new possibilities

When thinking about our graduation activities and Commencement ceremony, what comes immediately to mind, of course, is celebrating the completion of college degrees. Indeed, the pages of this Southwesterner are filled with fantastic images of celebration.

How appropriate it is to take time to recognize our students as they have accomplished a significant goal. They are excited, and sometimes relieved. Their families and loved ones are rightfully proud. As a college community we delight in the ceremonial culmination of years of hard work and dedication. It is a wonderful time of the year at Southwestern and a noteworthy milestone in the lives of our graduates.

More importantly, however, Commencement marks a new beginning for each graduate. Even as we celebrate graduation as a meaningful marker on their life journeys and cheer their substantial achievement—we are even more excited about all that is in front of these new graduates. Commencement indicates the beginning of the difference they will make in our world. As we applaud what they have done, we eagerly anticipate what is to come throughout their lives and careers.

Our students, and our college, are committed to growing and becoming better—every year. As individuals, as a college, as Moundbuilders, our lives are marked by significant moments where we cross thresholds of change. These rites of passage are simultaneously points of arrival and points of departure as we move forward in a changing world, embracing new possibilities, new challenges, and new futures.

It is a joy each year to look out from the Commencement stage and see graduates and families, faculty and staff gathering to cheer the successful completion of a chapter. It is renewing to look into the future with our eyes and hearts focused on beginning the next chapter.

In the life of every student—in the life of our college—there are times of challenge and times of renewal, times of celebration and times of change. So we gather to celebrate new beginnings—to celebrate new possibilities. We are always becoming. We are always Moundbuilders.

Brad Andrews, President
When associate professor of health and wellness promotion Melinda Current was notified that she would be the 2018 recipient of the Charles H. and Verda R. Kopke Award for Distinguished Teaching, she responded by sharing an anecdote. She told the story of looking a failing student-athlete in the eye and giving him a stern and honest talking-to regarding his priorities. She shared that after the meeting, though hopeful, she was unsure about how he would respond.

A few weeks later she got her answer: When his mother couldn’t be at senior day, the student asked Melinda to be his “mom,” and she was standing next to him when he was recognized for his accomplishments on the field. His accomplishments in the classroom were even more special to this teacher, and she beams with pride when she says the student earned his degree.

This passion for student success led to Melinda Current’s recognition as the 2018 recipient of the Charles H. and Verda R. Kopke Award for Distinguished Teaching.

Dr. Current began her professional career as a nurse, graduating from Wesley School of Nursing in Wichita before earning her bachelor of science in nursing as a non-traditional student in Southwestern College’s campus program. She continued her education with a master of science in nursing from Wichita State University, and a doctor of health science from Nova Southeastern University.

“I never thought I’d be a teacher,” she says, but as the mother of a disabled son she realized that the regular hours offered in the academic setting would allow her to continue in the advancement of wellness while meeting family needs. “I realized that’s what I’d been doing as a nurse – teaching patients to care for themselves. It was a challenge, but I took the position because I knew the subject and really liked it.”

She became an instructor at Wichita Area Technical College, then joined the Southwestern College faculty in 2004. When SC’s nursing degree was discontinued in 2010, she transitioned to the education and then the science divisions as associate professor of health and wellness promotion. In this capacity she teaches courses directed to athletic training students and to biology students interested in medical fields.

Even though she is not herself an athlete (she does play the flute in the Kansas City summer band) she discovered she enjoyed that her classes are overwhelmingly composed of student athletes, and marvels at the growth and maturation that occurs between freshman and senior years.

“They already have the discipline of being athletes; what I have to do is convince them to apply that discipline in academics,” she says. To this end, she attends Builder Camp every year, where she reminds incoming students that from the very first day they should focus on their studies. As an advisor she works to get freshmen in classes that will help them succeed.

So Dr. Current jokes with students (she has upperclassmen telling freshmen that some day they’ll appreciate her dry sense of humor), attends their games and meets, and from time to time she gives a few of them a dose of tough love.

This might be the best medicine for student success: “They’re more afraid of me than they are of their coaches,” she says with a laugh.

Wimmer: Teacher, storyteller, friend, Builder

Robert “Doc” Wimmer, a biology professor whose influence shaped the both the quality and the size of the Southwestern College student body for decades, died in Winfield June 1, 2018. He was 88.

Wimmer’s dedication to students made him a favorite of multiple generations of Moundbuilders from 1959 to 1996. He was known to be exuberant, frank, funny, hard-working, and inquisitive, and was the recipient of numerous outstanding faculty awards as well as the college’s Servant Leader Award. The Robert Wimmer Chair in Biology was established in 2012.

Max Thompson and Wimmer were colleagues for 63 years — they met as graduate students at the University of Kansas, then were biology professors in the same SC division.

Above all, Thompson says, Wimmer loved his students. Nearly 800 biology majors graduated during his tenure and were part of Wimmer’s life. His storytelling style captivated learners, and dozens of students had memorable learning experiences during Jan Term trips Doc led.

“The students always came first,” Thompson recalls. “He loved teaching and looking forward to coming up here every day.”

Most of these students got to know Doc even before they set foot on campus.

“Bob was truly one of a kind — a faculty member who loved to recruit,” says Todd Moore, former SC director of admission.

Wimmer was at the college every evening, phoning high school students to talk about their goals, and eventually working Southwestern into the conversation. He understood the link between activities and academics for SC’s prospects and partnered with coaches to bring top students (especially runners) to Winfield.

Hundreds of students became Moundbuilders through Wimmer’s direct influence, and both the science division and the track team benefited.

As a scientist Wimmer was curious and persistent, Thompson says.

“He started as a mammologist, and probably knew more about the life of pocket gophers than anyone alive,” Thompson says. “He marked and tracked the gophers and found they lived longer than anyone had thought, but he was never interested in publishing, he was interested in finding out stuff.”

Family recalled Bob’s skills in woodworking, legendary gardening, and painting intricate biology panorama on gourds.

He is survived by his wife Maxine ’68, daughters Bev Gilbert ’80 and Patty Burley ’85, son Brad Wimmer ’81, five grandchildren, and hundreds of Moundbuilders who are part of his legacy.

“Dr. Melinda Current makes our college and our students stronger. She is dedicated to teaching and she instructs with joy and love.”

– President Andrews

We would like to thank all the friends, students and colleagues of Bob who have shared such kind and heartfelt comments and remembrances. We have been touched by each one. We want you to know that your love for him went both ways – we spent our lifetimes listening to Bob share stories of his students and their adventures, successes and challenges. His life, and ours, has been enriched by each of you. Thank you.”

– Maxine, Bev, Brad and Patty Wimmer

Memorials may be sent to the Robert Wimmer Chair in Biology at Southwestern College, an endowment which benefits the biology program and students in the discipline.
New sport, new coach for SC women

Women's wrestling may be new to Southwestern College, but it is nothing unusual to coach Sarah Bollinger. Bollinger, who will be the sport's first coach at SC, began her wrestling career as a four-year-old in California.

On the job since March, Bollinger finds that she is an ambassador for both her sport and for Southwestern College. "I grew up with it out there," she says.

Now Bollinger is seeing the sport grow up as well. Long a competitive option for women in California and Texas, women's wrestling was a varsity sport at 47 colleges and universities last year, Bollinger points out. It has been named an emerging sport in the NCAA and the NAIA will host its first tournament this season.

"It doesn't matter what you look like or who you are, you can be successful in wrestling," the new coach says. She points out that there is no typical body type for wrestling – athletes who are long and lanky can be just as successful as those who are more muscular. She points to Anthony Robles, who won the 2010–11 NCAA individual wrestling championship in the 125-pound weight class despite being born with only one leg.

The intangibles emphasized in wrestling can benefit anyone, she adds. Hard work, discipline, determination, and a certain degree of stubbornness are essential to success in Bollinger's sport. With this in mind, Bollinger is on the recruitment trail hoping to fill a squad with 10 to 15 women. She is mostly working in the hotbeds of recruitment – Baker, Central Christian, St. Mary, Ottawa, and SC will all field teams.

But SC athletic director Matt Shelton believes Bollinger brings a unique perspective to her new duties. A three-time All-American wrestler at Missouri Baptist University in St. Louis, Bollinger has just completed a three-year stint as assistant wrestling coach at MBIU where she helped produce six All-Americans and a national champion. She also coached an NAIA Champions of Character award winner, and saw 13 of her student-athletes graduate last season.

"During the interview process I worked closely with Mike Moyer, the president," Shelton explains. "I felt that Sarah brings with her a storied background as a student-athlete and experience in all facets of coaching with her to SC."

Although the schedule isn't set yet, she expects that next fall Moundbuilder wrestlers will participate in tournaments in Nebraska, Missouri, and Texas. With a season that runs from October to February, these athletes will have the advantage of traveling only on weekends so they will not miss class time as other athletic teams sometimes are forced to do.

Between meets and seasons, though, the team will be practicing and preparing for success. "My goals for the team are past the college season. I'd like to see some of our athletes advance to the world tournaments, making the world team," she says, "and I'm confident in my abilities as a coach to get them there."

Teams give strong showings in 2017-18

BASEBALL

The first season of baseball during SC's 21st century was successful, as the Moundbuilders finished with a 15-15 conference record and 20-25 overall. Coach Kevin Frady led the team to fourth place in the KCAC and a spot in the six-team post-season tournament. The Builders' signature victory came on April 19 as SC defeated fifth-ranked and eventual regular season and conference tournament champion Oklahoma Wesleyan.

"Overall I thought the season was a success," Frady says. "I truly feel that we beat ourselves more than our opponents did, and that is a big motivator of our players this summer. We brought a group of guys together who hadn't had much success at their previous schools and showed them what they were and are capable of when they focus on the task at hand, and prepare with intent."

WOMEN’S TENNIS

The 2018 Southwestern College women’s tennis team enjoyed its best season in nearly 30 years, finishing the season in a three-way tie for conference champion with McPherson and Tabor and a record of 19-2. It is the Builders’ first KCAC title in women’s tennis since 1991.

Southwestern also claimed its first-ever KCAC tournament championship by defeating McPherson 5-4, earning a berth in the national championships. "This year's team had a nice mix of senior experience and young talent which led to our success while providing a nice foundation for having a strong team next year and in future seasons," says head coach Jason Speegle.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Head men's basketball coach Matt O'Brien had achieved more wins than any other coach in program history over his nine years in Winfield, but a conference championship had always eluded him. That changed this season as the Moundbuilders secured the team's first KCAC championship since the 2005-06 season. Southwestern then recorded its first-ever NAIA national tournament win, defeating 19th-ranked Roosevelt University in the opening round at Sioux Falls, S.D., before falling to second-ranked Cornerstone.

The Builders finished the season with a record of 27-8.
"Graduates, welcome to your special day. This is the moment you have been working for. You have made sacrifices, you have dedicated yourself to this campus community and to your studies. All of this – the seal and flags, music and robes – is in celebration of your achievement, of the transition you are about to make. They mark the fact that you have successfully completed the requirements, and have earned a college degree. But beyond the requirements, you have taken on challenges and with the support of a caring faculty, you have discovered creative solutions ... you have learned how to learn. These skills, the ones that enable you to explore questions and find answers, will be with you for the rest of your life. And for the rest of your life, you will be a graduate of Southwestern College, you will be Builders. We are so very proud of each of you.”

– Excerpt from President Andrews Commencement address 2018

Visit sckans.edu/commencement to see archived video from the Graduate Hooding and Commencement ceremonies, along with photo galleries from the weekend's festivities.

You will be Builders

Awards Announced at Commencement
Professor Fran Jabara Leadership Awards: Myron Fisher and Jordyn Miller
Student address: Tanner Carlson
Charles H. and Verda R. Kopke Distinguished Teaching Award: Melinda Current
Faculty address: Roger Moon

SOUTHWESTERNER | SUMMER 2018 | 5
Faculty reflect on three decades of growth at Southwestern

The story of the performing arts at Southwestern College is one of evolution — artistic traditions and beloved professors changing and bending those traditions as they evolve with artistic and cultural norms. Three Southwestern professors each have spent 30 years as part of that history, and were honored in April. They joined the faculty in 1988:

• Tim Shook, professor of music and chair of the Division of Performing Arts.
• Roger Moon, associate professor of theatre and speech, who retired at the end of the year.
• Allyson Moon, associate professor of theatre and speech and director of the theatre program.

All have seen major changes in their disciplines during their three decades at the college, but these changes build on foundations that had been built in Southwestern’s first century. There was, for instance, no theatre department until well into the Moons’ tenure at the college.

“There had been a strong drama department for years,” Roger explains. “It had been in the humanities, and the improvement in communication skills was seen as a complement to lawyers, teachers, preachers, and any major. Through Helen Graham and Norman Callison’s years if it was aimed at a teaching and accompanying. It wasn’t until 1995 that his position was made permanent and full time.

The hiring of Roger, Allyson, and Tim coincided with a period of rapid transition in the arts at Southwestern. An institution-wide accrediting agency review critical of majors with only one faculty member led to the elimination of the art major. Theatre was moved away from languages and literature to join music as a new Division of Performing Arts, and a major gift to the college led to the creation of the Maizie Barnett Kilmer Chair of String Education.

profession in ‘drama,’ it was as a teacher in the public schools, or as a foundation to higher degrees that probably would lead to teaching.”

Similarly, music had been an integral part of Southwestern’s curriculum and the merger in in 1926 of the Winfield College of Music with Southwestern further augmented already-strong performing arts programs.

“The strong music education program is evident through the Kansas Music Educators Hall of Fame,” Tim points out. “Southwestern College has more names in this hall than any other Kansas state or private institution. The reputation allowed for strong music teacher placement in the public schools and acceptance into prestigious graduate schools. And of course, the 55 years of (the oratorio) Elijah supports the strength of the program.”

In the late 1980s and 1990s, though, the arts were finding their way at SC. Darnell Lautt, who led the drama department in the humanities division for seven years, had left in 1985 and temporary faculty members were holding the department together.

Roger Moon, who had graduated from Southwestern in 1970, was offered the job — and turned it down. He was on the faculty at Ottawa University the job, it will kill him. If he can’t, you’ll fire him. We would be excited to be here — if you ever make it a two-person department, let us know.”

In November Blake called back: Roger was offered the full-time position as head of the drama program, and Allyson would be put on part-time contract as manager of the summer theatre program, with full-time status promised within a few years.

Shook took a similarly circuitous route to SC. A faculty member at Winfield’s St. John’s College, he decided to finish his doctoral degree at the University of Oklahoma when the Lutheran college closed. The day his family moved to Norman he was offered the position as SC’s piano professor, but by then he was committed to OU. A year later, when the piano faculty seat was vacant again, the budget line was cut. Shook was offered an adjunct position in 1988 and began

In the new theatre department, Roger and Allyson revived the *Eagarheart* tradition that had been dropped for several years, and at the urging of students began to schedule musicals again — *Grease*, and *Godspell*. But the very first show they presented was *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, a show audience members (who were accustomed to more Shakespeare and less Neil Simon) found racy.

“We’ll offend everyone equally,” Roger says with his characteristic cackle.

This move to more contemporary shows brought Southwestern into a different era of performing arts and was consistent with the college’s forward-thinking attitude toward the arts.

“It was current with the trends of the time,” he says, and Southwestern has been nimble in keeping up with both academic and artistic trends. The
National Association of Schools of Music formed in 1924 as the official accrediting agency of college music, Shook points out, and Southwestern was one of the earliest small schools to join the group in 1927.

The community was beginning to return to Southwestern’s performing arts, with groups such as Mary Lou Martin’s Walnut Valley Youth Choir bringing a sense of what Shook calls “what can be.” The strings program was revived with the fully-endowed faculty position, and the South Kansas Symphony and the Southwestern College Youth Symphony began to draw community musicians to join SC student performers.

By the time Shook became chair of the performing arts division in 2007, the theatre and music departments were on the verge of unprecedented collaboration.

“We were moving forward, and that caused a bond that held the division together, and then someone said, ‘If we’re doing musical theatre, we need a BFA degree,’” Shook recalls.

Again the division was in sync with what was happening in the nation. The Horsefeathers & Applesauce program had ended in 2004, but students in high schools were clamoring for opportunities to sing and dance on stage. (Roger calls this the BW/AW phenomenon: Before Wicked and After Wicked.) With the renovation of Richardson Auditorium in 2010 and the opening of the Tomari Center, Southwestern had theatre and music performance spaces that were unrivaled in small colleges.

Energetic young music faculty were eager to join the collaboration, and recruitment of new students in both theatre and music rose. Recent addition of a technical director gives students background in all areas of performance.

“This is the closest we’ve ever worked together,” Allyson says. “We’re really thinking about the education of the whole student, even though we’re still defining ourselves, and we’ll continue to do that.”

When he joined the faculty, Shook says, he was struck by how quiet Darbeth Fine Arts Center was. Theatre offices were in Christy’s Little Theatre and rehearsal sounds were limited to voice and some piano. Now, Shook says, he has to leave his office to find quiet.

“When I’m in Darbeth I hear music everywhere,” he says. “There’s percussion downstairs, and piano upstairs, and winds everywhere, people singing, people dancing, people rehearsing lines in the hallway.”

New faculty members who will be on campus in August are expected to continue the excitement as they fill positions left by Roger’s retirement and the departure of vocal professor Brian Winnie.

“I have nothing but excitement about what will happen,” Shook says. “I feel as if the energy is the highest its ever been, and we will only go forward.”

“The golden age of performing arts at Southwestern? It’s right now,” Allyson adds. “And the best is yet to come.”

“When I’m in Darbeth I hear music everywhere. There’s percussion downstairs, and piano upstairs, and winds everywhere, people singing, people dancing, people rehearsing lines in the hallway.”

– TIM SHOOK

Photo by Dave Muttiah ’99

Top:
Roger, Tim and Allyson in Tim’s Darbeth office

Above:
Roger and Allyson Moon 1989 Moundbuilder

Left:
Tim Shook 1992 Moundbuilder
**1950s**

Dr. Emmet G. Smith ’50 celebrated his 90th birthday in August with a par- ty hosted by his wife, Judith. To mark the event the world-famous organist of the Notre Dame Cathedral (Paris), Oliver Larry, and his wife, Shin Young Lee, played a recital on the largest French-style pipe organ in the world (191 ranks) in the Broadway Baptist Church in Fort Worth. Dr. Smith was the Herndon Professor of Music (Organ and Church Music) at Texas Christian University for 45 years. More than 800 were in attendance, mostly musicians from all parts of the United States.

Tom and Mari Wallabrabenstein ’59 ’60, Winfield, were honored by the Legacy Regional Community Foundation with their Spirit of Humanity award. This honor recognizes their faithful service to philanthropic interest and the betterment of the community.

**1960s**

Russell O. Vail ’63 was ranked 22nd in the USA for the 2017 shot put indoor season for the 75-79 age group. He is also the state of Michigan defending champion for the outdoor shot put, and he placed second in the javelin. Vail will be adding the discus throw for the 2018 season in addi- tion to his continued participation in race walking events in which he holds one national record, three individual national championships, five Michigan state records, and dozens of Michigan individual championships.

Vernon Goertz ’66 was recently honored for his years of coaching in Winfield school. The honor was pre- sented before a Winfield High School wrestling match.

Dean Angeles ’67 reports that his daughter, Sarah, and he both conduct- ed all-state groups at the University of Kansas on March 3. Sarah conducted all-state groups at the University of North Carolina. Dean Angeles ’67, ‘69, Winfield, were honored by the Legacy Regional Community Foundation with their Spirit of Humanity award. This honor recognizes their faithful service to philanthropic interest and the betterment of the community.

**1970s**

Honor. C. Darnell Jones ’72 was recently inducted into the Clarenmore, Okla., Hall of Fame. Darnell, his fam- ily, and many friends attended the April ceremony and banquet at which he was recognized for career achievements. He is a federal judge for the United States District Court in the eastern district of Pennsylvania, sworn in by President George W. Bush. He was inducted into the Southwestern College Leaders in Service Hall of Fame in 2010.

Brad Bennett ’73 and his two broth- ers formed the Bennett Brothers’ Band in the early ’80s playing primar- ily bluegrass music. For over 25 years the five-member band performed at bluegrass festivals, churches and clubs, including the Walnut Valley Festival in 1989. In February 2017 their group was the first band inducted into the Kansas Bluegrass Association Hall of Fame.

**1980s**

Linda (Voth) Coleman ’80 has been named director of human resources for TEKCT Aerospace, leading all human resources activities for their North America operations in Kansas and Washington. Linda and her husband, Erle, live in Winfield and will celebrate 39 years of marriage in August. They have three sons, Austin, Tyler and Shaw, and four grandchildren.

F. James “Jim” Robinson ’80 has recently been recognized for several achievements. In April he was hon- ored at the annual Champions of Diversity Awards Luncheon for his work advocating for judicial independence. This past June the University of Florida Law Review published its November edition which includes an article he co-authored with a justice from the Florida Supreme Court. He was award- ed the William A. Kahrs Lifetime Achievement Award from the Kansas Association of Defense Counsel (De- cember 2017) and Liberty Bell Award for the Thirteenth Judicial District Bar Association (May 2018). In addi- tion, he was involved with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Americans and the Holocaust special exhibit which opened to the public in April 2018. Jim is a partner with Hite, Fanning & Honeyman.

Craig Anderson ’82 has been selected as executive vice president and chief operating officer of Equity Bancshares, Inc., the Wichita-based parent company of Equity Bank. He will oversee commercial banking divi- sions in Equity’s metropolitan markets of Kansas City, Tulsa, and Wichita. Anderson is part of Equity’s senior leadership team and will help lead the Company’s organic growth, business development, community lending and sales strategies. Anderson joined Equity after 31 years in various executive and leadership roles at UMB Bank (UMB) in Kansas City, Mo., where he most recently served as president of UMB’s Commercial Banking – Eastern Re- gion. He will be based in Wichita.

Amy (Bruneau) Goley ’88 mar- red Scott Goley on Aug. 12, 2017, in North Richland Hills, Texas. They live in NRH with their two dogs.

**1990s**

Paul David McDonald ’91 was recently featured in Songwriting magazine (nationwide magazine for adult lead- ers in the Boy Scouts of America) on methods to instruct the communica- tion merit badge.

Rev. Kyle Woodrow ’99 has joined Mount Union University as chaplain. Kyle is an ordained minister in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa in Cape Town as well as a business consultant for Expanding Into Africa in Angola. During his 10-year teaching and preaching ministry in Africa he has coordinated international mission teams, convened the district school of vocational and worked in community development projects. He led his congre- gations in witness and outreach to the community, working in culturally and ethnically diverse settings. He has previously served as an associate minis- ter at Paradise Valley United Methodist Church in Arizona where he cre- ated alternative multi-media worship services and developed younger adult ministries, activities, and connections.

**2000s**

Jill Megredy ’02/17, registrar at Southwestern from 1996 to 2005, has returned to the registrar’s position at Bethany College in Lindsborg. She also was registrar there from 2010- 2015, before a stint as registrar at East- ern Oregon University.

Cormul Hubbard ’04, JD, CCEP, has been promoted to vice president and general manager of Magellan Health- care of Virginia as of Feb. 1, 2018. Cormul previously was senior director of service operations for Magellan.

D’Andre Foster ’07 will be a history teacher at Frederick Douglass High School, Oklahoma City, in the fall.

Bryant Andrews Jr. ’08/09 sent updates on his daughter, Baylor Rae Simone Andrews, and other life updates. Baylor was diagnosed with acute liver failure at 18 months on Jan. 19, 2017. On Feb. 1, 2017, Baylor received her liver transplant at Texas Children’s Hospital in Houston. On Feb. 1, 2018, Baylor celebrated her one-year post-transplant anniversary with family and friends at the Ronald McDonald House in Oklahoma City, where they served families currently staying there dinner. Baylor now is at home in Oklahoma City with Bryant, mother Alyssa, and her five-year-old brother, Bryant III (BJ). Bryant is back at his alma mater in Oklahoma City.

Crooked Oak Public Schools, where he teaches middle school reading and coaches varsity football and boys bas- ketball at the high school.

**2010s**

Charles Fall ’11 is running for the North Shore state assembly seat in Staten Island, N.Y. From January of 2014 to December of 2015, he served as the Staten Island borough director for New York City Mayor de Blasio’s office and then served the Staten Island commissioner of the Department of Parks and Recreation as chief of staff. This bid is his foray into elected office. The election will be Sept. 13.

Caitlin Rethorst ’12 is assistant dean of students at Bethany College.

Ryan Andrew Leach ’14 was ac- cepted into Franklin University Master of Science in Human Resource Management program. He has also started a new position as the training/ awards program manager at the Air Force Life Cycle Management Center, KC–46 Division.

Justin Speers ’14 and Alyson (Sparkman) Speers ’13 were married Sept. 24, 2016, in Oklahoma. Their daughter, Ella Marie, was born in June 2017 in Tulsa. Justin and Alyson are also proud parents of Abigail, who is now two years old. Alyson and Justin say that they are continually grateful for Southwestern and the impact this college continues to have on their lives.

Charles Clark ’15/17 was top scorer for his Irish basketball team, helping them win their first national cup title. Ballincollig is part of the Irish national basketball Division 1 program and is located in Ballincollig, County Cork, Ireland. Clark scored 29 points overall, including three-pointers, in Ballincollig’s win over Killeighan during the President’s Cup final.

Montana Rickey ’15 received a scholarship from the USAF and will be a second lieutenant until graduation. She will then transition into officer training to earn rank of captain. Mon- tana also accepted an internship for this summer working with a nuclear pharmacy company in San Diego.

Hunter Rockhill ’15 enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and is at the Naval School of Music at Ft. Little Creek in Norfolk, Va.

Lindsey Graber ’16 became youth director at Trinity United Methodist Church in Salina in July 2017.

**BIRTHS**

A daughter, Lainey Jo, born Dec. 28, 2017, to Abbey (Lowry) ’08 and Doug Elliott. Abbey is director of the nursing (RN to BSN) program at Metropolitan Nazarene.

The family lives in Oxford.


A son, Katyana also accepted an internship for this summer working with a nuclear pharmacy company in San Diego.

**CORRECTION**

Dana Smith ’76 moved back to her hometown of Lebanon, Ky., this past October and is enjoying substitute teaching.
Bill DeArmond, professor of mass communication and film, is author of “You’re Only as Jung as You Feel,” accepted by Jitter Press. His story “Mirror Image” was published in a December anthology by the MiFi Writers’ Group.

Rebecca Faber, nursing faculty in Professional Studies, is a co-author of “Comparison of sepsis-3 Criteria Versus SIRS Criteria in Screening Patients for Sepsis in the Emergency Department,” which has been published in Advanced Emergency Nursing Journal.

Jacob Goodson, assistant professor of philosophy, published a book about the four pillars of Southwestern College titled Strength of Mind: Grunge, Hope, Freedom, Knowledge.

Kurt Keiser, professor of business and chair of the Division of Business, presented a paper titled “Countervailing Power in Cultural Evolution” in April in San Antonio during the annual meeting of the Association for Institutional Thought, a subgroup of the Western Social Science Association.

Jeremy Kirk, assistant professor of music and director of bands and percussion, presented a clinic at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention (PA-SIC), two clinics at the Hawaii Music Educators Association Conference and a clinic at the Kansas Music Educators Association conference; was a guest artist at the University of Hawaii and at Oklahoma State University; adjudicated the Kansas regional and state solo and ensemble festivals, the Oklahoma solo and ensemble festival; created and hosted the Light It Up Blue Concert at SC, a celebration of neurodiversity; and hosted the Light It Up Blue Concert at Oklahoma State University; adjudi...
Jane Lynn (Gay) Duncan ’46 died March 6, 2018. She was 93. Jane and Bob Duncan ’44 in 1947 and he died in 2007. Jane was active in her tastes, home, clothes and friends from every walk of life. She served 35 years on the William Newton Hospital board and became a dedicated advocate to provide a superior facility for all patients and hospital personnel in her home state. Jane is survived by her daughter, Dana ’69; sons, Gary and Craig ’02; six grandchildren including Dr. Spencer Duncan ’01 and David Duncan ’09; and 10 great-grandchildren.

George Sanford Paris ’49 died May 5, 2018 in Topeka. He was an artist, author, actor, preacher, teacher, and poet. He was a campus minister for the United Methodist Church, serving as state director of campus ministry for United Methodist Churches of Kansas. He taught high school and was on staff of the Topeka Public Library. George was five years older than his wife, Velma Ruth King ’50, preceded him in death. He is survived by five children, nine grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Gilmer Keith Nellis ’49 died Sept. 8, 2017. He taught at Garden City and Coffeyville community colleges. In 1969 he was named dean of administration at Coffeyville, a position he held until his retirement. Gilmer was elected to two terms as a member of the Board of Trustees. He married Betty J. Ong in 1990, and she survives him.

Joyce Burns Grimes ’49 died in Hilton Head, S.C., on Jan. 14, 2018. She was a teacher in Ashland, Pratt, and Cimmaron schools. While at Cimmaron she became involved in the Kansas National Education Association and was chairperson of the Kansas State Teaching Standards Advisory Board. Joyce is survived by two children.

JoAnn (Diller) Heasty ’50 died Jan. 1, 2018. She was a dedicated EMH special education paraprofessional at the Wellington Junior High School for 30 years. She was instrumental in starting Futures Unltd in Wellington.

Wesley Dale "Coach" Buller ’51 died April 2, 2018. Wesley is survived by his wife, Ruth Ann, of Lawrence. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Joyce Arlene Buller, three children from his first marriage, a stepdaughter, two brothers, nine grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Jon Schuyler Roe ’60 retired journalist, writer, teacher, poet, and artist, died April 25, 2018. He began his journalism career as a reporter, columnist, and editor for the Wichita Beacon and Journal Item The Eagle when the Beacon closed. In 1984 he edited and published his own weekly newspaper, the Wichita Independent. He also was editor of The Wichita Journal. In the 1980s he worked as a television political reporter and news director. From 1989-1997 at the Wichita Eagle he had roles including public journalism editor, elections team leader, columnist, and reporter. Roe was recognized many times for excellence in journalism. He was a sought-after speaker and writer and was on the faculty of international conferences on journalism and democracy around the world. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Myrne ’58, and their son, Matthew.

Dr. Don Phillip Gibson ’61 died March 8, 2018. He dedicated his life to two passions: being a “doctor by day and a musician by night.” He joined Southwestern’s symphony in high school and continued with it for the next 61 years. Following medical school, Don returned to the Presbyterian Church in Winfield and continued to play faithfully for a total of over 53 years. In 2017 he was inducted into Southwestern’s Fine Arts Hall of Fame.

Harold F. Lister ’61 died Sept. 7, 2017. He taught instrumental and vocal music for 44 years in central and north Kansas. He was an organic gardener and was widely regarded as a role model. He was also a perfectionist in everything from bat house plans to perfecting a pie crust.

Ilda Katherine “Kay” Bigler ’63 died Jan. 29, 2018. She had a 12-year teaching career at Wellington Junior High. Survivors include her husband, Bob Bigler ’60 of Green Valley, Ariz., Patricia Ann Warner ’63, Lawrenceville, Ga., died Feb. 27, 1988. In 1980, she moved to Georgia and worked as a secretary until her retirement in 2011. She is survived by a daughter, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Alan L. Austin ’64 died March 5, 2018. Alan was a quality control specialist for Rodeo Meats until his death. He was a sought-after speaker and writer and served as physics department chair. He wrote the book "The Double Spark" and was a sought-after writer and speaker. He was a resident of Moorhead, Miss.

Roseetta L. Callison died May 8, 2018. She was a quality control specialist for Rodeo Meats until his death. She is survived by a daughter, Kelly Nichols ’89.

Robert Stephen (Steve) White ’42 died in Santa Barbara, Calif., on April 8, 2018, at the age of 97. His wife of 71 years, Freda Marie (Bridgewater) White ’41, died in 2013. Steve's scientific career spanned five decades and comprised three phases. The first involved high-energy physics at the Lawrence National Labs at Berkeley and Livermore, where Steve’s group discovered protons in the earth’s Van Allen radiation belts using experimental apparatus carried aloft on missiles, satellites, and balloons. The second phase coincided with the origins of space physics, when Steve spent five years as head of the Particles and Fields Division at Aerospace Corporation, and became the leading expert on trapped radiation belts. It continued at the University of California at Riverside, where he became professor of physics in 1967, initiated the Magnetospheric and Space Physics Research Program, directed the Institute of Geophysics and Planetary Physics, and served as physics department chair. He invented the double scatter neutron telescope and pioneered the double Compton scatter gamma ray telescope. His observation of nuclear gamma ray emissions from Supernova 1987A was named one of the most exciting astronomical events of the 1980s. Called “a scholar’s scholar” by his colleagues, Steve was selected as Faculty Research Lecturer in 1981 and received the university’s 2000-2001 Emeritus Faculty Award. The third phase of Steve’s career took place after his retirement in 1992 and was devoted to science education. A prolific writer, he wrote more than 150 Science Views and commentary columns for publication in major U.S. newspapers to inform the public on a wide range of scientific issues of current interest.

Northwestern University senior David Duncan ’02; sons, Gary and Richard; and daughters, Elizabeth Sherrington ’03, died June 15, 2017. She was a farmer and rancher. Moundbuilder survivors include a son, Carl ’67, and a daughter, Joyce Co¬nard ’71.

The Rev. Dr. Dallas Allen Polen Jr., died April 23, 2018. He pastored churches including First United Methodist Church in Winfield. Survivors include his wife, Joyce (Wise) ’58.

Elizabeth Sherrington died June 15, 2017. She was a rancher and farmer. Victor ’41, worked in church mission/education serving the poor with food and education. After his death, Elizabeth moved to Winfield and became a staple of campus life. She especially connected with international students. She is missed across campus and throughout the community she loved. She is survived by sons Vijoy ’79 and Vinod ’86, and daughter Vineeta ’80.
Mom’s Graduation ... I helped her. These were the words emblazoned atop the mortarboard of a nearly four-year-old who was cheering on mom in a child-sized cap and gown. Mom, nine months pregnant, had earned her master’s degree. It was a proud family that watched her receive her hood and her degree.

Commencement is a time of celebration and a time of promise. While we often think of the 22-year-old who has transitioned from teen to adult in his four years at Southwestern, a look around Jantz Stadium tells a larger story. There surely are lots of proud parents and grandparents cheering their 22-year-olds. There are also many spouses and children cheering moms and dads earning a first or second degree online or a graduate degree. Some have called Winfield home since their freshman year, and for some, graduation day is their first visit to campus.

Every student has a different story, but will forever share one thing in common...their Builder family. Congratulations to our newest class of Builder alumni. We are proud of you!
Halls of Fame

SC SUMMER

SNAPCHAT

TAKEOVERS

Follow SC students on their summer internships, jobs, and camp counseling adventures. Scan the code or search @moundbuilders to see their snaps!

LEADERSHIP SERVICE FOR THE SOCIAL SCIENCES (BELOW LEFT TO RIGHT)
General Dean Strother ’20 (accepted by Sean McCreery ’96), Dr. Kelly Bender (accepted by Mary Breese) Janes ’97

THE ARTS (ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT)
Kelly Rundell ’12 and Dan Fauchter ’18

BUSINESS (ABOVE AND RIGHT)
Kelly Rundell ’12 and Dan Fauchter ’18

Business Builder Award
– Best Western Plus Patterson Park Inn (accepted by Sara Williams ’13)

LEADERS IN SERVICE FOR THE SOCIAL SCIENCES (BELOW LEFT TO RIGHT)
General Dean Strother ’29 (accepted by Sean McGrew ’96), Dr. Kelly Bender ’68, and Mary Breese Janes ’97

The Arts (Above and Left)
Dr. Stephen C. Anderson ’67 and Dr. Grace Raymond 1897

EDUCATORS (ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT)
Joe Coles ’72, Chuck Haag ’72, and Marcia Grooms’75

Marilyn McNeish Award for Special Education
– Bill ReQua ’70/’06

SCHOLARS (BELOW LEFT TO RIGHT)
Tara Gray ’81 and Dr. Tilgham H. Aley ’48 (accepted by Jennifer Aley Kenney)

FINE ARTS (ABOVE AND LEFT)
Dr. Stephen C. Anderson ’67 and Miss Grace Raymond 1897

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