

SC Adds Two New Master's Programs

Southwestern College launched two new online master's programs Sept. 25: a master of science in security administration and a master of arts in specialized ministries. Students with bachelor's degrees in any subject area are eligible to enroll.

In addition to these degrees, Southwestern offers the professional master of business administration (a professional studies program), the master of business administration (a full-time program on the main campus), the master of science in leadership, and the master of education with emphasis in special education or in curriculum and instruction.

The non-denominational master of arts in specialized ministries curriculum includes courses on theology and ethical issues for youth ministry; faith and formation in young adults; and other practical topics to develop leadership skills for those who minister to and promote spirituality among young people. "Our program was developed for those who want to design, implement, and energize ministries promoting spiritual maturity in youth and young adults," said Steve Rankin, professor of religious studies. "This degree is perfect for working youth ministers who want to challenge and inspire youth and young adults through the doctrines of the Christian faith. It is also particularly relevant to those individuals working in parachurch organizations ministering to youth."

The 36-hour program culminates with a six-hour practicum that applies core academic and theological principles to a real-life setting, customized to the student's particular area of interest.

The master of science in security administration is designed for mid- to upper-level managers and covers topics essential to information security, personnel and physical plant security, counterterrorism, and disaster/contingency planning. The curriculum includes courses focusing on leadership skills and management capabilities for those involved in emergency management or any other facet of government, military, public, or private security.

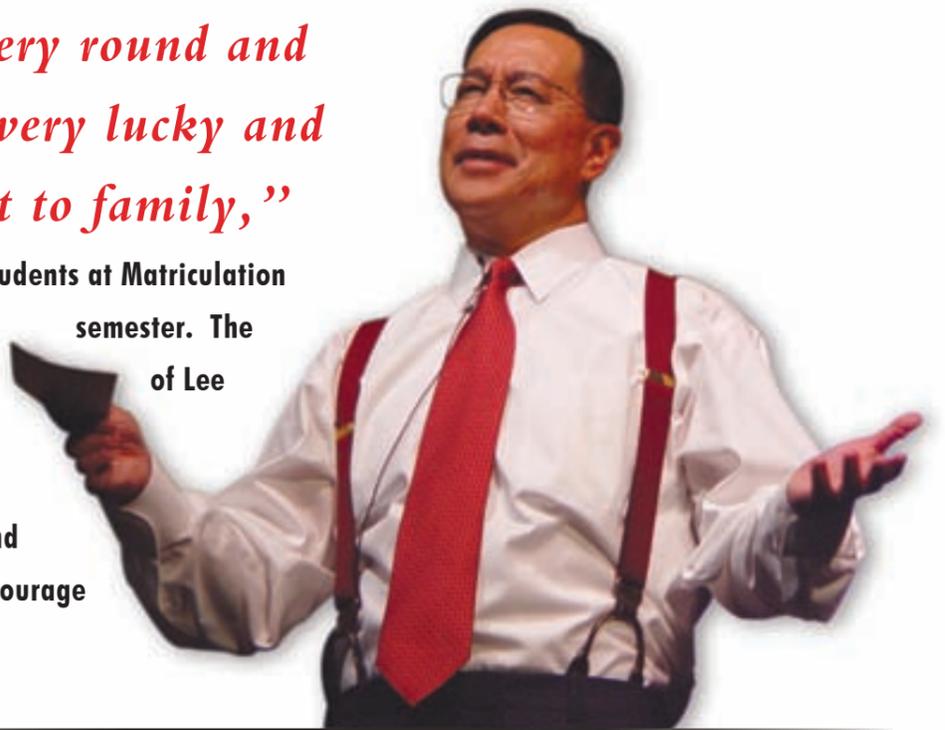
"Southwestern College was one of the first colleges in the Midwest to launch a bachelor's degree in security management in 2003, and we've built on that successful model to create a 36-hour graduate degree that studies best practices in a broad scope of homeland security areas," said Jeni McRay, director of graduate academic programs. "The MSSA delves into managerial and legal issues encountered with homeland security, emergency management, terrorism and other threat assessments, and organizational security investigations."

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— Steve Rankin professor of religious studies

"I find you very round and very full and very lucky and a strong credit to family,"

author Gus Lee told SC students at Matriculation Convocation for the fall semester. The assessment, once made of Lee himself by a Chinese uncle, was part of a talk that urged students to find themselves in stories of courage and character.



New Faculty Bring Cosmopolitan Scope



New Southwestern College faculty for 2006-07 include (from left) Jean-Gabriel Jolivet, Daniel Stevens, Crystal Peng, Ed Loeb, Nili Luo, David Hofmeister, and Stacy Sparks.

New faculty members at Southwestern College bring a wide range of talent from all over the world to join the full-time campus teaching personnel.

- **David Hofmeister**, director of teacher education. Hofmeister had been chairperson of the department for curriculum, instruction, and media technology at Indiana State University.
- **Nili Luo**, professor of early childhood. Luo has over 10 years of teaching experience in China and the U.S. Her research interests are aimed at studying the effects of U.S. adoption on Chinese children.

- **Eugene Wang**, assistant professor of business. Wang holds a Ph.D. in economics from Purdue University. He has taught at Pensacola Junior College, Louisiana State University, and Southeastern Louisiana University. He has published articles on taxation and engaged in several conference presentations.
- **Stacy Sparks**, assistant professor of journalism. Sparks has taught at Dodge City Community College for 13 years, and at St. Mary of the Plains College. Sparks won several awards and recognitions for her photography and is current president of the Kansas Associated Collegiate Press.
- **Crystal Peng**, assistant professor of computer science. Peng graduated from Wayne State University. Her research interests include artificial intelligence and algorithm design and analysis.
- **Ed Loeb**, assistant professor of mathematics. Loeb received his Ph.D. in mathematics from the University of Nebraska. He has facilitated workshops in mathematics and a summer course for minority and low income students.
- **Daniel Stevens**, assistant professor of music. He has been a professional violist with the Tulsa Philharmonic/Opera Orchestra and conductor and artistic director for the Tulsa Youth Symphony.
- **Jean-Gabriel Jolivet**, assistant professor of political science. Jolivet holds a Ph.D. from Purdue University and is the recipient of the Purdue Research Foundation research grant.

Center for Belarusian Studies Garner Wide Attention



The first center in the United States devoted to Belarusian studies has been established at Southwestern College thanks to the support of David H. Swartz, a 1964 SC graduate and the first U.S. ambassador to Belarus.

Announcement of the center earned Southwestern wide recognition, with press interest generated by Associated Press coverage.

SC academic vice president Andy Sheppard says that this center will fit in with the mission of Southwestern College.



David Swartz (right) presents Dean Andy Sheppard a check representing initial funding of a center for Belarusian studies at Southwestern College.

"Our mission stresses, 'leadership through service in a world without boundaries,'" Sheppard says. "The center will be a place for dialogue, discussion, outreach, awareness, and education about the country of Belarus."

A country about the size of Kansas, Belarus became an independent state when the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) dissolved in 1992. Its 10.5 million inhabitants continue to live under the dictatorship of President Aleksandr Lukashenko.

Swartz became ambassador to Belarus one day following the collapse of the Soviet Union. He has held embassy and other consular posts in Warsaw, Zurich,

Kiev, Rotterdam, London, Moscow, and Calgary.

In 1996 Swartz became president of the European Humanities University Foundation, Inc., a group he founded to support the European Humanities University in Minsk, Belarus. The university was forced into exile in 2004, however, and the foundation dissolved. That prompted Swartz to provide initial funding for the new center at SC.

Swartz hopes that by working with Southwestern College and creating this center, he may promote the revival of the Belarusian nation through higher education. According to Swartz, approximately 800,000 people in the United States and Canada have Belarusian heritage.

Southwestern has enrolled several students from Belarus following the exile of the university, and during the 2006 academic year hosted a visiting scholar from the Eastern European country.