



On the surface, the story of the day seemed to be the wind. Southwestern College Commencement 2005 blew into Sonner Stadium May 8 on a stiff breeze that sent mortarboards flying and snatched programs out of graduates' hands. The wind threatened to carry away the flags that framed the podium. But each of the 400-plus names in the program was a personal story far deeper than the weather conditions. Bret Bement, a third-generation Moundbuilder whose grandfather, Glen W. Gagnebin, graduated in 1929 and whose mother, Lyn (Gagnebin) Bement, graduated in 1973. Szetho Shan-Lin, whose family arrived from Malaysia to see her accept her diploma. Alison Ebright, daughter of a trustee and valedictorian of the class. Chris Moore, an online learner who traveled from Maryland and saw the main campus for the first time on the day he became an alumnus. For the families and friends gathered to witness the day, the wind was a temporary inconvenience. What will last are the stories.



President Dick Merriman presented the Servant Leader award to Dr. Pat Simmons (center), and Fran Jabara Awards to Molly Ann Harris (top) and to Tara Revell (bottom). The Fran Jabara Award is presented to encourage the spirit of entrepreneurship and excellence in its recipients, and a main campus and a professional studies student are designated recipients. Since 1987 the Servant Leader award has honored individuals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in serving others.

