

# Air Force Partnership Sends PS Enrollment Skyward

A new partnership between Southwestern College and the United States Air Force's Air University Associate-to-Baccalaureate Cooperative (AU ABC) program is being credited with more than doubling the number of new learners in the college's online degree completion program.

Announced in June 2007, the partnership provides distance learning and bachelor's degree opportunities for active duty members of the Air Force, Air Force Reserves, and Air National Guard. Only 19 colleges and universities nationwide were participating in the program when it launched June 15. Southwestern has the distinction of being one of only 10 colleges invited by the Air Force to participate in the pilot program prior to the launch date.

"During my seven years at Southwestern College, Professional Studies has always realized increases in our enrollments, but we've never had a 147% increase in new learners," says Karen Pedersen, vice president for professional studies. "The outcomes to date have greatly exceeded our wildest expectations."

AU ABC links airmen with completed associate degrees to "military friendly" colleges and universities such as Southwestern College. Airmen who have completed an associate degree with the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) can earn a career-related bachelor's degree by completing an

additional 60 semester hours. A team of recruiters and advisors, many with military experience, has been working with prospective learners to make the transition to SC's program.

Since June 15 Professional Studies has received more than 1,000 inquiries from interested learners, with nearly 300 of these resulting in enrollments. The new learners are from all over the United States and overseas—some are now deployed in Iraq. Majors of greatest interest with these new learners include business administration, human resource development, pastoral studies, criminal justice, and operations management.

"In July, we received some great news," Pedersen adds. "We learned that SC enrolled more AU ABC learners than any other participating institution and that includes institutions that have been working with the military for years. So, we knew we were making a difference!"

Professional Studies has offered military-friendly bachelor's degree completion programs for nearly 10 years, and now has educational centers on base at McConnell Air Force Base, at Fort Riley, and near Tinker Air Force Base in Midwest City, Okla.

"Increased deployments for airmen make earning a bachelor's degree so challenging. We're honored to be part of an initiative that makes a difference in the lives of these young men and women," Pedersen says.



**New SC faculty joined the first academic procession of the year during Opening Convocation Aug. 25. Shown (l. to r.) are Matt Rogers, one-year appointment in philosophy and religion; Mike Harper, philosophy and religion; Saeed Yazdani, business; John Scaggs, English; and Veronica M'Asey, director of Memorial Library. Not pictured is Melanie Johnson, nursing.**



**SC mom Robin Barbour and willing helpers were seen Aug. 15 as Barbour's daughter, Katie Gomez, and other new freshmen moved into residence halls. For more on 2007-08 enrollment visit [www.goSC.com/enrollment](http://www.goSC.com/enrollment)**

## Halls of Fame Announce November Inductees

Two SC Halls of Fame will induct new members in November. For more information and reservations for dinners, call Susan Lowe, director of alumni programs, at (620) 229-6334 or [susan.lowe@sckans.edu](mailto:susan.lowe@sckans.edu).

**Saturday, Nov. 3 - Athletic Hall of Fame.** Honorees are Jim Davie '65, Gary Garzoni '72, Jimmy Peppers '62, Dave Warren '51, and Esther Wilson '79.

**Saturday, Nov. 10 - Natural Science Hall of Fame.** Inductees will be William 'Bill' Cloud '47, L. Erlis Cranston '31 (deceased), and David E. Smith '73.

## Six Trustees Join SC Board

Six new members and an emeritus member returning to service now are active members of the college's Board of Trustees.

**New trustees include:** • **Mitch Holthus**, Basehor. Holthus is play-by-play announcer for the Kansas City Chiefs as well as a sports broadcaster and motivational speaker. He is father of SC graduates Brian '04 and Hayley '07. • **Charles M. Maddin**, Tulsa, Okla., an industrial chemist, is a long-time member of SC's Natural Science Advisory Council. • **Florence Metcalf '63** farms with her husband near Liberal. Her son, Mike '89, was a 12-year board member. • **William Don Short Jr.** manages the Short Cos. with headquarters in Oxford. • **Tom Max Thomas**, Dallas, is an attorney and the non-executive chairman of the board of Pier One Imports. • **Stephanie Antrim Weeast**, Liberal, is an attorney and a stockbroker. Her two sons are students at Southwestern.

Salina surgeon **David Smith '73**, returns to the Board. He had completed 12 years of service, and was co-chair of the *Builders of Excellence* campaign.

## New Taste of China for Three SC Early Childhood Students

No trek along the Great Wall. No panda tour.

No peering through a crystal coffin at the embalmed remains of Mao Zedong.

The journey three Southwestern College students took to China was without the stops most tourists make in one of the most intriguing of nations, but Marci Bartow, Caroline Kaufman, and Laura Welter wouldn't have had it any other way. The three were escorted by early childhood education professor Nili Luo, a native of China, and spent the early weeks of summer 2007 working and learning in a welfare institution in the Anhui province. They visited and interviewed teachers in a special education school.

The institution (which would be called an

orphanage in the United States) housed as many as 200 residents from newborns to old men and women who had spent their entire lives there. The majority were developmentally delayed.

The exchange was eye-opening both for the visitors and the visited: While the three students each observed and worked in a baby room, Professor Luo gave seminars to institution personnel concerning techniques to help stimulate development in the residents.

"We got to apply what we're learning in class," Marci explains. "We worked mostly with toddlers and infants who hadn't had a lot of visual stimulation. We could see what happens when this kind of thing isn't in place."

The American student won over the children in their rooms by bringing in treats—jump ropes, sidewalk chalk—and were touched by the response to the gifts. Even a stick of gum was an extraordinary treat, Marci marvels.

Because the SC students were in a location where Westerners are rarely

seen, the local Chinese were fascinated by the visitors.

"We could have stopped traffic," Marci says with a laugh. "We were tall compared with the local people, and their ideas of beauty are Americanized so everyone was taking our pictures."

And even if they didn't visit tourist locations, their eyes were opened by the local cuisine. The turtle soup they ate, for example, was just that—broth in which floated the carcass of a whole turtle.

So how did the experience change the education majors?

"I appreciate my education a lot more," Marci reflects. "We've learned a lot about the 'correct' way to raise children and educate them, but this made me feel much more connected to the importance of early intervention."

"We went there thinking we were just three little Midwestern girls, and people were calling us 'Angels' for going. It was flattering, but I wish they could see we were just not doing anything out of the ordinary."



**A July 9 golf tournament to benefit SC athletics drew supporters to the Basehor course including (l. to r.) Tammy Holthus, Bruce Collingsworth of the Papa John's Pizza chain, and head men's basketball coach Doug Hall. This is the sixth year the tournament has been hosted by new trustee Mitch Holthus (see story above).**