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COVER

Brandon Smith '98 captured the New York state of mind of students and alumni following the A Cappella Choir concert in Carnegie Hall. Shown from left to right are Jeremy Wilcoxson '05, Christy Hopkins '05, Nate Williams '97, and Donelle (Bergeson) Sommer '97. See story on page 5.

SECOND COVER

Billy Barnum and Amber Bratcher march in Commencement ceremonies May 8, and are photographed by Josiah Chieng '04. More photos on pages 6 and 7.

Photos in this issue are by Brandon Smith '98, Josiah Chieng '04, Sunni L. Sheets, and Charles Osen '94. Russia photo courtesy of Stephen Woodburn. Geocaching photo courtesy of Patrick Ross.

From the President



Dear friends,

Commencement at Southwestern took place a little over two weeks ago. I used to point to Commencement as the finish line for the academic year, but as the college has grown in reach and complexity the idea of "down time" has gone away. Southwestern never sleeps! Southwestern is all about active learning: learning by doing, learning by serving, learning across national borders, and learning across disciplinary boundaries.

This issue of *The Southwesterner* will give you a sense of the amazing richness of teaching and learning at the college. Just a short list: Professor Steve Woodburn took students to Russia, while Professors David Gardner and Timothy Shook led a student delegation to New York City for a Carnegie Hall performance. Professor Roger Moon tied in a tour of Broadway with the New York trip. Our students studied Spanish through interactive video with an instructor located in El Paso, Texas, and our learners completed degrees online from locations around the world. Professor Cheryl Rude, who has pioneered service learning at Southwestern, was the college's first recipient of the Charles H. and Verda R. Kopke Distinguished Teaching Award.

We've had a great year, and here comes the next one! Thanks for all you do for Southwestern College.

Best regards,

Dick Merriman

Dick Merriman

Administration Viewpoint



Most years at Commencement, Paul Bean has the final word.

Just after all the degrees have been conferred, Paul (who is SC's vice president for institutional advancement) addresses the newest alumni of the college with this encouragement and caution: "Moundbuilders are everywhere," he tells them, "and they're watching."

Watching to see what these "young" Builders are accomplishing. Watching to see how they can help. And, frankly, watching to see how they behave.

During the spring semester, I was one of the old folks who sang with the A Cappella Choir at Carnegie Hall. It was a moment of pride almost beyond words.

I was proud that the official photos of our students were taken by Brandon Smith '98, the student graphic designer in my office while he completed his degree at SC, now a graduate of New York University's prestigious Tisch School of the Arts. His portfolio from this spring not only includes the cover shot of this issue, but also art direction on *TV Guide* covers.

I was proud that the choir, under the direction of David Gardner, nailed a performance of goosebump-producing beauty.

But I was most proud that when weather problems meant the choir spent an unexpected night in the Atlanta airport, draped across lobby chairs and sleeping on the hardest concrete floor ever, they reacted with minimal grumbling and maximum grace.

Builders everywhere, feel free to watch. These kids can take the scrutiny.

Sara Weinert

Sara Severance Weinert
Vice President for Communications

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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