



New graduate degree completely online

A new master of science degree in leadership (MSL) is being offered for the first time this fall at Southwestern College, with all classes taught completely online.

Through intensive six-week classes, the highly interactive, online MSL curriculum includes specific courses on ethics, conflict resolution, change management, communications, coaching, and leadership challenges.

Administered through the professional studies program, this graduate degree is the first at the college to make its debut without an on-ground counterpart. By the end of the year, organizers expect to have about 20 graduate students pursuing this degree.

In developing this new graduate program, Southwestern College conducted a broad-based survey in 2004 to learn what skills and educational qualifications are in greatest demand. According to Karen Pedersen, vice president for Southwestern College Online, the college discovered that high demand exists for well-educated managers—but even greater demand exists for people with exemplary leadership skills.

“As our society becomes more complex and globally integrated through the internet and other technology, we are truly operating in a world without boundaries,” Pedersen said. “There is a critical need for leadership in business, government, military service, medical and not-for-profit fields. We’ve designed our MSL curriculum to address and develop the unique qualities that turn great managers into outstanding leaders.”

There is no pre-set time frame to complete this master’s program, so students can take classes as their schedules allow. Faculty members have been selected based on their professional and academic credentials, and all have undergone rigorous training in online instruction.

Southwestern College’s vision statement describes an institution that fosters “leadership through service in a world without boundaries.” The college’s service learning programs have gained national recognition for education that integrates classroom learning with real-world service experiences, and the graduate degree was developed in consultation with Cheryl Rude, director of Leadership Southwestern.

In 1997, Leadership Southwestern was recognized as the Best Leadership Program in the U.S. by the Association of Leadership Educators. The program also has been recognized by the Kansas Health Foundation, the John Templeton Foundation, *Midwest Living* magazine, and the Kansas Volunteer Commission as offering exemplary programs in leadership education and service learning.



New faces on the Hill

Fall 2005 saw the addition of seven new members to SC’s main campus faculty. Participating in matriculation convocation for the first time were new assistant professors (l. to r.) Pam Green, teacher education, Ph.D. from University of Kansas; Ahmad Mojiri, mathematics, Ph.D. from University of Ottawa, Canada; Amy O’Connor, business, completing doctorate at Nova Southeastern University; Amarpreet Kohli, business, Ph.D. from University of Louisville; Biswajit Panja, computer science, completing Ph.D. at University of Missouri–Rolla; and Chelie Nelson, early childhood education, Ph.D. from University of Kansas. Not pictured is John Dupuy, accounting, certified public accountant in Colorado.

Mound, trees continue Heart of the Hill campaign

The next phase in an ambitious plan to continue renovation on the Southwestern College campus has been announced.

A new focus of the highly-successful Heart of the Hill campaign will focus on rebuilding the Mound and its surroundings, as well as replacing trees on campus. These Heart of the Hill efforts are part of the larger Builders of Excellence campaign.

Architectural drawings of the renovated Mound show a space that will be a centerpiece of the lower campus, complete with a paved walkway around the Mound, and an amphitheater with hillside seating for presentations and concerts.

The Mound’s new surroundings will include a variety of ways donors can participate in this project—bricks, paving stones, segments of the

have reached the end of their life spans, and now storms routinely decimate the foliage.

“Many of these trees are now dying and need to be replaced,” says President Dick Merriman. “With careful planning and a gradual approach, the beauty of the campus can be maintained and enhanced as these trees come down.”

“The Legacy Trees campaign is being offered in conjunction with the upcoming 125th anniversary of the founding of Southwestern College that we will celebrate in 2010,” Bean adds. “We are hopeful that we will have 125 new trees—one for each year of the college’s history.”

College officials will work with biology professor emeritus Max Thompson in choosing trees suited to the soil and climate conditions of this area. Donors’ names will be listed on a plaque in a central location on campus.

The first phase of the Heart of the Hill campaign resulted in the renovation of the 77 Steps, with the new steps unveiled during Homecoming 2004. The renovated Mound is expected to be completed by Homecoming 2006.

More information on Heart of the Hill—Phase 2 is being mailed soon to SC alumni and friends. For other details, contact Jessica Hornbostel, Builder Fund manager, at (620) 229-6155, or jhornbos@sckans.edu.



“One of the most celebrated traditions at Southwestern College is the building of the Mound,” explains Paul Bean, vice president for institutional advancement. “In conjunction with the Legacy Tree program, Southwestern College will enhance the Mound and its surroundings to reflect the value of its tradition.”

walkway, and benches will carry names commemorating donors or their honorees.

Legacy Trees, the second half of the Heart of the Hill—Phase 2 campaign, focuses on the trees that have given the campus its distinctive beauty. Trees planted on the hill during the early years of the twentieth century (mostly cedars and arborvitae)

Three SC grads in ‘40 Under 40’

Three Southwestern College graduates were named to the *Wichita Business Journal* 2005 40 Under 40 list published in mid-summer.

• **Sara Callender ‘06** is employment specialist, sr., at Cessna Aircraft Co. With majors in English and music performance and a minor in French, she began her career at Cessna as assistant to the director of Citations parts distribution and has been promoted into progressively more responsible positions.

• **Marcia Gies ‘03**, regional human resources manager and human resources officer of Commerce Bank, is praised by co-workers for natural skills and judgment that make her good at her job. In addition to her professional responsibilities, Gies is an active volunteer.

• **John Speer ‘99**, a captain in the Wichita Police Department, has helped investigate many of Wichita’s toughest crimes, including those involving the Carr brothers. Speer was awarded the Wichita Police Department’s Bronze Wreath of Valor for his actions in the Carr brothers’ quadruple murder case.