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COVER



Brent Inkelaar, Natalie Carlson, and Mark Chan were among new Order of the Mound members recognized at Commencement 2006. More graduation pictures and reactions are on pages 6 and 7 of this issue. Professor Chris Caldwell based his invocation on a prayer in the Methodist Book of Worship.

SECOND COVER

Pent-up energy and spring stress went out the window when the Student Foundation hosted the first Stau Bau (loosely translated: Builder Jam) on April 5. Perfect weather, music, games, and inflatable toys made the assessment-day activity hugely popular.

Photos in this issue are by April McCormick '08, Shan Szetho '05, and Sunni L. Sheets.

From the President



Dear friends,

A couple of springs ago I watched my older son try to keep his eye on the ball through his last year of high school. It wasn't easy. Most of his challenging courses were done, most of what he could get from high school had been gotten, and he was definitely ready for something new. Part of the answer to the problem was to start college early by taking a course online from Brigham Young University.

Now high school students can take online courses from Southwestern through our new CollegeNow program. CollegeNow is built on the foundation of Southwestern's expertise with technology and distance learning.

CollegeNow courses can help a prospective Moundbuilder check out Southwestern, help a future Builder get a leg up on an SC degree, or help a student going to State U. avoid getting a degree on the five-year or six-year plan. To learn more about it, check us out at www.sckans.edu/collegenow and help spread the word among teachers, high school counselors, parents, and students.

Thanks for all you do for Southwestern.

Best regards,

Dick Merriman

Dick Merriman

Administration Viewpoint



Sometimes, in the deepest part of the year, it's possible to forget why we do what we do around here. Academic doldrums arrive in the spring, when running a college can feel depressingly like running a family that's slightly dysfunctional.

Those of us who don't have direct contact with students are running hard to make a class for next year, but also working hard to meet goals we've set for this year. We're looking ahead and behind ourselves, and this double-dipping makes us cranky. We wonder, as the irises bloom, why we do this.

And the people who have direct contact with students are under even more stress. Day after day they deal with students who have more pressure than they can deal with, so they pick fights with their roommates, or they cry, or they drink too much, or they blow off big assignments, or (under the worst circumstances) they threaten to hurt themselves.

It's hard work for everyone involved, and our reserves are gone.

But then comes early May, and we dress up on a Sunday morning and hear a student say at baccalaureate, "Southwestern is a place where healthy and whole people are created." We hear another say, "I came to Southwestern disillusioned with the church, and I learned to think, and to challenge what I believe, and I found my way back to God."

In early afternoon we see a woman place her hands on her child's face, and say, "I'll see you again when you're a college graduate." We swallow past a lump in our own throats as we hear an emotion-choked young man who has just switched his tassel from right to left say "I did this so I could be an example to my children."

We remember all over again why we do this.

And we're glad we do.

Sara Severance Weinert

Sara Severance Weinert
Vice President for Communications

SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE PRESIDENT

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THE SOUTHWESTERNER

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