



It was paradoxical, like Russia itself—from bitter cold in Moscow, to sunbathers in bikinis (with their feet in the snow) in St. Petersburg. History professor Stephen Woodburn led a 19-person Southwestern College group on a nine-day spring break trip to Russia (some are pictured at far left above in Woodburn's panoramic photo of Red Square). Other highlights of the trip included touring the Kremlin, Tretyakov Gallery, Hermitage, and Summer Palace; shopping in an outdoor market, seeing the Moscow Circus, strolling Nevsky Prospekt, and climbing to the top of St. Isaac's Cathedral. "Not your typical spring break," Woodburn says. "We even stood on the frozen Baltic Sea."



Cheryl Rude, assistant professor of leadership studies, received the first-ever Charles H. and Verda R. Kopke Award for Distinguished Teaching during Commencement exercises May 8. Charles Kopke (left) joined President Dick Merriman in presenting the award. Rude heads Leadership Southwestern, a service learning program that has been recognized as the top leadership program in the nation. She teaches five leadership classes, and leadership was officially recognized as an academic minor in 2001. Rude received her doctoral degree this year from Union Institute.

MASTERBUILDERS pictured clockwise from right are Dustin Holley, Lacy Mohler, Mollie Foster, Omari Head, and Joe Wood. Not pictured is Tia Leach.



Long Journey to Diploma Leads Grad to SC Online

By his reckoning, Chris Moore has been going to college for 22 years.

He started at Wichita State University at 18, a traditional student who self-admittedly wasn't ready for college. But on May 8, at age 40, he finally walked across the stage in Sonner Stadium and accepted the congratulations of President Dick Merriman.

Chris Moore was a college graduate.

Even more unusual than the time it took for Moore to complete his degree was that he had done it from his home—in Maryland.

This day was made possible by SC Online, Southwestern's five-year-old program that allows adults with some college credit to complete their degrees through the internet. Moore had taken a class at the professional studies site in Wichita several years ago, while he was a detective with the Wichita police department. In 2000, though, his wife, Paula, accepted a position with M'Cormick Spices in Maryland and the family moved to the East Coast.

There Chris found that colleges were easy to find, but that the nearest classes available were several hours away. That's when Candyce Duggan, the director of SC Online, suggested that Chris try out the online classes.

It worked. Moore found that the convenience of studying at home meshed with his 3 to 11 shift in the Baltimore County Police Department crime laboratory. In slightly more than two years, the quest that had begun more than two decades before was over.

Now Chris has his bachelor's degree in business, and hopes to start his own photography business.

And when he walked across the stage, and shook the president's hand, he was cheered by his wife, his nine-year-old son, a brother and sister-in-law, and by his mother.

It was the perfect Mother's Day gift for her, one she understood the cost of more than most: Chris Moore's mother graduated from college at age 52.



Chris and Paula Moore

'High-Tech Treasure Hunt' Now on Campus — Somewhere Around the Mound

Every so often, SC biology professor Patrick Ross and his five-year-old son, Sam, go on a treasure hunt.



Pat Ross (far left) with geocaching colleagues in Singapore.

Sometimes the treasure they find is a Hot Wheels car, or a sticker. Sometimes the treasure simply is the opportunity to sign their names. And when they've discovered one treasure, there's always another waiting—167,381 of them in 215 countries.

Like more than 21,000 others around the globe, Pat and Sam Ross are geocachers. And all you need to join the hunt is a global positioning system (GPS) and access to a Web site.

"It's a high-tech treasure hunt," Ross says of the hobby. Started in May 2000, the adventure game's rules are simple—find a cache, take something from it, leave something in it, and log the event.

The hunt begins with a GPS, an electronic device that uses satellite coordinates to indicate the holder's longitude, latitude, and altitude. Using the GPS and coordinates of approved geocaches published on geocaching.org, searchers look for specific hidden locations. The typical geocache is an airtight container containing small prizes—toys, stickers, or other inexpensive trinkets. The geocacher takes one of the items, and replaces it with his own donation.

Since his first cache find about a year ago, Ross has taken geocaching international: When he visited Singapore during a spring semester academic trip, he found time for a

geocaching trip to Bukit Timah Hill, the highest spot in Singapore.

How many geocachers can be counted among the SC family?

"More by the minute," Pat Ross says with a grin. "[Biology professor] Charlie Hunter has started geocaching, and I've stumbled onto SC alumni while doing it." For example, Stephanie Kesler '80 (who lives in Alaska) and Ross can discuss their latest finds during science advisory council meetings.

This spring, Ross became the co-keeper of a geocache hidden on Southwestern College's campus and he watches to see who might turn up to discover the cache hidden "in the vicinity of the Mound."

And while Pat Ross won't tell you exactly where the cache is found, this article can spill the secret. It's at N 37° 14.986 W 096° 58.635—the perfect spot for a treasure.



GET READY FOR MOUND IMPROVING

Since 1927 Southwesterners have become part of the SC family through an annual start-of-school ceremony, the building of the Mound. When the Mound was moved from the upper campus to the lower campus in 1962 to make room for the construction of Darbeth Fine Arts Center, the tradition continued without pause.

Now, though, the Mound's surroundings have become shabby, and the enclosure holding the tons of rocks is cracking and crumbling.

In the coming year, Moundbuilders will have the opportunity to step to the Mound again, this time to refurbish the Mound and its immediate area.

Opportunities for alumni and friends to join the effort will be announced soon.

"If the 77 Steps are the heart of the hill, maybe the Mound is the hill's sense of humor," says Jill Johnson, director of development. "Certainly Moundbuilding is one of our most beloved traditions at SC, and we hope everyone will participate in this unique campaign."