Echoes from the Hill
Southwestern Oklahoma State University's alumni magazine
Summer 2002
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Hello, Friends and Alumni of Southwestern!

My name is John Hays, and I am fortunate to have the opportunity to serve Southwestern Oklahoma State University, home of the “Bulldogs,” as president. I pledge to do my best for this University and the people it has served, now serves, and will serve. SWOSU is a premier center of learning with an outstanding reputation, and we are looking forward to fulfilling our role in this new century. Working together with its many supporters, SWOSU will make a difference in the lives of the students it serves.

Although SWOSU is a small school compared to major universities in the state, our graduates make a positive impact on the lives of many people throughout the country and the world. Think for a moment about the many professionals who get their start here:

- the teachers who graduate here provide guidance to countless numbers of students in school districts all across this country.
- our pharmacy graduates have assisted in the health care of thousands of people over the last fifty plus years.
- nurses trained at SWOSU are helping to supply the demand for health care in this important, expanding occupation.
- many successful business people, public servants, scientists, journalists, artists, musicians, and others acquired important skills at Southwestern.

As a SWOSU alum or friend, you can probably think of others who have made a difference in our communities and who will continue to do so for years to come.

To maintain our outstanding record, we are faced with the continuing struggle for adequate financial support. The State of Oklahoma, like many other states, has difficulty providing funds for education, while costs for students continue to rise. SWOSU is a bargain when compared to other institutions across the nation. But we still need help.

One way that you can help is by providing a tax-deductible contribution to the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Foundation. You can earmark your gift for specific departments or areas of the university that you want to help. Even a small contribution can make a big difference; for example, an annual gift of $200 could assist a worthy student with textbook purchases.

If you like what Southwestern has done or is doing for you or one of your friends or family members, you can help maintain our tradition of excellence. Please consider a gift today. Your donation is important. Thanks for whatever support you can provide whether it is money, property, helping guide new students our way, or just putting in a good word to the Oklahoma leaders who play a part in the future of this fine institution.

Here at Weatherford and Sayre, we are the friendly campuses with a positive outlook on the future. We welcome your comments. Come see us when you can!

Sincerely,
John M. Hays
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By Farhan Shakeef
Contributing Writer

Dr. John Hays was formally inaugurated as the 16th president of the university on December 5, 2001.

In July 2001, Hays replaced Dr. Joe Anna Hibler, who retired after 11 years as president. State legislators, regents, faculty, staff and representatives from the Weatherford community were present at the occasion. Others included were students and family.

Fifteen student ambassadors were chosen along with ushers from the Student Government Association. The Weatherford String Quartet provided the reception music.

In accepting the symbolic mace of office, Hays stressed the importance of producing graduates who think critically and providing a quality collegiate atmosphere for those students.

“We must take the initiative to address problems that do exist,” he said. “We must keep an open mind to new ideas.”

The new president emphasized the importance of knowledge and its relation in protecting the nation’s liberty. Also, he stated the university must be active in spreading knowledge now and in the future.

All the stakeholders — students, faculty, support personnel, community and alumni — must work together for success, he said.

The program hit a patriotic note from the first with the presentation of colors by local National Guardsmen. Cecil Perkins led the Pledge of Allegiance and Charles Klingman sang the National Anthem.
Dr. John Hayden, Regent Marseda Garrison and former president Dr. Joe Anna Hibler participate in the ceremony.

President Hays is congratulated by Faculty Senate president Dr. Les Crall.

Serving as student senate ushers for the president's inauguration were: Alison Mainer, Misty Williams, Amber Esada, Amber DeVoss, Jared Robinson, Jake Robinson, Brandi McNair, Chris Robertson, Traci Theissen, Molly Priest, Kyle Horton and Kevin Frye.

Serving as ambassadors for the president's inauguration were Summer Al-Jarrah, Whitney Apgar, Cara Berry, Molly Burns, Nathan Hawkins, Jennifer Heath, Amanda Langham, Thomas Maple, Robin Reinart, Laura Robinson, Traci Rogers, Tracie Simard, Stephanie Smith, Bart Williamson and Justin Woodruff.
Higher Education Day

Administrators rally for higher ed

**SWOSU hosts breakfast for legislators**

*By Jon Owens*

**CONTRIBUTING WRITER**

Over a thousand students and administrators gathered at the Oklahoma State Capitol Feb. 19, 2002, to rally for Higher Education. Several people represented Southwestern, including President Dr. John Hays, Dr. Paulette Woods and SGA President Andrea Ward.

At the rally, Oklahoma State Regents requested $174 million in new state funds for Oklahoma higher education. The key component of the request included support for new faculty positions, staff and salary increases, library acquisitions, information technology needs, and additional funds for institutions that have experienced substantial enrollment growth.

Figures show enrollment statewide will increase five percent for fiscal year 2003. Meanwhile, higher education is facing a 2.5 percent cut.

Some legislators think this is a good time to address rural funding. "Rural higher education needs to be addressed. We need to have the legislatures stop trying to cut the rural colleges funding. We need to stop dividing the state between rural and urban," said Stratton Taylor. Other states have dealt with higher education cuts by consolidating. Oklahoma's legislators do not favor that step, saying it would be detrimental to the regional institutions.

"I see having an abundance of independent colleges making higher education more accessible to people throughout the state. I do not see a need for consolidation. Why should a governing board in Stillwater set the policies for a school in Weatherford? The governing board is probably only going to be concerned about the Stillwater campus," said Representative Jack Bonny, vice chairman of the appropriations and budget committee.
It’s a Friday night in October. The air is cold and the sky is clear. In Oklahoma this means high school Football. Imagine if you will: the score is 21-14, your team is losing and has the ball. It’s 2nd and 15 on the 35-yard line. The star quarterback gets the snap. Out of nowhere the defense breaks through and your star quarterback is motionless on the field.

Jump to a Friday night in January. It may be cold outside, but inside the gym it’s almost balmy. January in Oklahoma means basketball. May I borrow your imagination again? The score is 86-86 with 15 seconds on the clock. The home team is heading toward the goal; a lightening pass to the center, he fakes right then moves left in a beautiful lay-up and the crowd grows quiet as the center sits under the goal holding a knee.

As you imagine these scenes, do you think about what happens next? Do you think about who those people rushing onto the field or court with the first aide boxes are? Usually the first person to jump into action is the athletic trainer.

Unfortunately, scenes like this take place all too often, from professional televised sporting events to little league games across the nation. More often, however, injuries occur to what Ron Walker calls “industrial athletes.” A working mom doing her best to keep a quota on an assembly line has a repetitive motion injury. A farmer bucking bales strains his shoulder. A rancher working cattle wrenches a knee.

Walker is the driving force behind Southwestern Oklahoma State University’s new degree program in Athletic Training. He believes Certified Athletic Trainers (ATC) would benefit all the individuals in these scenarios.

The American Medical Association recognized the ATC as an Allied
Health Profession in 1991 and the field has been booming since. The ATC not only provides immediate care and evaluation of injuries, but also works to prevent injuries by educating coaches, parents, athletes, and physically active individuals. If an injury does occur, the ATC, in cooperation with an attending physician, can plan and coordinate the appropriate rehabilitation techniques and tools to restore function.

In May 2000, the State Board of Regents granted SWOSU permission to confer a Bachelor of Science degree in Athletic Training. In order to become eligible for certification, students must graduate from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP); CAAHEP accreditation is a two-year process.

Walker expects accreditation to be granted to the SWOSU program by summer 2003. As of January 2002 the only accredited program in the State of Oklahoma was at the University of Tulsa. Many larger universities in the Midwest, such as Kansas State, also have accredited programs. Oklahoma State University expects their accreditation results in the summer of 2002, while Southern Nazarene University and Northeastern Oklahoma State University are both still in the first year of the process.

SWOSU and East Central University are in the same accreditation time frame, but according to Walker ECU may delay their actual accreditation by a year. Simply put, SWOSU will be the only accredited program in western Oklahoma for the next few years and will be one of the first accredited programs at a state university.

Once students have graduated from an accredited program they must then take the National Athletic Trainers’ Association Board of Certification exam. This exam is given in three parts and, according to Walker, only 30% pass all three exams the first time. Walker’s goal for SWOSU graduates is that they meet or exceed the national mean on the certification exam.

If sheer enthusiasm, energy, and determination are all it takes to make this program and its students a success, then there is no chance of failure because Ron Walker has all this and more. Even while setting up the program following strict CAAHEP guidelines, negotiating cooperation for clinical studies with Integris Clinton Regional hospital and Integris Jim Thorpe Rehabilitation Network, Walker continuously networks on behalf of future graduates. “There are about 200 ATCs in Oklahoma, “ Walker said, “but only eight west of Yukon.”

One of the goals stated in the Athletic Training Department Mission Statement is the “establishment of the certified athletic trainer as an integral member of the healthcare team in western Oklahoma.” If Ron Walker has his way Certified Athletic Trainers will be available to school districts in western Oklahoma to help educate faculty and students to reduce sports related injuries; these ACTs would also be on the sidelines in the event an injury does occur. Once again I ask you to use your imagination. Imagine the peace of mind you as a parent, a grandparent, or a fan would gain knowing that someone who has the proper training, and who is in a position to provide immediate care, is on the sidelines watching out for your players’ safety.
Focus on Athletic Training

Even during football practices, student trainers are on hand to supply water and treat injuries.

The athletic training department's first training class.

Sophomore trainer Lauren Pearson attends to baseball player Josh Haskins.

New head athletic trainer Mike Catterson secures ice to an athlete's sore thigh. Catterson took over the position after previous trainer Greg Holm accepted responsibilities as the coordinator of Clinical education.
Campus improvements

Plaza construction begins

Ground was broken May 13 on the new Alumni Centennial Plaza at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. The project, which will feature a four-sided clock tower, will be dedicated October 5 during homecoming activities at SWOSU. Alumni and friends can still purchase bricks for the project by calling the SWOSU Alumni Association office at (580) 774-3267.

Construction is underway on the Alumni Centennial Plaza. The road-work began in May and is quickly progressing. Jim Loomis is overseeing the 5,000 square foot project that will feature a four-sided clock tower and be located between the Al Harris Library and the Student Union.

Jim Waites, director of the SWOSU Alumni Association, said alumni and friends can still purchase bricks, which will be part of the plaza. They are available by calling (580) 774-3267.

The tower will be dedicated Oct. 5 during Homecoming activities at SWOSU.

Centennial Clock Dedication
Oct. 5

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www.swosu.edu/admin/placement
Fitness center to open in fall

The university will open its doors to a new fitness center in fall 2002. Construction of the facility will be completed by late July.

The project will cost the university a quarter of a million dollars. The money will be generated through a revenue bond over 20 years. The bond will raise approximately $8 million through student activity fees. However, according to Dr. John Hays, president of the university, a certain amount will be allocated to renovate the Student Union center.

"It's all a matter of providing an atmosphere where all students can be successful," Hays said.

The fitness center will be over 5,000 square feet, and will be located south of the tennis courts. Hays said there was an urgent requirement for space for the growing athletic training department.

"The new fitness center will house weight-training equipment from the gymnasium in the HPER building and possibly aerobic exercise machines," Hays said.

In addition, the university is working with a possible donor to obtain several exercise machines. Accordingly, the facility will be open only to college students and staff.

As for the Student Union, Hays said it would be an extensive project primarily because the center was built in 1957 and currently does not comply with building safety codes. He said that a minimum of $4 million would be allocated for remodeling purposes.

"The renovation will include electrical repairs, installation of new heating and air conditioning units, improvement of restrooms and addition of more office space for retail stores or campus organizations," Hays said.

Furthermore, the university is addressing the popular demand for fast-food outlets in the Student Union and is expected to broker a franchise upon completion of renovation.

Students have put forth suggestions during committee meetings with Hays. The administration is taking notice of their requirements via elected representatives of the student government. However, plans for the student union are still on the drawing board and the expected starting date for remodeling work is not set.

With the implementation of the projects, the university hopes to promote its reputation statewide and accommodate student needs.

"Modern times demand changes and we have to meet them," Hays said. "It's a matter of providing an atmosphere where all students can be successful."
Ice storm knocks out power for seven days

By Farhan Shakeel
Contribution Writer

When one thinks of natural disasters in Oklahoma, it’s usually tornadoes. However, on Tuesday, Jan. 30, western Oklahoma was hit by an ice storm that caused severe power outages.

“I always thought a tornado would hit us and nothing like this would ever happen,” said Brian Allen, assistant hall director at Rogers Hall.

The ice started forming early Jan. 30. The 8 a.m. classes met, but by 10 a.m. power was out on campus. For only the fourth time in 100 years, SWOSU canceled classes. The ice continued to form, and by Thursday more than 233,000 homes were without power. OG&E called it the worst storm in Oklahoma’s history.

Strangely, the ice caused very few travel problems. No snow accompanied the storm, and by Friday roads were passable. So after the university canceled classes for Wednesday and Thursday, most residents fled to their respective hometowns or places where they could find refuge.

Residents without vehicles had to move
to a different location. International students and out-of-state residents camped in the lobby of Stewart Hall. Although camping in the lobby of the girls’ dorm sounds like a great slumber party, it turned out to be quite the opposite.

“We chose Stewart Hall because it was easier to accommodate all the students and it is easier to heat quickly,” said Marvin Schoenecke, director of housing.

The university installed a generator in Stewart Hall.

With rumors abounding about power being restored, students found ways to pass time by engaging in activities like sleeping, watching movies, playing pool or board games, catching up on old gossip or watching the Super Bowl at Weatherford High School.

Hot meals were provided by the food auxiliary services. The Red Cross and the Wesley Foundation served meals for numerous off-campus students. Frequently, Dr. Paulette Woods, associate provost for student services, and Marvin Schoenecke visited the residents at Stewart Hall and provided them with snacks and refreshments. In addition, Dr. John Hays and Brian Adler checked with the residents and encouraged them to be patient with one another.

“We tried to accommodate everyone the best we could in such circumstances,” Schoenecke said. “Everyone from the hall directors to residents did a wonderful job.”

There was a Good Samaritan during this entire ordeal that assisted with the day-to-day events.
of residents in Stewart Hall.

"I did think of going to Dallas, but I felt it was very important for me to stay with the students," Allen said. "I felt that if I didn't do my job, I would be fired."

Allen said that he donated money out of his pocket to ensure that everyone was getting the necessary means to survive this period.

With respect to expenses incurred by the university, Tom Fagan, vice president for administration and finance, said that the university would receive assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. "We probably will file a complaint so that FEMA will financially cover 75 percent of our expenses," Fagan said.

Fagan also said that most of the damages occurred to the campus trees and the electrical units of Stewart Hall and Oklahoma Hall. Fagan estimated damages to be approximately $30,000 and said that matters could have been a lot worse if the food auxiliary services were closed or the mayor had decided to disconnect the water supply to the university and community.

"We didn't have major structural damages to the buildings except for a few water leaks," Fagan said.

In terms of preparation for future natural disasters, Woods said that the administration will formulate a crisis plan that will include precautionary measures for future ice storms.

Finally, after seven days days without power -- and five days of cancelled classes -- power was restored on Feb. 6.

Horror Stories
From the storm

"My best friend and I drove to Tulsa to see our boyfriends. We shopped every day and were glad just to have electricity."

Adrianna Warren, biology sophomore from Lawton.

"We got a generator from some friends and it blew up our TV."

Serena Tally, undecided graduate student from Elk City.

"I had no TV. It was so boring."

Michelle Dry, business sophomore from Weatherford.

"Somebody tried to break into my apartment."

Stewart Berrong, psychology senior from Weatherford.

"I stayed home and played cards and guitar in the dark."

Tony Alexander, communication arts senior from Dill City.

"A lot of my books were locked in the dorms so I wasn't able to work on homework."

Erin Bailey, biology junior from Yukon.

"My house got down to 30 degrees one morning."

Ashley Kelln, elementary education freshman from Canute.

"I went home to Yukon the first night. I couldn't take even two hours without power."

Stacy Smith, math education senior from Yukon.

"All the food and supplies you needed to survive were sold out."

Brian Allen, business administration senior from Salem, Ore.
The ice storm lasted a few days, but the effects lasted for months. A common sight on campus and around town was the cleanup process.

Candlelight Dinners
Cafeteria stays open in dark times

BY KATHY BRAUCHI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The postal service is not the only business that delivers during the rain, sleet, snow, or an ice storm. The Southwestern cafeteria served three meals a day during the power outage caused by the storm.

"The cafeteria is considered a necessity, so we stayed open," said Duncan Taylor, director of auxiliary services.

Taylor said they served 600 students three times a day for the first couple of days after the power outage. He said the numbers went down to about 50 a day after word got out that school wouldn’t resume for another week. He said they also fed some people working on the power outage.

The majority of students left Weatherford for a week, but international and out-of-state students didn’t have that option. Taylor said those students were a big help in the cafeteria. He said that they were working with a skeleton crew because the power outage made it impossible for some regular cooks to work.

"The international students that work for us were a big help," Taylor said.

"The students that couldn’t get out of town also helped out."

Taylor said the kitchen crew had to work by candlelight and a few flashlights. He said they used candles from the Christmas dinner to put on the tables so students could see to eat their meals.

Eating by candlelight was not the only interesting experience during storm. Taylor said a water line broke in the lobby and flooded the floors.

"That was definitely a hardship for students, so we were happy to provide them with warm meals to make it a little easier," Taylor said.

Taylor said that soup was a popular item on the menu during the storm. He said that they were unable to bake anything without electricity, but the kitchen has a gas grill and stovetop, so they served what they could.

He said they also set up sternos, which are used in catering or a buffet, that were heated by propane gas to keep the food warm.
Mills, Conner honored as Distinguished Alumni

PUBLIC INFORMATION STAFF

Southwestern Oklahoma State University graduates Paul E. Conner of Haviland, Kan., and Robert L. Mills of Oklahoma City were inducted into the Southwestern Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame during 2001 homecoming activities.

Both Conner and Mills were honored at the October 27 alumni and friends luncheon and at halftime of the football contest.

PAUL CONNER is a well-known educator in Oklahoma and Kansas. He has served an impressive 46 years in the field of education.

Conner earned his associate degree from Sayre Junior College in 1957. He then finished his Bachelor of Science degree in education from Southwestern in 1963. His master's degree in education was completed at Southwestern in 1967.

Conner was instrumental in the merger of Sayre Junior College with Southwestern Oklahoma State University. As president of Sayre Junior College, he worked with former presidents Leonard Campbell and Joe Anna Hibler, current president John Hays, and many business and community leaders across Oklahoma to see the merger consummated by legislative and executive action in 1987.

His dedication to Southwestern started in 1955 when he was a student and continues today as an active member of the SWOSU Alumni Association. He has been instrumental in establishing several scholarships for western Oklahoma students to attend Southwestern.

Conner started his teaching career in a one-room Kansas school with a 60-hour provisional certificate. He returned to Southwestern each summer to complete his bachelor's degree. Conner had a unique situation in that he taught five years and was a principal before actually completing his degree.

After teaching eight years in Kansas, he returned to Sayre Public Schools and Sayre Junior College as a teacher, coach, dean, superintendent and president for 32 years. He has been superintendent of schools in Haviland for the past six years.

Conner has received many awards during his numerous years in the field of education. One of the buildings on the Sayre campus is named after him, and the Sayre Alumni Association recently endowed a scholarship in Conner's name to benefit a student interested in the field of education.

Conner and his wife, Karen, have three daughters, eight grandchildren and their families. All three daughters are graduates of Southwestern, and his oldest grandson graduated from SWOSU this past May.

ROBERT L. MILLS is someone probably all Oklahomans have seen in television advertising. Known best for his unique sweaters and as "the working man's friend," Mills is president and owner of Bob Mills Furniture Company in Oklahoma City.

Mills is a 1969 graduate of Southwestern where he received bachelor's degrees in both business and music.
He started his furniture business in 1971 in an old IGA grocery store building at 2625 S.W. 29th. The location remained there for 15 years. After years of concentrated effort, the business grew and, in the late 1980s, Mills moved the business to its present location, an 110,000 square foot facility at 3600 W. Reno in Oklahoma City.

Mills is president of several other companies, including Mission Transport, a truck fleet; Southern Media, Inc., an advertising agency; and Sunrise Development, a real estate development firm.

Mills was born in Roswell, N.M., in 1947 and is the only child of Jim and Lorean Mills. He and his family moved to Oklahoma City in 1956. He attended and graduated from Putnam City High School in 1965.

As both a business and family man, Mills feels strongly about the need to participate in activities that create a better community. He is a member of the Foundation Board of Directors of Integris Baptist Medical Center and also serves on the board’s executive committee. He is also very interested in business development programs and gives talks across the state of Oklahoma to high school and college marketing students.

He and his wife, Margaret, have three children—Bryan, Tuesday, and Chris.

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**Homecoming dates set for 2002**

Southwestern’s homecoming date has been set for 2002. The university will celebrate homecoming on Friday and Saturday, October 4-5.

Southwestern’s homecoming committee met January 16 to finalize the date and various plans. The lineup of activities will be announced at a later date even though tentative plans include the dedication of the Centennial Plaza that will be built this summer between the Student Union and Al Harris Library.
Brandi McNair of Marlow and Thomas Mapel of Butler were honored as homecoming queen and king. McNair was sponsored by Gamma Delta Kappa while Mapel was sponsored by the Catholic Student Association.
bed race

parade

golf tourney

style show
Dr. W. Steven Pray joins the list of Bernhardt Academic Excellence Award winners at SWOSU.

Pray, professor in the School of Pharmacy, won the prestigious award April 4 at a banquet.

The banquet and award is made possible by Dr. William and Theta Juan Bernhardt of Midwest City who established the event nine years ago through the SWOSU Foundation. The award goes to an outstanding faculty member who exhibits exceptional achievement in teaching, scholarship and service.

Pray—who received a $2,500 cash award, Waterford crystal clock and engraved pen set—has been an innovator in emphasizing the role of the pharmacist in patient triage with regard to self-care decisions for minor medical conditions.

Pray has been heavily involved in scholarly activity and has published over 210 articles in pharmacy, medical and dental hygiene journals.

Pray spent over four years writing his textbook, Nonprescription Product Therapeutics, published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins of Baltimore. The 800-page, 51-chapter text incorporates case studies, real-life experiences, algorithms, treatment warnings, practice tips and over 500 pieces of artwork produced under the supervision of Pray.

He is currently working on his second book, a history of nonprescription product legislation, to be published by Hawthorne Press of Binghamton, New York.

Pray received a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from Southwestern State College in 1972 and a Master's degree in Public Health from the University of Oklahoma in 1976. He began teaching at Southwestern in 1976. He took a sabbatical to attend Purdue University, returning with his Ph.D. in 1983.

Dr. Pray has also been heavily involved in local service, having served on numerous university and School of Pharmacy committees. He has provided over 40 programs to local groups, served as volunteer pharmacist for the Agape Free Clinic, helped the Red Cross, and held various leadership positions on the Wesley Foundation Board of Directors and in the First United Methodist Church.

Dr. Pray and his wife, Carole, have two sons, Joshua (a sophomore at SWOSU) and Gabriel (a senior at Weatherford High School).
Student accomplishments

Alison Mainers, current Miss Southwestern, won first runner-up in the Miss Oklahoma Pageant on June 8. Mainers is a marketing senior from McLoud. Elk City junior Amy Kilhofer, last year's Miss Southwestern, also competed in the pageant.

Southwestern student Patrick Vandiver of Abilene, Texas, qualified for the Interstate Oratorical Contest held in late April at Rapid City, S.D. Vandiver continued Southwestern's recent string of success at the recent state oratorical championship held in Lawton. Following victories by Patricia Cook in 2000 and Misty Williams in 2001, Vandiver is the 3rd SWOSU student in a row to qualify for the Interstate Oratorical Contest.

The Southwestern and The Graduate Record both received Awards of Excellence, the highest award given to publications, at the Oklahoma Collegiate Press Association annual conference in April. Southwestern was the only school to receive the award for both the student newspaper and student yearbook.

The winners of Southwestern’s Student Government Association election were recently announced. Molly Priest of Emporia, Kan., will serve as president of the student body, while Traci Thiesen of Weatherford is vice president. Sarah Goldmann of Weatherford is treasurer. The three will make plans this summer in anticipation of the 2002 fall semester that begins August 21 at SWOSU.

Southwestern sophomore Philip Busey is one of 125 Native American students recently selected for a 10-week summer internship at American University in Washington, D.C. Busey, a graduate of Oklahoma City (PC North) High School and a graphic design student, will head east this summer as part of the Washington Internship for Native American Students (WINS) program.

Southwestern students Randi Davis (left) of Shamrock, Texas, and Julia Misak of Weatherford recently won first place in an undergraduate research competition at the Southwestern Psychological Association annual convention held in Corpus Christi, Texas. Dr. Paul Nail is faculty sponsor of the project.

SWOSU-Sayre students Cara Berry (left) of Erick and Pam Boatright of Sayre were recently named to the 2002 Oklahoma All Academic Team in recognition of scholarly achievements of students enrolled in Oklahoma’s community and junior colleges. The pair is shown with Phi Theta Kappa advisor Michael McKinney.

Miss Rodeo Oklahoma finishes reign
Lacey Dale Cully, a SWOSU student, finished her reign as Miss Rodeo Oklahoma in December and returned to finish her degree in communication arts. Cully traveled across the state and nation representing Oklahoma for an entire year as part of her job.
Summer, fall Panorama events set

by Kristen Rollin
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Panorama series events are lined up for the next two semesters.

“The Panorama series gives back to the community, providing cultural enrichment for those who maybe can’t afford to attend an event in Oklahoma City,” Dr. Paulette Woods said.

The Fall 2002 - Spring 2003 season will bring in an array of entertainment. In September, comedian Jeff Dunham will perform. In October, Nigel Cameron and Dr. George Pence will debate on the issue of human cloning.

In November, the Navy jazz group the Commodores will perform. Theatrical group Shakespeare in the Park will perform Dickens’s *A Christmas Carol* in December.

In February, Dr. Peter Phillips will present “What the Press Forgets to Tell You,” on the suppression of information in the media. In March, the National Shakespeare Company will present “A Comedy of Errors.” In April, the St. Louis Brass Quintet will perform.

“We try to add variety to our programs and bring in entertainers that people want to see,” said Woods. “We are always open to new ideas.”

Rose named interim dean of Arts & Sciences

Dr. Ken G. Rose has been named interim dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. It is the largest school with 11 departments.

Rose is a long-time SWOSU employee having started in 1974 as an instructor in the HPER Department. He has been chairperson of the department since 1991. Rose has two degrees from SWOSU and a doctorate from OU.

Physical plant gets new leader

PUBLIC INFORMATION STAFF

Rick Skinner is the new director of the physical plant at Southwestern.

Skinner replaces Jim Loomis, who is now overseeing special projects on the SWOSU campus. Loomis will retire from the university in August.

Skinner is no stranger to the Southwestern scene, having served as the physical plant’s assistant director since 1987. He is a 1974 graduate of Southwestern where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial technology. He was co-owner of Weatherford Cabinets until 1987 when he joined the Southwestern staff.

Skinner is a graduate of Carnegie High School. He has three children. Ryan, a SWOSU pharmacy graduate, is in his first year of medical school at the University of Oklahoma. Rodney is a freshman at OU who will transfer to SWOSU to play on the golf team and major in pre-pharmacy. Daughter Kenzie is a freshman at Clinton High School.

At Southwestern, Skinner will direct maintenance and operations of the physical plant and oversee construction—both new and remodeling projects.
Emeriti Association hosts first coffee

Southwestern Oklahoma State University’s newly-formed Emeriti Association recently held a coffee at the Conference Center for emeriti and spouses. Visiting at the coffee included Joella Hundley, Albert Gabriel (middle) and Lamar Crall, all retired faculty members in the School of Business. The association of retirees plans to have various activities throughout the year. Additional information is available by contacting Les Levy in Weatherford.

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Let’s get ready to go “down under!”

(more details to follow)
State Regent Jimmy D. Harrel is dedicated to education, but he is passionate about education for rural kids. Especially those, he says, “who have to help make a living outside the home and are not able to concentrate as much on school.” Mr. Harrel is an advocate for this group, and since 1999 has been using his status as a regent to improve education and opportunities for them.

Mr. Harrel knows the life of a person growing up in rural Oklahoma. He was raised in western Oklahoma and graduated from Leedey High School. He earned two degrees in four-and-a-half years at Oklahoma State University — one in animal science and one in vocational agriculture education. He taught and coached for a few years at Taloga, where he also served as principal. In his current capacity as CEO and Chairman of the Board of the Bank of Western Oklahoma in Elk City, he contributes to education from outside the classroom.

For many years, his focus has been on youth in rural high schools. He estimates that the Bank of Western Oklahoma helps distribute about $60,000 a school year to rural students involved in such programs as 4-H, FFA, athletics and band. Mr. Harrel has been instrumental in convincing Gov. Frank Keating to allow certain vocational agriculture and vocational technology classes to qualify as science courses in Keating’s “4X4” education reform program.

More recently, Mr. Harrel has turned his sights on helping rural youth in higher education pursuits. From 1995 to 1997, he served on the Board of Regents for Oklahoma A&M Colleges. He resigned that post and accepted the position on the State Board of Regents in 1999.

“One of the main reasons I went there is my interest in helping western Oklahoma youth and rural youth,” Mr. Harrel said. “I’m seeing to it that they are getting as good an opportunity as they might not have otherwise.”

According to Mr. Harrel, many obstacles face rural youth.

“So many have to help with family and farms.”

When rural youth spend so much time dealing with problems outside school, their in-school and test performance might falter. Mr. Harrel does not want that to prevent a student from enrolling in a university.

“We need to make sure everyone has a chance,” said Mr. Harrel, who resists the trend to continually raise standards of admissions for state universities. “Some people are making sure to set standards to the point that a lot of students will not get an opportunity to attend the college of their choice.”

He notes that several successful businessmen and politicians from Oklahoma would not have been admitted into state universities under today’s standards. A big culprit in the process is test scores, he
said. Some political leaders are requesting that universities raise minimum ACT scores for admission into universities. When politics and money get involved, the learning process is ignored and students become numbers instead of individuals, Mr. Harrel said. When this happens, some students are lost in the shuffle and shut out of earning higher degrees.

“All students don’t test alike, and some students learn at different speeds,” he said. “We need to provide some way for them to prove themselves. If they have the desire and ability, we need to make way for opportunities.”

Mr. Harrel said if the standards are raised, there needs to be some type of exemption for at-risk students.

An ACT test will always have flaws, and “it’s real hard to judge what’s in a kid’s heart and mind.”

Mr. Harrel is also fighting against the negativity between politicians and education. He is tired of people complaining about the state’s education system.

“We’re stout, especially in western Oklahoma,” he said. “We have better education and much better educators than we give credit for.”

Mr. Harrel’s goal is to neutralize the negative perception of secondary and higher education and make people aware of education’s accomplishments. He says many universities are taking positive steps, such as communicating to high school students and improving retention rates.

“We can do better and should strive for better, but we need to focus on the positives,” he said.

One positive for universities and the regents is the 2003 budget for higher education, which actually increased despite a drop in state funds. The state’s higher education budget topped $1.4 billion, an increase of approximately $32.5 million from fiscal year 2002. The regents said the increase is possibly due to extra revenue from higher tuition rates, fees and enrollments, as well as more federal funds. Mr. Harrel points to a few state political leaders as another reason.

“The regents and colleges did very well in getting their money, and two reasons are Stratton Taylor and Cal Hobson.” Taylor serves as the president pro tempore of the State Senate. He will step down from that post this year, but Hobson will take his place. Both are strong advocates of funding for higher education. “With them, we will continue to see funding improve,” Mr. Harrel said.

Mr. Harrel takes the funding issue seriously. He wants higher education to have the money necessary to excel. “I’m here to help get those funds.”

With strong support from key legislators and universities dedicated to improvement, Mr. Harrel is optimistic.

“The future looks real strong for higher education.”
Dawg Dates 2002

August

16-20 SWOSU "Dawg Days"
21 Classes Start

September

8 Parent’s Day
20 * Jeff Dunham (comedian) - Fine Arts Center- 7:30 pm (tickets required)

October

3 * Brave New World - Who’s Afraid of Cloning?
  Debate by Dr. Gregory Pence and Dr. Nigel Cameron, - Fine Arts Center- 7:30 pm
4 Homecoming Golf Tournament, Style show &
  other activities
5 Homecoming Parade -- Downtown
  Weatherford -- 10 a.m.
17-18 SWOSU Fall Break
26 Miss Southwestern Scholarship Pageant --
  Fine Arts Center - 7:30 p.m.

November

8 * The Commodores (Navy Jazz Touring Group)- Fine Arts Center-
  7:30 pm
26 Thanksgiving Break Begins

December

20 Christmas Break Begins

* Panorama Event

Southwestern Foundation executive director Jim Waites meets with members of Beta Tau Beta during a recent meeting in Oklahoma City.
Ellen Church of Fort Worth, Texas, was recently presented the 2002 Outstanding Alumnus Award from the School of Pharmacy Alumni Association. Church was honored at the SWOSU School of Pharmacy’s annual honors assembly.

She is a 1974 graduate of SWOSU. Church began her professional career at Weinstein Pharmacy, a small community pharmacy in Ft. Worth. She remained at Weinstein Pharmacy until 1999.

Church then joined American Pharmaceutical Services, a national long-term care pharmacy chain. In 2002, Omnicare purchased American Pharmaceutical Services. Church remains with Omnicare where she is responsible for the cycle fill system for nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

She is a charter member of the Dallas/Ft. Worth metroplex alumni chapter of Kappa Epsilon and has served as historian and president. Church is a lifetime member and past president of the SWOSU Pharmacy Alumni Association as well as the KE pharmacy fraternity.

Church has been active with the Tarrant County Pharmacy Association, having served as vice president and as a member of the board of directors on several occasions. She is a past recipient of the Outstanding Pharmacist Award from the TCPA.

During her tenure at SWOSU, Church was a member of what is now known as the Council of Students, SWPHA and Kappa Epsilon. She served KE as chaplain, historian and president. Church is a Vega (TX) High School graduate.

Top professors named
Assistant Professor Dr. Carroll Ramos (left) and Professor Dr. Mark Gales (right) were named Teachers of the Year during the 2001-02 academic year in the SWOSU School of Pharmacy in Weatherford. Ramos was honored in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, while Gales was selected in the Department of Pharmacy Practice. The award is made possible by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy and is voted on by the school’s seniors. Making the presentation is Dr. David Bergman, dean of the SWOSU School of Pharmacy.
Emeriti Holiday Open House

Dr. John Hays and Sara Harris

Misty Zink, Holly Hays and Bet Becker

Rolan Decker, Jim Griffin and Les Levy

Albert Gabriel, Lin Murdock and Joe Anna Hibler

Billie Lynn

Be Fiegel and Verda McKellips
Tree planted in memory of former student

By Ben Hawkins
Contributing Writer

About 20 people gathered around the tree that day. It was a Chinese Pistache sapling planted west of the Y Chapel. At its base lay a memorial stone. It read, “Michael Keith (Grody) Bowman: Philosopher, Free-thinker, Friend.”

Each person had an opportunity to say a word about the man whose name was engraved on the stone. Susie Rogers pulled out a poem. She began to read: “He who plants a tree, plants a hope... a joy ... a comfort.”

The Southwestern Young Democrats dedicated a tree in remembrance of Michael Keith Bowman on March 29, 2002, two days after what would have been his 32nd birthday. This senior studied history and psychology at Southwestern. He was also among the 56,200 people diagnosed with non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma last year. And in late January, he died while struggling with the disease.

Bowman had many friends at Southwestern. Among these were Dan Moore and Susie Rogers. Moore and Bowman met while working at the A1 Harris Library.

“Keith and I were at the library for nine months before we talked,” Moore said. But in June 2001, the two men struck up a bond.

Only a month after their friendship developed, Moore noticed that Bowman was sick. When the two attended a Woodie Guthrie concert festival in July, Bowman was having stomach pains.

In early August, Bowman asked Moore to drive him to the hospital in Oklahoma City for an appointment. Bowman was unable to drive because of his medications. The doctors performed a biopsy and informed Bowman of the possibility of cancer. When the test results came in, this possibility was affirmed. Bowman had non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

“It was the first time I’ve had to deal with a friend in a life threatening situation,” Moore said. “He kept it low key, which was his personality. You never really knew how much pain he was in.”

Between August and October, Bowman enrolled in school and tried to maintain his life as much as possible. However, in October, Bowman’s condition wasn’t improving, and he took his first extended hospital visit.

The Friday night before Bowman died, friends and family flooded around him to comfort him and support each other. Moore spent nine hours with Bowman that night. “I think the emotions hit me that final week.”

The emotions also hit Rogers.

She too had been at the hospital with the masses of friends and family to see Bowman. Yet she had to return to Weatherford to work the next day. While at work, she received a phone call saying Bowman was doing worse. The next day, Sunday, January 20, Bowman died due to the complications with his cancer.

However, over time, Bowman’s death has taught Rogers that “everything matters.”

“There are parts that are never going to make sense to me,” she said. “It wasn’t supposed to be like this – it was supposed to begin, not end.”

But she said, “Maybe it doesn’t have to make sense to still learn from it.”

And Rogers, as well as Moore, has learned from her experience.

“I’ve definitely learned that everything matters. This can happen at any time, so you cherish the people around you.”
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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CHARLES REGIER was one of four educators who received a Hall of fame award at the Oklahoma Music Educators Association’s annual conference in January. Regier has taught at Corn Bible Academy since 1965. His bachelor’s and master’s degrees are from SWOSU. Regier is both choral and band director for CBA.

CHRIS VINES of Perryton was named the “Outstanding Retired Pharmacist of the Year” by the Texas Pharmacy Association. The award recognizes a retired pharmacist who has provided mentoring and encouragement for growth of other pharmacists and enhancing the reputation and respect for the profession. Vines was born in Erick and graduated from pharmacy school at SWOSU. After graduation, he moved to Perryton, Texas, where he acquired ownership in and operated Corner Drug and Gibson Pharmacy, as well as pharmacies in Booker, Woodward, Okla., and Guymon, Okla. He and his wife, Helen, have two daughters, Melodee Dietz, a pharmacist who lives in Fort Worth, Texas, and Lisa Flathers of Lubbock. They also have four grandchildren.

DR. JOHN M. FOLKS was chosen as superintendent of the Northside, Texas, Independent School District in San Antonio. Previously, Folks was superintendent of Spring Independent School District in Houston, where he had been since 1997. Prior to joining Spring ISD, Folks served as the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for Oklahoma from 1984 to 1988. From 1988 to 1994, Folks served as the Superintendent of Midwest City-Del City Public Schools. From 1994 to 1997, he served as the Dean of the School of Education at SWOSU.

InterBank named BRAD MADDOUX as President of InterBank Sayre. Maddoux holds a bachelor’s degree in accounting with a minor in computer science from Southwestern. He also holds a diploma from the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Maddoux has more than 22 years of banking experience. The Sayre native has served as Past President of the Sayre Chamber of Commerce. He and his wife, Shelley, have one daughter, Jade, a student at Sayre Schools.

KEN DUERKSEN is currently a process engineer for Tokyo Electron America, Inc. Before joining TEA, Duerksen was a research scientist and physics instructor at the University of Texas at Dallas, where he was part of the Pioneer Venus Mission. He and his son Kent placed their fingerprints on the mass spectrometer that NASA sent to Venus.

Army Lieutenant Colonel LAMONT WOODY was selected to attend Navy War College in Newport, R.I. It begins in August. He recently gave up command of the 225th Forward Support Battalion, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Woody is a 1972 graduate of Weatherford High School and has a bachelor’s in science education and masters from Southwestern. Woody is married to Marie Margaret Painter of Woodbrige, Va. They have a seven-week-old daughter, Sophia Gracemarie.

MILTON COOPER serves as the National Director of Program Development for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He is responsible for furthering the FCA mission through the advancement of huddles and adult ministry. Cooper came to the FCA as a former head football coach and athletic director for Admore High School. Cooper is a former Altus teacher and a graduate of SWOSU and Southeastern. He and his wife, Rosemary, have three grown children. They reside in Raytown, Missouri.

Two nursing alumni of SWOSU were featured speakers at the recent Oklahoma Nurses Association annual state convention. MICHELLE ANDERSON, a registered nurse in pediatrics at the North Texas Hospital for Children in Dallas, and TRACY LANE, regional manager for Western Plains Hospice in the Texas panhandle, discussed the role transition from being a student to becoming a practicing nurse. Anderson is a 2001 SWOSU graduate, while Lane of Allison, Texas, graduated in 1999 with an interest in geriatrics and psychiatric nursing.
The Oklahoma Farm Bureau recently named LORI A. KROMER PETERSON director of national affairs. Kromer Peterson, a graduate of Southwestern, will be responsible for legislative efforts on national issues. Before joining the bureau, she was employed with the law firm of Day, Edwards, Propster and Christensen, where she specialized in corporate and securities law.

As the recipient of the 2001 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, JANA ROWLAND was called to testify to the U.S. House of Representative on federal education programs and their effectiveness. Rowland, a resident of Weatherford and SWOSU grad, teaches fifth grade at Hydro-Eakly Public School. She grew up in western Oklahoma, where her parents were educators in the same school.

Rowland testified in front of the House Science Committee, which includes Oklahoma Rep. Frank Lucas. Rowland and three other educators nation-wide were selected to testify.

The presidential award program bestows the nation's highest honor for math and science teachers from kindergarten to 12th grade.

TIMOTHY CRAIN of Woodward passed his certified public accountant test on the first try. Crain graduated from Fargo High School in 1996 and earned his business administration from SWOSU in 2000. He has been working for Melvin Johnston, CPA, in Fargo.

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**Golf Tournament Results**

Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Alumni Association at Weatherford hosted 140 golfers at the 9th annual SWOSU Alumni and Friends Golf Classic held June 29 at Silverhorn Golf Course in Oklahoma City.

Winners in the University Flight were Dale Hensley and Terry Nichols, both of Elk City; Dub Cromwell, Bedford (TX); Pete Wood, Weatherford (TX); and Don Wilson, Ft. Worth (TX). The winning team shot 54.

In second place with a score of 55 was the team of Skip Klingman, Jim Martinez and Buddy Burris, all of Weatherford; and Mike Chambliss of Calumet.

There was a tie for third place with scores of 56. Winning on a scorecard playoff was the team of Brand Hartsell, Jay Wyer, Kent Powell and Clint Mahanay, all of Clinton. Finishing fourth were Richard Hasley, Oklahoma City; Ron Polston, Frisco (TX); and Delbert Mahan and Ray Kuykendall, both of Wichita Falls (TX).

All winners in the alumni flight shot 62, so a scorecard playoff was used to determine the four places.

Winning first place was the team of Perry Adams and Paige Adams, both of Clinton; Bet Becker, Weatherford; Steve Poag, Chickasha; and Don Nigus, Wichita (KS).

Finishing second were Fred Winters and Tim Meyer, both of Okeene; Bob Hunnicutt, Coppell (TX); Larry Knisley, Weatherford; and Bob Osmund, Midwest City.

The third place winners were Homer Ryan, Frederick; Kenny Graham and Bill Reeves, both of Lawton; Jerry Kinzer, Edmond; and Jason Kinzer, Oklahoma City.

Finishing fourth were Jim Loomis, Paul Sharp and Dean McSpadden, all of Weatherford; and Michael Loomis, Oklahoma City.

In the various contests, closest to the pin winners were Polston, Jason Kinzer, Brian Vaverka of Moore, and Jason Hughes of Yukon on holes 6, 8, 12 and 14, respectively.

The longest drive winners on holes 3 and 16 were James Beavers of Oklahoma City and Nancy Lenius of Weatherford.

Outback Steakhouse provided a meal after the tourney, and Dobson Communications provided beverages throughout the day.

Jim Waites, director of the alumni association, said proceeds from the tourney will be used for the SWOSU alumni legacy scholarship fund.
Go ahead...

**Brag**

about yourself

Why not? You deserve the recognition. So tell us, and we'll tell everybody.

Send information and photos to:

**Echoes from the Hill**

SWOSU
100 Campus Drive
Weatherford, OK 73096

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SWOSU Alumni Dues

**Yearly:** $25
**Lifetime single:** $400
**Lifetime couple:** $500

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- **Mastercard or VISA**
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Degree(s) (BS, BA, MS, etc.)________________________
Major_________________________ Graduation year(s)__________

Please send to: SWOSU Alumni Association, SWOSU, 100 Campus Drive, Weatherford, OK 73096
(580) 774-3267  fax: (580) 774-7117  e-mail: jonesk@swosu.edu  www.swosu.edu
We want you in Echoes

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