

S T U D E N T L I F E

BY

Lynett Leonard

History of Southwestern
January 30, 1969

Index

Student life.	.1
Government.	.4
Cadmus Literary society	.5
Athenian Literart Society	.6
Belles-Lettres Literary Society	.9
Philo-Sumner Literary Society	10
Gamma Sigma.	11
Sigma Nu.	11
Y. M. C. A.	12
"The Collegian"	13
Athletics	15
Footnotes	16
Appendex	18
Bibliography.	19

STUDENT LIFE

During the first months of the college the enrollement grew rapidly, the first month there were 43 students, the second month there were 86, the third month there were 121, and the fourth month there were 155.¹

There were students from many different counties in Kansas as well as other states. The main Kansas counties were Cowley, Sumner, Pratt, Kingman, Sedwick, Harvey, Reno, McPherson.² Some of the main states were New York, Illinois, Missouri, and Iowa.

The tuition for the students in 1887 was \$2 per month payable in advance or for a term of three months. The school days were to be the same days of the week as the public schools, and from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the morning and from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the afternoon.³

In 1893, the college decided to allow certain Indian students to enroll for \$150 for tuition, books, boarding, and common washing provided they would live at the Boarding Hall.⁴

From the very first there was a religious emphasis on the campus. During the school year 1892-1893, there was a Student Prayer Meeting each Thursday evening, several noon day prayer meetings during the year, and several weekly religious meetings.⁵ According to the minutes of the 1889 SWK Conference Journal, Conversions were frequent occurrences and a high regard for religious life was had by all.⁶

During the school year of 1893-1894, religion became even more a part of the school life. The students were required to attend worship in the college chapel each school day and attend public worship on Sunday morning regularly. Bible History and Literature were required and a student had to be a member of a Bible class or of a Sabbath School. Bible was studied by all classes and weekly recitations were required.⁷

The students of the early days of the college were very much like they are today. It is a common complaint today, in the '60s, that Southwestern is a "suitcase college", that everyone goes home on the weekends, this was also true during the early days. According to the Winfield Courier in 1887, recitations were held on Saturday mornings, but not on Monday, so that the students from around and near Winfield could go home on Saturday afternoon and return Monday morning.

When they did stay, they made life a little more interesting for the Winfield citizens. W. T. Ward, and editor of the Collegian, mentions a time when a gang of boys led by Peter Parker had a smashing party when they cleaned out a downtown Winfield saloon, during the days that Carrie Nation was leading her raids.⁸

Of course, not all of the students were this wild, and most of their activities were of a quieter nature and were in better taste with the community. The 1888 Winfield Courier mentions a group of Southwestern boys who cut wood all winter for a poor family.

The students also spent a great deal of time studying. The first commencement was held on June 3, 1889. Three seniors

graduated: Amy Barnes of McPherson, Alva John Graham of Winfield, and Olive P. Stubblefield of Winfield. Exercises were held in the large third floor assembly hall of Old North Hall.⁹

Living accommodations ~~were~~ not quite like they are now. Many students lived with private families at a cost of from \$3.00 to \$4.00 weekly. Boarding clubs were also formed. Professor Thoburn organized one of the first ones in Anderson House. There were eight members who lived together at the cost of \$1.00 a week.

The Ladies Hall was soon built. It contained no luxurious provisions, but it had all of the necessities. The rooms were of good size and each one had a good closet. The girls were placed two to a room, and each had to furnish only her sheets, pillows, comforts, blankets, and towels. Thirty or forty girls lived in the dorm in about 1890-1891. About the same number of boys ate there also. They paid \$1.50 a week for meals and the girls paid \$.25 for their rooms.¹⁰

G O V E R N M E N T

During the first four years of the college, not one student was summoned before the faculty for discipline.¹¹ The student government or the College Senate was formed in 1892 to help keep discipline. The Senate consisted of the President of the college, who was chairman; two representatives from each class, and two representatives from each department. These students were elected on the second Tuesday of the school year. Their job was to decide on the discipline for all infractions of the rules and regulations and to correct failures and negligence on the part of students, especially in the classroom.¹²

For the school year of 1892-1893 these rules consisted of prohibiting all intoxicants and tobacco, card-playing, theater-going, and dancing. Also, everything rude, and ungentlemanly or unlady-like conduct in or about the college building, on the street or at the boarding places, absence from Chapel, recitation, or church without excuse, absence from rooms after 10 p.m. except for necessity, or attendance at such public entertainments as may have been approved by the faculty.¹³ In 1893 these rules also included the formation of secret societies, of fraternities in connection with the school and attending, supporting or encouraging them.¹⁴

Cadmus Literary Society

The Cadmus Literary Society was organized in the first year of the college when it was still in its old quarters over Baden's Store. Two members of the organizing committee were Hugh Owen and Miss Alva Watt. There was a third member, who was probably Alva Graham.¹⁵

The meetings of the Society were so popular that crowded street cars full of interested spectators came to the Hill. The program committee planned the programs weeks ahead of time and popular speakers were brought back time and time again. This popularity eventually resulted in the Athenian society's formation.

The Cadmus Society died because so few could get in it. There was always a waiting list for membership. The members were especially hand-picked and few in number. In 1888, the society passed away in a strenuous session, assisted by "the Big 3": John Phillips, Bowman, and Hamilton, who immediately applied for admission into Athens.¹⁶

Athenian Literary Society

Seven or eight young men wanted to have the opportunity to develop their speaking ability so they deserted the overcrowded Cadmus Society and formed "The Impromptu Speakers Club." One meeting a week (on Monday) was held. Everyone spoke on a separate subject, each drawn from a hat. His speech (or stand) had to last two minutes whether he knew anything to say or not.¹⁷

The Athenian Literary Society was born from this organization. According to The Story of Southwestern, 12 men met in the latter part of 1889 in an upper room of the old Anderson house and founded the Athenian Literary Society, organized on the plan of the House of Representatives and constituted for the advancement of its members in soul, moral, and literary attainments.¹⁸

According to Mrs. W. V. Burns, the society was born from the "Impromptu Speakers Club" in February of 1890, in the west upstairs room of the old Anderson home (Walter Asher's room). Membership was limited to 21, and each member was to appear on the program once in three weeks. The first speaker was W. F. Tomlinson. Fred Spence was chosen secretary. The officers changed each semester. By the end of the school year the membership was full.¹⁹

The Athenians were officially organized in the fall of 1890. A time of meeting and a place, in the College Hall were decided upon. J.W. Wetzel was speaker for the first semester and W. V. Burns took over the second semester.²⁰ The main purpose of this new society was to furnish the opportunity for more frequent speaking practice. Their meetings were largely attended

by the student body. Their programs usually consisted of recreation, music, debating, and occasionally a short address.²¹

There are many stories about different happenings of Athens. One of them is about the way the members of this new society told the rest of the campus about itself. They chose Bishop Ninde, who was coming to SWKCC to speak, to help announce them. Three members, Fred Spence, M. V. Burns, and E. D. Smith slipped down to the railroad tracks at the west Junction and got aboard the train that the Bishop was coming to Winfield on. They told the Bishop that he had been elected an honorary member of their literary society and urged him to wear their ribbon. He did to the puzzlement of the school officials and the rest of the school. Once people noticed that certain boys were wearing the same type of ribbons, they urged these boys to tell them what they stood for. The society was now ready to be a real organization.²²

The first Athenian officers consisted of the speaker, clerk, attorney, sergeant-at-arms, chaplain, two critics, and three librarians. The society maintained a very systematized library. The membership was limited to 32. The society met every Monday night and adjourned "at or before ten o'clock." A graduation parchment was given to "retiring" Athenians. The south-west room of North Hall's fourth floor was given to the society.²³

On November 24, 1896, Athens was chartered under the laws of the state of Kansas. A conventional seal was adopted. Athens colors had already been chosen--crimson and purple.²⁴

The gavel for Athens was made from wood secured by Claude F. Wright, 1903, from his brother Walter B. Wright of Co. A. 20th U. S. Infantry in the Spanish-American War. The handle is from wood salvaged from the "Maria Christina", flagship of Admiral Montojo. The head is wood from the altar of a Roman Catholic Church which was destroyed during the bombardment of Manila. It was presented to Athens on April 6, 1900.²⁵

Belles-Lettres Literary Society

Following the holiday recess of 1889-1890, the Belles-Lettres Literary Society was organized. Pearl Van Doren and her three friends Ada Guthrie (sophomore), Maggie Guthrie (freshman), and Eleanore Hayes (prep.) drafted a Constitution. Mrs. McBride (Matilda B) was preceptress of the Dorm and helped mould the organization. It was named after the college society of Mrs. McBride.²⁶

There were 16 charter members all who lived at the dormitory. Meetings were held in the reception room at 7 p.m. Mondays. Pearl Van Doren was the first President and Alva Guthrie was the first secretary. In 1890-1891, all the girls of the college were allowed to belong. This necessitated a larger room. Although Union with Athens was broached, Belles remained independent, but they both used the same room.²⁷ The Hall of Athens and Belles-Lettres was furnished with carpeting, piano, and neat, uniform, round-back chairs.

During the depression period, Belles-Lettres decreased in importance. In 1897, Miss Kate Morgan became president and renovated the organization. Eleanore Hayes and Fanny Grey had been a committee to see that Belles either was given a new life or a decent burial. They chose Miss Morgan for the presidency and the society survived.²⁸

Philo-Sumner Literary Society

In the fall of 1897, the Philo-Sumner Literary Society was formed. This name was later changed with some help from Athens. The Athenians called their competitive society "Fido". Professor George Kirkpatrick had organized the society and whenever an Athens member saw a member of this new society he would whistle, and say, or call out "Huh Fido!" and bark just to tease and peeve them. It seemed to make them very angry and that pleased Athens members a great deal. One time, this new society had a public open meeting in the chapel of Old Hall. They had used a lavish amount of decorations, bunting, etc. and had carelessly left it in place on the platform, and it was still all there intact the next morning when chapel called.

While they were assembling for chapel, some of the Athenians started a few puppy growls and some terrier barks, it began to break out like the itch at a country school, among most of the Athenians scattered around the room, then Jessie Uhler who was sitting in the front near the center, looked up toward the ceiling, let loose a terrific howl, shook those monstrous cheeks of his in a spasm of barking like a burly bull dog barking at the moon, and sounded like a wild beast in the jungle-- the effect was electrical and the crowd went wild. Professor Kirkpatrick was mad and yelled at the Athenians. Fido was sore, and after chapel they assembled and changed their name to Delphians.²⁹

Gamma Sigma
and
Sigma Nu

Gamma Sigma was founded on campus by Crawford Thoburn, a graduate of Alleghany. He had entered the faculty in 1889. He had been a member of Phi Gamma Delta. His eloquence aided his attempt to found the fraternity. This chapter was discontinued when trouble arose in Phi Gamma at Lawrence.³⁰

The Sigma Nu fraternity was founded on September 6, 1892, by Alva J. Graham, A. M. LL. B. SWKCC's Chapter was Beta Kappa No. 39. In 1897, the Board of Trustees decided to "exclude forever the Sigma Nu fraternity from SWKCC." The members were given the choice of renouncing or leaving. The exit of the members with a number of others who left in sympathy, left the college without a graduating class the next year. Among those who left in sympathy were Walter Moncrief, John Gilbert, and Carl Dennison who took the "Collegian" with them.³¹

Y.M.C.A.

After being involved in the founding of a local YMCA, and in the work of it after its founding, Joe Earp went to the State Convention in Wichita. He and some other students had become interested in starting a college "Y", so they arranged for a YMCA official to come to Winfield and help start a Colleg "Y" at SWKCC. About fourteen boys met with this official to help start the "Y". The next fall at Chapel, an announcement was made of a prayer meeting in the Library at noon. A large crowd gathered and a campus-wide salvation was started. Almost every girl and all but one boy were "saved" that year.³²

"The Collegian"

"The College Times" appeared in 1887. The third one was printed on December 1 and the paper had changed from a five column folio to a 12 page magazine.³³

In 1889 the staff included Fred G. Wilbur, J. R. Cottingham, Pearl Van Doren, Hugh Owens, Joe Earp, Olive Stubblefield, and Alva J. Graham. National as well as school affairs were written in this small newsy newspaper.³⁴

Due to an annual change of title, the school paper was called "The College Advance" in 1890-1891. It was edited by Fred L. Guthrie. "S. W. K. College Round Table" was edited in 1892-1893. Editor E. O. Creighton ran political and literary items in the journal.³⁵

Wes Wetzel edited the "Vox Studium" in 1893-1894. In the fall of 1894, Van Pelt edited "The Southwestern College Collegian" and it has had this name ever since.³⁶

"The Collegian" recorded the growing impact of SWKCC orators on the state. In 1900, a "Souvenir Edition" was prepared. Edited by Clara Gilmer with a staff headed by Paul White, and Alta M. Huston, Forrest Rose, Claude F. Wright, Arthur Martin, and Chas. C. Lowther, it offered 'for inspection and twenty-five cents-the first attempt at a Souvenir Edition there had ever been.'³⁷

The Dennison boys removed the S. W. K. sheet to St. John's and it was this which forced the college to receive it back and aid in its publication, a curt order being entered in the minutes

of Trustees that "steps be taken to put the Collegian under the control of the college."³⁸

In 1896 it was decided that the Collegian would be edited by the literary societies and that each would alternate months.³⁹

Athletics

The S. W. K. College football team was permanently organized in 1895. The officers were: Professor Dunlevy, president; J. F. Lowther, secretary; Dr. J. G. Evans, manger; MM. A. Clarkson, captain.⁴⁰

Before 1901 there was no organized baseball team. The students just played with local teams from nearby towns and there was no question of eligibility.⁴¹

The girls were provided calisthenics to keep them in shape. There was also gymnastics. The boys were required to participate in Military Drills and Studies for two hours a week.⁴²

There was an early athletic association. John F. Phillips served as president of the first athletic association in 1889.⁴³

Footnotes

- ¹ Winfield Weekly Courier, December 16, 1886.
- ² Winfield Weekly Courier, October 13, 1887
- ³ Winfield Weekly Courier, September 15, 1887
- ⁴ Trustee's Minutes, December 27, 1893, page 27.
- ⁵ SWK Conference Journal, 1889, Vol. III, No. I, p. 26.
- ⁵ Southwestern College Catalog, No. 6, 1892-1893.
- ⁷ Southwestern College Catalog, No. 8, 1893-1894.
- ⁸ Story of Southwestern, "Programs form the early Athenian Age",
- ⁹ History of Southwestern Kansas Conference, Vol. I, 1869-1931, p. 266.
- ¹⁰ Story of Southwestern, "Before Color Fights Were 'Canned'", W. W. Van Pelt.
- ¹¹ SWK Conference Journal, 1890, p.93.
- ¹² Southwestern College Catalog, No. 7, 1893-1894.
- ¹³ Southwestern College Catalog, No. 6, 1892-1893.
- ¹⁴ Southwestern College Catalog, No. 7, 1893-1894.
- ¹⁵ Story of Southwestern, "Auld Lang Syne", Rev. Joseph H. Earp.
- ¹⁶ Story of Southwestern, "Three Ambitions".
- ¹⁷ Story of Southwestern, "The Founding of Athens", Mrs. W. V. Burns.
- ¹⁸ Story of Southwestern, "The Loom".
- ¹⁹ Story of Southwestern, "The Founding of Athens", Mrs. W. V. Burns.
- ²⁰ Story of Southwestern, "The Founding of Athens", Mrs. W. V. Burns.
- ²¹ Story of Southwestern, "A Mush and Milk Benefit", Walter Asher.
- ²² Story of Southwestern, "How They Told the Secret", Mrs. W. V. Burns.
- ²³ Story of Southwestern, "In the Beginning".
- ²⁴ Story of Southwestern, "In the Beginning".

- 25 Story of Southwestern, "From Battleship to Athens", Claude F. Wright.
- 26 Story of Southwestern, "The Founding of Belles-Lettres", Eleanore Hayes.
- 27 Story of Southwestern, "The Founding of Belles-Lettres", Eleanore Hayes.
- 28 Story of Southwestern, "Reorganization".
- 29 Story of Southwestern, "The Precipitous Exit of Fido", Judge W. J. Shull.
- 30 Story of Southwestern, "And Along Came Frats".
- 31 Story of Southwestern, "Sigma Nu".
- 32 Story of Southwestern, "Auld Lang Syne", Rev. Earp.
- 33 Winfield Weekly Courier, December 1, 1887.
- 34 Story of Southwestern, "The Beloved Almanac".
- 35 Story of Southwestern, "The Beloved Almanac".
- 36 Story of Southwestern, "The Beloved Almanac".
- 37 Story of Southwestern, "The Beloved Almanac".
- 38 Story of Southwestern, "The Beloved Almanac".
- 39 Winfield Weekly Courier, March 18, 1896.
- 40 Winfield Weekly Courier, November 14, 1895.
- 41 Southwestern College Catalog, No. 12, 1898-1899.
- 42 Southwestern College Catalog, No. 7, 1893-1894.
- 43 Southwestern College Catalog, No. 7, 1893-1894.

Appendix

First members of Athens

Fred E. Spence	W. E. Hitchcock	W. F. Tomlinson
E. D. Smith	J. O. Smith	J. L. Sudduth
E. T. Hackney	Walter S. Asher	W. V. Burns
J. W. Newman	W. A. Phillips	H. W. Frazier

Founders of Belles-Lettres

Pearl Van Doren	Josie Bainard	Bessie Hayes
Nellie Hayes	Eva Ebbs	Laura Lawrence
Ada Guthrie	Anna Elliott,	Hattie Lewis
Maggie Guthrie	Cassie Boodson	Nellie Monroe
Eva Benton	Carrie Hess	Anna Miller
Clemmie Stewart		

The Athens Speakers

1896 C. N. Bould	E. N. Cunningham	H. P. Robbins
1897 W. J. Shull	Paul J. White	G. L. Metcalf
1898 N. Cunningham	E. P. Geiger	C. N. Gould
1899 Mark White	C. F. Wright	A. J. Martin

Debate Record

		Winner
1898	Willis Cole, Madeline Southard, G. W. Meredith	Southwestern
1899	W. J. Weber, Ella Malone, Robert Romig	Fairmount
1900	Oscar Huddleston, Edward Burnham, Clarice Hales	Southwestern

Athenian Oratorical Contest

1899 first----W. E. Broadie second----H. E. Bailey

State Oratorical Contest

1892	E. T. Barret	6th	1896	Chas. W. Myer	4th
1893	Chas. A. Rheil	5th	1897	R. L. George	5th
1894	J. W. Wetzel	1st	1898	Chas. W. Myer	3rd
1895	D. D. Hoagland	8th	1899	Jesse C. Fisher	2nd
			1900	Louis Allen	5th

Bibliography

History of Southwest Kansas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Volume 1, 1869-1931, published by the conference, publishing committee: P. C. Herbert, W. B. Barton, Wm. T. Ward.

Story of Southwestern, Athenian and Belles Lettres Societies, Anderson Press of Winfield, 1925.

"SWK Conference Journal"

Trustee's Minutes

Winfield Weekly Courier, 1884 -1900.