 2014, at his home in Coldwater, Kan. Inducted into the Southwestern College Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005, Chuck was known as a tenacious football lineman, was the Kansas state champion in pole vault, and was a good friend to many of his Builder teammates. He is survived by his wife, Diane “Chickie” (Addison); children, Benjamin Brass ’99 and wife Freedom ’98, and Jessie (Brass) Fish ’99; and husband Chris, mother Betty Brass; brothers Steve ’71 and wife Patty Brass ’73, and Ron Beeley; sisters Martha Bewley, Crawley Brass, and Ellen Sweeney; and four grandchildren.

Jon David “Dave” Book ’71 died on July 28, 2013 in Brandon, Fla. He had been ill with heart problems for a few years. Dave is survived by his wife, Lois J. Weinstein; children, James, Anna, and Becky; son-in-law, Jason; daughter-in-law, Christiina; mother, Norma June; and sister, Carol.

Lela Boyer ’71 died Sept. 11 in Dubuque, Colo. Lela was a superb pianist and taught piano for over 30 years. She is survived by her husband, Bob; two children; mother, Lois Biby ’40; brothers Roger ’70 and Parke ’74; and sister, Carol Myers ’67.

Michael Foster ’71 (See story on page 1). He served churches (United Methodist, then Episcopal) in Kansas, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. He was the regional director of Heifer International for 16 years. Survivors include his wife, Bunny; son, Justin Huddleston; daughter, Sarah Dickinson; two granddaughters, and two brothers, Lawrence and Donald Huddleston.
Alice Bendinelli, associate professor of English, presented a paper at the “Literature, Memory, and the First World War” conference at the United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y. The conference was held Sept. 11-14, 2014. Her paper was titled “A Narrative of No Man’s Land: Trauma, Memory and History in Barker’s Regeneration.” She also presented a paper at “FLUID: SLSA 2014,” Conference of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts, hosted by Southern Methodist University (SMU), Dallas – Oct. 9-12, 2014. Title of this paper was “Liminal Beings and Affect: The Shared Lives of Nonhuman and Other Animals in Neil Abramson’s Unsaid (2012).” Finally, Dr. Bendinelli attended the “Why Do Animal Studies?” conference in Chicago April 3-4, 2014.

Nathan Clements, English as a Second Language coordinator, accompanied two master of education students, Yingya Qi and Ashuang Cao, to the MIDTESOL conference in Warrensburg, Mo. The Southwestern group presented “Learning From Students: Student-Led Program Improvement.”

Bobbi Erdmann, associate vice president for advising and student success, attended the National Academic Advising Conference (NACADA) in Minneapolis. She has been selected to serve on the proposal review committee for the upcoming 34th Annual Minneapolis. She has been selected to serve on the proposal review committee for the upcoming 34th Annual Academic and Professional Achievements


Steve Wilke, vice president for planning and new programs, preached May 18, 2014, to more than 1,000 Disciple graduates at the 20th anniversary celebration of Disciple Bible Study in Hong Kong. He was hosted by the Laity Training Division of the Methodist Church, Hong Kong.

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.)

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?

RETURN THIS FORM TO: Alumni Notes Coordinator | 100 College St. | Winfield, KS 67156-2499
OR E-MAIL INFORMATION TO: southwestern@ckans.edu
Jim Dole | Mike Foster | Joe Sims

The loss of three men who loved and supported Southwestern reminds us of the college's unique bond with those who contribute to its success.

Jim Dole, whose generosity prompted Southwestern College to name a building for him, died Sept. 20, 2014, at age 101. He and his late wife, Hazel, were namesakes of the Dole Center which originally was headquarters of the teacher education program and later became offices for the institutional advancement staff. In addition, the rose garden at the Cole Mound commemorates their love of that flower.

Jim and Hazel Dole had a fruitful relationship with Southwestern College for more than 50 years. Both received bachelor's degrees from Southwestern College – Hazel in 1952 and Jim in 1953.

Before that, they had taught in one-room schoolhouses in Gruda Springs, Mayfield, and Arkansas City. They then taught for 11 years following their SC graduation before pursuing master's degrees, which both received in 1964 from Peabody College. The Doles moved to Wichita and taught for USD 259 until their retirement in 1979.

Although they did not have children of their own, the Doles influenced the lives of thousands of students over the years, beginning in those one-room schoolhouses. Jim taught children life values as well as the prescribed curriculum, friends said. When he was inducted into Southwestern College's Education Hall of Fame in 2002, presenters said he “evidenced through practice and by example a commitment to excellence in the teaching of youth of all ages over a period of 59 years. He embellished his lessons with personal experiences and observations we fondly called ‘Doleisms.’ He truly lived what he taught.”

Victoria White, then head of teacher education at Southwestern, described the Doles as inspirational teachers during the 2004 dedication of the Dole Center for Teacher Education. “The footprints that Jim and Hazel have left are everlasting,” White said. “They have influenced the lives of hundreds of children, and they continue to touch the lives of young men and women who will go on to influence the lives of hundreds of other children.”

In 2002 Jim and Hazel started two endowed scholarships at Southwestern. They were generous donors to these and other SC needs. In retirement, the Doles continued an active community lifestyle. They were instrumental in the planting of Botanica’s first garden, including starting and maintaining the rose garden and wildflower garden. Jim and Hazel committed more than 6,000 hours of community service to Botanica.

They joined the Wichita Rose Society in 1971, were members of the Prairie Bloomin’ Garden Club, planters of many of the flowers and plantings at the Sedgwick County Zoo, and were both Sedgwick County Master Gardeners. They were active in the Wichita Retired Teachers Association and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP).

A member of Beta Rho Mu at Southwestern, Mike was one of a cadre of friends who remain close to this day. Ken Valentine is part of that group, and even after four decades these friends talk regularly and meet every summer in Winfield to play golf.

“He was a very good friend to many people,” Valentine says. “Mike was always willing to help out and get involved, and even as an adult he never hesitated to help. He had a great attitude about life, always cared about everybody, wanted to do well and had a drive to be successful. He wanted the rest of us to be successful as well.”

Mike began what would become a successful telecon career as a child, riding along with his father and grandfather, then working summers and vacations while going to school. Immediately after graduating he returned to Twin Valley and worked in the field and within the company in the late 1970s when he was appointed vice president in charge of operations. In 1994 he became the third generation of his family to become president and general manager of the company.

In 2003 Twin Valley implemented one of the first commercial IPTV deployments in the nation. The success of the effort led to the commitment to grow the company, and in 2006 Mike undertook initiatives that tripled the size of the company. He had many professional accomplishments but he was most proud of the role he played in shepherding the company ownership to the fourth generation.

Mike joined the SC Board of Trustees in 2002 and was instrumental in helping bring the new Richard L. Jantz Stadium from dream to reality, both through his own contributions and his encouragement of contributions from other donors. In 2008 Mike was inducted into Southwestern College’s Business Hall of Fame.

As part of his extensive community service, Mike coached girls’ softball for 36 years. He enjoyed traveling and spending time at Council Grove City Lake with family and friends, playing golf, and spending time with his children and grandchildren.

Mike is survived by his wife Jackie of Clay Center; his son, Ben and Beth (Erickson) ’99 Foster, Clay Center (Ben is a current Southwestern College trustee); two daughters, Shellee Frederick, Clay Center, and Kendra Howze, Overland Park; his father John (Jack) Foster of Miltonvale; two sisters Penny Gisselbeck, Miltonvale, and Peg Foster Gunnison, Colo.; and 11 grandchildren.

Dr. Joe Sims, a musician and beloved Southwestern College professor, died Oct. 24, 2014. He had just celebrated his 92nd birthday in August. The 1964 Mountbuilder yearbook contained a heartfelt dedication of the book to Dr. Sims: “Realizing that some men rise beyond the most sincere words of praise that other men may offer, we dedicate the 1964 Mountbuilder to Dr. F. Joe Sims, our ‘music man,’ because he is himself dedicated,” the inscription began.

A 1950 graduate of Southwestern, Dr. Sims dedicated himself to music education throughout his career, starting in western Kansas with junior and senior high school bands and choirs before joining the SC faculty in 1954.

He believed music was an integral part of life and should be available to everyone. This foundational belief was carried to Bogota, Colombia, in the mid-’60s, where he was granted a Fulbright lectureship to establish and promote music education. There he worked with newly-established men’s glee clubs throughout the country.

His awards at Southwestern included the Student Council Faculty Citation as well as many awards as an educator, and he was a co-sponsor of Campus Y. He also conducted a chapel hour choir. Dr. Sims was an early inductee into the Southwestern College Fine Arts Hall of Fame, receiving the honor in 2011.

“Among his fellow faculty members, Dr. Sims is known as a congenial co-worker, anxious to do his part. Among the students, he is known as a person who is always willing to help, to listen and to understand,” the Mountbuilder dedication continued.

In 1971 Dr. Sims joined the faculty at Missouri Southern in Joplin, eventually becoming chair of the division of fine arts. A man of strong faith, Dr. Sims was also very active in church music, creating choir programs for children and adults everywhere he lived. After his retirement, Joe and his wife Erna became active in the Joplin-area Habitat for Humanity, where he served as president.

Survivors include his sister, Donna Brown ’53; his children, Ronda Jo Marshall ’70, Vicki Hirchcock ’72, Terry Sims, D.J. Sims, Larry Riggs, Patti Waldrup, and Randy Riggs; 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. The two loves of his life, his wives Ruth (Reschke) Sims and Erna (Oldham) Sims, preceded him in death. Memorials include a scholarship named in honor of those two women at Southwestern College.
What would be missing from your life if Southwestern College did not exist?
Be an angel — give a year-end gift to Southwestern College. (No wings required.)

Gifts made by Dec. 31, 2014, are tax-deductible in 2014. Make your gift online at sc.edu/makeagift,
by ringing 620.229.6279 or by mailing to the Office of Institutional Advancement.