Southwestern Oklahoma State University: The First 100 Years

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Description

Southwestern Oklahoma State University: The First 100 Years provides a broad panorama of the first century of the University. This volume pays tribute to the past accomplishments of administrators and faculty, many of whom have gone the way all of us will go. It records the accomplishments of students, campus organizations, and athletic teams. The chapters attempt to capture the mood of each decade as it was illustrated by the campus attitudes and events. Most of all, this centennial history is meant to celebrate the successes of the past century and to mark the beginning of a new century of exciting events in the history of Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

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Southwestern Oklahoma State University

State College
Institute of Technology
State College of Diversified Occupations
State Teachers College
Normal School

Centennial
1901-2001
The history of Southwestern Oklahoma State University began on March 8, 1901. On that date, the Oklahoma Territorial Legislature authorized the establishment of a Normal School in southwestern Oklahoma for the purpose of preparing teachers for the public schools. After more than a year of political struggle to decide upon the location of the school, Weatherford was chosen as the site for the new Normal School. The Southwestern Normal School would be located on the hilltop overlooking the frontier town of Weatherford. After a year of holding classes in former saloons and local churches, the Normal School campus began with a three-story red brick building standing stately and alone on the hilltop. Twelve faculty members comprised the charter faculty of the Normal. From that first building and its charter faculty, Southwestern has progressed to become a modern University with a campus that covers the hilltop where cattle grazed a century ago. The faculty has grown from twelve charter faculty members to 200 faculty members today. Through the economic struggles of the 1930s, through the strife of four wars, and through political turmoil which at times threatened the existence of the institution, Southwestern has endured. Led by able administrators whose leadership and vision developed the institution and dedicated faculty whose untiring efforts inspired their students, Southwestern has established a proud tradition of educational accomplishment and has prepared thousands of students for successful careers.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University: The First 100 Years provides a broad panorama of the first century of the University. This volume pays tribute to the past accomplishments of administrators and faculty, many of whom have gone the way all of us will go. It records the accomplishments of students, campus organizations, and athletic teams. The chapters attempt to capture the mood of each decade as it was illustrated by the campus attitudes and events. Most of all, this centennial history is meant to celebrate the successes of the past century and to mark the beginning of a new century of exciting events in the history of Southwestern Oklahoma State University.
Introduction

Southwestern Oklahoma State University: The First 100 Years began on November 17, 1999, with a telephone call from President Joe Anna Hibler. When President Hibler invited me to write this history of the University, I was both thrilled and intimidated by the prospect of such an undertaking. When I expressed some concern at the thought of researching and writing a hundred years of the history of the University, President Hibler’s gentle voice said, “Jerry, you have been here for a third of it.” Indeed I have. When I accepted President Hibler’s invitation to write this history of Southwestern, I told her that I would need a book designer to do the layout, to scan the pictures, and to prepare the manuscript for the printer. I asked her to appoint Mr. Joel Kendall, journalism instructor, as book designer.

When I joined the Language Arts faculty in September of 1967, I began an association with Southwestern which would cover thirty-two years until my retirement in May of 1999. During those years, I was director of freshman English for eleven years and chairman of the Language Arts Department for twenty-one years. As one-third of a century went by, I watched as Southwestern changed and developed. I worked for three presidents and four deans. I worked with outstanding colleagues both inside the Language Arts Department and in other departments across the campus. Most importantly, I taught thousands of excellent students, many of whom have become lifelong friends. During those years, I watched the history of Southwestern unfold.

For the past year, I have researched the history of Southwestern. I have scanned all of the editions of The Southwestern since its beginning. I have researched all of the yearbooks for information and pictures. I have studied the catalogs for information on academic programs and faculty members. Administrators, deans, and chairs have been generous in providing information promptly when I requested it. Numerous present faculty and retired faculty and former students have contributed their memories of Southwestern. All of this information has blended to form a clear picture of Southwestern over the past one hundred years.
In writing this history of Southwestern, I have used a decade-by-decade approach. Each decade seemed to have its own character. The economic depression of the 1930s reduced faculty salaries, brought severe hardships to students, and even cancelled the publication of the yearbook for several years. The trauma of the war years in the 1940s took away nearly all of the men from the campus and reduced enrollment to the lowest number since the founding of the school. The 1970s on the Southwestern campus reflected the turmoil which plagued the nation in the Vietnam War era. The history of Southwestern became a kind of microcosm of the history of our nation.

The most difficult part of writing this history of Southwestern was deciding what to leave out. So many stories begged to be told. So many events could have been included. So many faculty and students deserved to be included. In order to limit this volume to a reasonable length, I had to leave out important events which contributed to the history of Southwestern and people whose years on this campus enriched the University. For these omissions, I am sorry. I hope that this history will stir memories for the readers as it has for me.

I owe a debt of gratitude to numerous people. I thank President Joe Anna Hibler for the opportunity to write this history of Southwestern. I thank Vice President John Hays and his secretary, Misty Zink, for immeasurable assistance and support. The staff of the Al Harris Library provided access to library and archival materials. I thank Joel Kendall for his work as book designer. Mr. Kendall’s journalism training, his experience as a newspaper editor, his excellent computer skills, and his experience with professional publications have been invaluable in completing this work. His calm confidence, positive attitude, and unfailing good cheer have made this entire effort pleasant and rewarding. Without his work, there would have been no book. I am especially grateful to my family for their support throughout this project. My sons, Vance and Chad, encouraged me to undertake this project. Their families have been understanding when I sometimes did not have time to devote to them during the past year. Most of all, I thank my wife, Juanita, for her support and assistance throughout the writing of this work. She has encouraged me, has assisted me in research, and, most of all, has typed the manuscript. This publication caps a long and satisfying career at Southwestern Oklahoma State University.
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An early view of campus.
The story of Southwestern Oklahoma State University began on March 8, 1901. On that date, the Oklahoma Territorial Legislature authorized the establishment of a Normal School in southwestern Oklahoma for the purpose of preparing teachers for the public schools. The Legislature also appropriated $52,000.00 to be used to erect and equip a building for the new school. The town in which the new school would be located would be required to provide free to the Territory of Oklahoma a forty acre site within one mile of the corporate limits of the town as well as $5,000 for fencing, planting trees, and beautifying the campus of the new school.

Several towns in southwestern Oklahoma immediately began campaigns to be chosen as the site of the new school. Indeed, Granite and Mangum had begun their campaign as early as 1900 when it appeared likely that a Normal School would be established in the southwestern part of the Territory of Oklahoma. Many people in Greer County believed the school would be located in one of these towns because they were in far southwestern Oklahoma. Other towns contending for the school were Cordell, El Reno, and Weatherford. Opponents argued that Weatherford was not actually in southwestern Oklahoma. Newspaper editors in Granite and Mangum began a campaign to secure the Normal School for their towns.

In May, 1901, Governor C. M. Barnes appointed a committee to select the location for the Normal School. When the committee failed to take any action, rumors began to circulate that Weatherford had been chosen for political reasons and that the committee had not given fair consideration to the Greer County locations. While the committee appointed by Governor Barnes took no action, President William McKinley replaced Governor Barnes with William M. Jenkins.

Noting the growing concerns about the location of the Normal School, in August, 1901, Governor Jenkins appointed his own committee to choose the site for the new school without asking for the resignations of the members of the Barnes Committee. His act confused the issue even more and led to more intense
activity in Mangum, Granite, and Weatherford to secure the new school. The editor of The Mangum Star charged that “these Weatherford grafters” were trying to rob Greer County of the right to have the school located there. The editor of the Custer County Republican charged that Governor Jenkins planned to deprive Weatherford of the school. The editor then defended Weatherford as the location by stating:

“Custer is the only Republican county in the Southwest, and we are entitled to it under a Republican administration. But this is not the only reason. We have the finest location for a school in the territory, we are centrally located not in the Texas corner where no body [sic] would care to go. We have ample railroad facilities, the biggest and best city in Southwest Oklahoma, a good class of citizens, five churches, a healthy climate....”

Weatherford citizens established a fund of ten thousand dollars to be used for possible legal action to secure the Normal School.

While the political maneuvering continued, the Barnes Committee and the Jenkins Committee both began their visits to the towns vying for the Normal School. In August, the Jenkins Committee visited Granite where they were met at the train by a group of business-men, transported to the best hotel in the best carriages in town, and honored with an elaborate banquet. A few days later, the Barnes Committee visited Weatherford. They were given the same elaborate welcome by the citizens of Weatherford, but, according to The Granite Enterprise, with the added inducement of alcoholic beverages served as they rode to Weatherford on the Choctaw Railroad. It came as little surprise when the Jenkins Committee recommended Granite and the Barnes Committee recommended Weatherford as the location of the Normal School. Realizing that the future site of the normal school would be Granite or Weatherford, the Mangum delegation ceased its efforts to get the school.

Granite and Weatherford engaged in a bitter struggle for the Normal School. Since the Jenkins Committee had recommended Granite as the site for the school, the people of Granite assumed that Governor Jenkins would approve the recommendation of the committee he had appointed. Ignoring the recommendation of the Jenkins Committee, the Weatherford delegation proceeded with their plans for the school to be located there. Becks Erick, a Weatherford banker, donated forty acres of land for the site of the school as required by law.
George T. Webster, the attorney for the Weatherford delegation, went to Guthrie where he filed the deed for the land. Along with Mr. E.J. Murphy, Mr. Webster was instrumental in establishing the Normal School in Weatherford. The 1906 edition of The Oracle recognized the influence of these two men. The editor of The Oracle wrote, "The Southwestern Normal owes much to the influence of those two gentlemen in the Territorial Legislature in the effort to establish the school." 

Fearing that the Territorial Board of Education would accept the recommendations of the Jenkins Committee and authorize the construction of the Normal School building at Granite, the Weatherford group filed a temporary injunction in the District Court of Oklahoma County forbidding the Territorial Board of Education from awarding a construction contract or expending any funds for a Normal School at any site other than Weatherford. Attorney George T. Webster expressed confidence that the District Court would rule in favor of Weatherford and that a Normal School building would be erected there. In a fiery editorial, The Granite Enterprise stated that the injunction meant "nothing" and that even if it reached the Supreme Court, it would "last as long as a grasshopper in a blizzard." The Granite editor summed up his argument by saying, "Any sane person can readily see what a silly move this was on the part of Weatherford." But the "silly move" proved successful when the Granite attorneys failed to get the temporary injunction dissolved. In April, 1902, the District Court of Oklahoma County issued a permanent injunction preventing the construction of the Normal School in Granite. The District Court held that the Barnes Committee was the legal agent to select the site and that Governor Jenkins did not have the authority to dissolve that board without cause. The Granite attorneys appealed the case to the Oklahoma Supreme Court, which, in October, 1902, upheld the verdict of the District Court. This Supreme Court verdict assured Weatherford of the victory. Beeks Erick, who was in Guthrie at the time the verdict was issued, sent a telegram to J.W. Walters in Weatherford saying, "We have got the Normal!!" The telegram ar-
rived on Saturday night, October 4, 1902. A wild celebration began. The Custer County Republican reported, “All night the bells tolled, the whistles [sic] blew, shotguns and pistols popped, anvils boomed, while the bondfire [sic] crackled lustily.”

Even though it seemed certain that Weatherford had won the Normal School, the Granite delegation made one more attempt to block the action. After the courts had ruled against them, the Granite backers attempted to have the bill which established the Normal School repealed when the Legislature convened in 1903. In February, 1903, a bill was introduced in the Territorial Council to repeal the Normal Act and appropriate part of the construction funds to the University of Oklahoma and other schools. Weatherford and Granite supporters led vigorous campaigns in the Legislature. By a vote of seven to six, the Normal Act was sustained. Weatherford had won the final victory.

Even though the newspaper accounts indicate a long and bitter struggle by the citizens of Granite to secure the Normal School, some modern accounts indicate that at least part of their actions was a diversionary measure designed to disguise their true intent. Joanna Roper, a retired Southwestern faculty member and a native of Granite, has researched this period and has interviewed descendents of those early Granite residents. Mrs. Roper contends that most Granite residents wanted the reformatory rather than the Normal School to be located there. Many believed that if they lost in the bid for the Normal School, the reformatory would be located there as a kind of “consolation prize.” One man seemed to express a popular opinion when he said he didn’t “want all those young people running up and down the streets here.” Some merchants in Granite believed that a Normal School would bring an influx of new people with new demands and encourage new stores to compete with the ones already established there. Some also believed that the Normal School would bring new people to fill its positions, whereas the Oklahoma Reformatory would employ people already living in Granite.

Mrs. Roper reports a conversation held with Mr. Tolbert Watson, a former Granite resident living in Arapaho. When asked about Granite and Southwestern, Mr. Watson chuckled and replied, “Oh, no, Granite didn’t want it. They wanted the reformatory.” Mrs. Roper identified another issue which affected the feelings
of Granite residents. W.D. Hockaday, an influential Granite businessman, was chairman of the Board of Directors of the Cordell Christian College. Mr. Hockaday believed that preventing Southwestern from being located in Granite would influence more Granite students to enroll in the college in Cordell. Regardless of whether or not Granite used the Normal School battle to help get the reformatory located there, the decision to locate the Normal School in Weatherford settled those issues. In the end, the reformatory went to Granite, and the Normal School went to Weatherford. Both towns “won.”

The Southwestern Normal would be located on the top of a hill overlooking the frontier town of Weatherford. The hilltop provided a breathtaking view of the surrounding countryside for miles in all directions. To the north lay the Deer Creek valley, and far to the south a gentle ridge arose. Grassland and cultivated fields lay to the east, and to the west were canyons and stands of trees. Directly south of the campus, the town of Weatherford stood - new, raw, and unimposing. The town of Weatherford resembled many other frontier towns as work on the Normal School began. Unpainted false-front buildings housed stores and saloons. The dirt streets were muddy when it rained and dusty in dry weather. Most of the houses were located on barren land without lawns or trees. Like most frontier towns, Weatherford attracted gamblers, robbers, brawlers, and prostitutes. But in the midst of this lawless scene, churches and a school had been established. The Choctaw Railroad ended at Weatherford until 1903 when it was extended to Clinton to join the Frisco and Orient Railroad. The frontier spirit of energy and progress was apparent in Weatherford in 1903. The new Southwestern Normal would be an important addition to Weatherford and the entire area. The new school would change the town and the surrounding area socially, culturally, economically, and educationally.

The Territorial Board of Education appointed James R. Campbell to lead the new Southwestern Normal. The new president was fifty-two years old, was born in Ohio, and had been a superintendent of schools in Garnett, Hutchinson, Newton, and Fredonia, Kansas,
President Campbell arrived in Weatherford in June of 1903. Having no buildings, no faculty, and no students, he faced a monumental task. The conflict over the location of the school had been covered by several newspapers so prospective students were aware of the opening of the new school. With no other school nearby, the Normal School could be assured of a good enrollment. Nevertheless, President Campbell journeyed to several towns in western Oklahoma to assure prospective students and their parents that classes would begin in the fall.

President Campbell set out immediately to employ a faculty. Twelve teachers were employed as the charter faculty of the Southwestern Normal. The list of faculty members and their titles shown below reflects the curriculum to be taught in the new school. Monthly salaries are shown in parentheses.⁸

Another immediate concern for President Campbell was classroom accommodations. With the construction of the new Normal School building just underway, the Board of Regents instructed President Campbell to find classroom accommodations in the City of Weatherford. He was able to secure four vacant single-room businesses on the north side of Main Street between Seventh and Broadway. Three of the buildings had been saloons and still had the signs and fixtures in place.⁹ Renovation of these businesses was necessary to prepare them for classroom use.

President Campbell’s salary for 12 months will be $2,200.00

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tions of these buildings began at once. The saloons adjacent to the buildings continued to operate. Stoves, chairs, blackboards, and other necessary equipment were purchased to equip the buildings for classes in the fall. The fourth building would have classrooms in the front and the President’s Office in the back. The Opera House located at Seventh and Main and the Congregational Church on Custer Street were also made available.

Work on the Normal began with a landscape gardener planting trees and carpenters beginning to construct the Normal building. The cornerstone for the building was laid on July 4, 1903. The Weatherford Masonic Lodge and Odd Fellows conducted the ceremonies. Professor Robert Linville delivered the welcoming address. Items placed behind the cornerstone included a Bible, a silver medal, and a history of the Southwestern Normal. The cornerstone was dedicated by having corn, the emblem of plenty, scattered over it, and wine and oil, the emblems of gladness and peace, poured over it. Ironically, the cornerstone came from a quarry in Granite, the last rival town in the struggle for the Normal.

While work continued on the Normal building and the temporary classrooms, academic preparations were being made for the opening of school in September. President Campbell and Professor Robert Linville began recruiting students in Custer County and adjoining counties. Traveling by horse and buggy, they spread the message that classes would begin in the fall even though the new building would not be finished. President Campbell also planned the curriculum the Normal would offer. Professor Austin Wilber began work July 1 on course descriptions and the or-
order of supplies. Faculty members began arriving in July for the beginning of classes in September.

September arrived with a flurry of activity. Students arrived by train, wagon, buggy, and horseback, eager to find lodging and enroll in classes. Many Weatherford residents rented rooms in their homes to the new students. Although the school year would not begin until September 15, 1903, enrollment for the first classes offered by the Southwestern Normal began on August 10, 1903. Hugh Webster, son of George T. Webster, the attorney who had played an important role in locating the school in Weatherford, was the first student to enroll in Southwestern Normal. He placed a chair in front of the door of the enrollment room at 4:00 a.m. and sat there until enrollment opened. Sixteen-year-old Mary Mabry was the first girl to enroll. She and her father came from Leedey in a wagon. Miss Mabry enrolled in the course of study which was the equivalent of high school. One hundred thirteen students enrolled the first day. By the end of the first term, one hundred ninety-six students were enrolled. The new Southwestern Normal had a substantial enrollment at the end of the first term.

The curriculum of the new Southwestern Normal was designed to satisfy the needs of a wide variety of students. The First Annual Yearbook identified the kinds of students who should enroll:

"Those who desire to obtain a higher education, and fit themselves for all the responsibilities and duties of life; those who desire to enter the teaching profession and teachers who wish to improve their skills; those who desire special training in art, elocution, and oratory; those who wish to enter business; those wanting to learn penmanship, bookkeeping, stenography and typewriting; those interested in vocal or instrumental music; common school graduates wishing to receive the equivalent of a high school education, and high school graduates desiring two years of college." 10

The broad range of courses reflected the interests and needs of the students who enrolled. Some students were seeking a broad general education while others sought vocational training and certification to teach.
The first departments established at the Normal suggested careful planning and a rather ambitious academic program. The first departments were Arts, Business, English, Expression, History and Political Science, Language, Mathematics, Psychology and Education, and Science. Language courses were offered in French, German, Latin, and Spanish. Mathematics courses were offered in algebra, analytical geometry, calculus, geometry, trigonometry, and surveying. Science courses included astronomy, botany, chemistry, geology, physics, physiology, and zoology.

Southwestern Normal offered seven years of instruction. The sub-normal course was comparable to eighth, ninth, and tenth grades. The normal course was equivalent to the eleventh and twelfth grades and two years of post-high school work. The last two years of the normal course were considered equivalent to college or university work, even though the work may not have been of that high quality. The regular normal course was designed primarily to prepare teachers in specific disciplines. Summer school and extension courses would later improve the training of teachers.

Southwestern Normal officially opened September 15, 1903, with an assembly of students and faculty at the Weatherford Congregational Church. The address of welcome was presented by Senator George T. Webster, the attorney who had been instrumental in locating the Normal in Weatherford. President Campbell and several faculty members also addressed the one hundred thirteen students in attendance. Professor Roper presented a piano solo, and several prominent Weatherford citizens participated in the opening ceremony.

At the conclusion of the assembly, students moved to the makeshift classrooms in the church and the renovated saloons.

Conditions for learning were not ideal. Students could hear the clink of glasses, the rattle of dice, and the voices of gamblers in the adjacent saloons. Students sat on benches and wooden boxes in imaginary classrooms marked out by chalk lines drawn on the floor. Lights and ventilation were inadequate. As many as five classes might be going on in one 24’x40’ building. A shortage of textbooks and blackboards increased the problem of effective teaching. Teachers and students adjusted as best they could to these challenging conditions.

An additional problem the teachers faced was the wide range of age and educational preparation among the students in those first
classes. Students enrolled in the same class might range in age from twelve or fourteen to twenty-five and be enrolled in eighth grade through the first year of post-high school. One teacher wrote that it was “impossible altogether to obviate this by division.” Furthermore, the quality of the education the students brought to the classes varied. Some had studied Latin, Old High German, and Gothic. Others barely possessed the most basic skills in reading and writing. But in the true spirit of the frontier, teachers and students forged ahead.

With the school year started, students began to settle into their new lives. Students lived in the homes of Weatherford residents. Room and board cost approximately ten dollars per month. Some female students earned their room and board by cooking and cleaning. Students generally took their meals with the family of the homeowner. Some women offered family-style meals for about fifteen cents. Some students cooked their own meals if facilities were available. Boys and girls took walks together, made ice cream and candy, and played cards. Almost all students walked wherever they went except for a few who lived near Weatherford and had some kind of horse transportation.

Activities and organizations were initiated soon after the first term began. In October,
1903, students formed an athletic association, which was not an official part of the school. The association was an informal group of boys who played football and baseball against local teams. Lacking student support and financial backing, the organization soon broke up, but it did establish one permanent athletic tradition at Southwestern. The only team jerseys they could buy were navy blue and white. In 1906, at an assembly program, the blue and white colors were adopted as the official colors of Southwestern.

Two literary groups were also established that first year. The Athenian Society was established to promote scholarly literary activities such as debates, declamations, and essays. Another literary group, the Aurora Society, was soon established to provide academic competition for the students. Students were required to join one of these organizations and received one credit for a year of active participation. In the last week of the spring term, the two societies engaged in a spirited debate competition. The faculty purchased a large silver cup, which was presented to the victorious organization, to be kept for one year until it was awarded to the next debate winners.

The crowning touch of the first year of Southwestern Normal was the completion of the Normal building. After the cornerstone was laid on July 4, 1903, work continued on the building during the summer, fall, and winter. By February, 1904, the Normal building was completed. Standing firmly on the hilltop, the three-story red brick structure, with its bell tower and clocks, dominated the skyline above the town of Weatherford. The building included seventeen classrooms, a library, physical and chemical laboratories, music rooms, a reception room, and an auditorium, which also served as a gymnasium. The building was completely modern with restrooms and showers for
both men and women located in the basement.

On February 23, 1904, led by Professor Ferrell and the Southwestern Normal band, the faculty, students, and interested townspeople marched up the hill from downtown Weatherford and occupied the new Normal building. The procession marched to the auditorium on the top floor where they were seated with female students on the north side and male students on the south side. After a special chapel program featuring a musical performance and an oratorical contest, students reported to their first classes in the new building. Students were now comfortable in warm rooms with adequate lighting. The library provided a quiet place to study. Individual classrooms and laboratories gave the privacy so lacking in the old facilities where as many as five classes might be going on in one room.

Even though Southwestern Normal had only been in existence for one year, a commencement was held on June 1, 1904. Four students had enough transfer credits to complete the requirements for the Commercial Program diploma. Ray Vivienna Campbell, Ora Maude McQuown, Elizabeth Columbia Owens, and Alma Collins Roland were the first graduates from Southwestern Normal. The first year of Southwestern Normal ended on an optimistic note. A talented faculty had been assembled. A student body had been recruited. A curriculum had been designed. And a new building had been constructed and occupied. As classes ended in May, 1904, administration, faculty, and students looked forward to the second year of Southwestern Normal.
Southwestern Normal began its second academic year on September 6, 1904. From its tentative beginnings in September, 1903, the Normal had expanded its curriculum and increased its enrollment. The curriculum had been expanded to include the two-year commercial course, two years of art, four years of vocal music, and six years of instrumental music. The enrollment had increased from one hundred ninety-three in the fall of 1903 to two hundred forty-six in the fall of 1904. The remainder of the decade would show many positive changes as Southwestern Normal established itself as a progressive educational institution in Oklahoma.

In the fall of 1904, the faculty remained essentially the same as the year before with two exceptions. Professor Alvin Roper resigned after being the only professor not receiving a raise in salary. He was replaced by Miss Bessie Lillian Boles, a graduate of the Ladies Liberty College in Liberty, Missouri. Professor Thomas Bell Kendrick, who taught classes in Latin, Greek, and German, resigned to return to the high school teaching job he had left in Dallas, Texas. In his resignation, Professor Kendrick stated that the “…reason for my resignation is that I do not think that one hundred twenty dollars a month is a sufficient compensation for being here in this fearfully stormy and sandy country, since I can get the same salary in my old position at Dallas, Texas.”

The first year of the Normal had been devoted to establishing an academic program and conducting classes for the new students. With the beginning of the second year, the Normal could begin to develop more student activities and initiate cultural activities for students, faculty, and townspeople. During the next five years from 1905 to 1910, the Normal began two student publications, initiated regular dramatic and musical productions, organized competitive athletic programs for men and women, and sponsored speakers who were nationally famous. These activities and events enriched the lives of the students as well as broadened the educational program of the Normal.

The first student publication was The Mukwisto, a monthly magazine which included
essays and news about the activities of students and faculty. The word “Mukwisto” was a Cheyenne name meaning paper. The magazine included advertisements for local businesses, and the editors encouraged the Normal students to “patronize those who have proven themselves to be its friends.” The editors also encouraged the students to send copies to “the old folks at home.” The athletic editor of The Mukwisto in 1905-1906 was Walter S. Campbell, the stepson of President Campbell. Graduating from Southwestern Normal in 1908, Walter S. Campbell went on to receive a graduate degree from the University of Oxford, England, where he was the first Rhodes Scholar from the newly-created state of Oklahoma. He adopted the pen name of Stanley Vestal and became a respected historian of the American West. As Research Professor of English, he taught professional writing courses at the University of Oklahoma, thus becoming the first Southwestern Normal graduate to distinguish himself as both a scholar and writer.

The Oracle, the senior class annual first published in 1906, included pictures of the faculty, students, athletic teams, student clubs, and academic organizations. Pictures of the Normal building, classrooms, laboratories, and the library were included as well as articles describing the activities of clubs and academic organizations. With its collection of student poems, “Normal Calendar,” and humorous section entitled “As Seen in Literature” where literary quotations were paired with names of students and faculty, The Oracle provided a clear
picture of life at the Normal. The Oracle of 1906 established a tradition of student yearbook publication which would continue for the first one hundred years of the school with only one interruption in the 1930s.

On September 29, 1905, the Aurora Society, one of the two student literary organizations, presented a play entitled "Pussy Wants a Corner." This first dramatic production was part of a program which included music and recitations. The Mukwisto called it a "splendid program" attended by a "large crowd" which was "highly pleased with this entertainment." The Aurora Society and Athenian Society continued to present dramatic productions, later sending some of them on tour throughout western and southwestern Oklahoma. These dramatic productions formed the foundation for the strong theatre department which has become a tradition at Southwestern.

An Orational Association was formed in 1907 to promote oratory, "the art of all arts." Students participated in local contests as well as in contests with other schools in the state. In 1909, Eugenia Kaufman won second place in the State Oratorical Contest, an honor recognized by The Oracle. The students in German and French classes produced plays in the native languages. The Senate Debating Club and the H.R. Debating Club attracted a large number of the young men who were the leaders of the Normal.

In 1907 the Music Department presented The Mikado, marking a new level of artistic endeavor. The Custer County Republican announced the upcoming event by calling it "the best thing, musically, that has ever been done in the school." This production of The Mikado was the first opera presented at the Nor-
A women's basketball game

A baseball game in 1908

The Normal's first women's basketball team

mal, but would not be the last time for The Mikado to be presented at Southwestern. The Mikado was presented under the direction of Dr. Charles Chapman in 1966 and again under the direction of Dr. Debra Spurgeon in 1990. The Music Department also organized several active performing groups. The Glee Club and the Normal orchestra performed in Elk City, Sayre, and Clinton in 1909. The Music Club and the Choral Society presented programs for their own club meetings and for student assemblies.

While performing arts were being emphasized by the organizing of several student clubs on the Normal campus, athletics was flourishing as well. The first football team failed to complete the first year of competition in 1903, mainly because of a lack of support from the administration and the students. In 1904, the athletic program received the official administrative and financial support of the school. Although little was done in athletics in the fall, the winter and spring of 1905 brought a more competitive program in basketball, baseball, and track. Professor Austin Wilber, vice president of the Normal, coached all these teams, providing the leadership and official support necessary for success.

In early 1905, Southwestern Normal was elected to membership in the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Athletic Association. Southwestern Normal men competed in football, basketball, baseball, and track. Frank Barnes had the honor of winning the first point for Southwestern in a territorial meet when he placed in the 220 yard dash. Southwestern women competed in basketball, beginning a tradition which would bring Southwestern women's basketball to national prominence at the end of the century.

By the end of the 1909-1910 school year, the Southwestern Normal athletic teams were
competing against area town teams, high school teams, and other colleges such as Central, Northwestern, Oklahoma A&M, and the University of Oklahoma. The men’s basketball team posted a record of 9 wins and 1 loss in 1909. The women’s basketball team “did great credit to itself” according to The Oracle. The baseball team posted a winning record, and the track team placed second in the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Meet at Oklahoma City in 1909. The football team did not compete in 1908 because of the death of Jessie J. Dyck, a popular student who died of injuries suffered in a football game between the Athenian Society and the Aurora Society.

In 1909, The Oracle published an “In Memorium” page dedicated to Jesse Jacob Dyck. Football competition was resumed in the fall of 1909. The Oracle included a section entitled “The Wearers of the ‘S’” in 1909, listing the students who had lettered in sports. By the end of the 1909-1910 school year, Southwestern Normal had an established athletic program for both men and women, which would grow stronger in the next decade.

In addition to fulfilling the social and intellectual needs of the students, Southwestern Normal provided moral and religious guidance through organizations such as the Young Men’s Christian Association, the Young Women’s Christian Association, and chapel programs, which were mandatory for students to attend. The Young Women’s Christian Association was founded in April, 1903, making it one of the first organizations at the new Southwestern Normal. The Young Men’s Christian Association was founded in March, 1904. Both organizations emphasized devotional activities during the first year, but their second year saw an increase in social and service activities such as lectures, receptions, and
A parade float in 1909

oratorical contests. Some of the major activities of both organizations were welcoming new students, helping them find housing, and aiding them in adjusting to life in the community and the school. Both organizations recognized their roles as service organizations as well as religious organizations. Both organizations exerted a powerful influence on the Normal in the early years.

Mandatory chapel services provided further moral and religious guidance for the Normal students. The chapel services usually featured a local minister or faculty member who delivered a short sermon or lecture, often related to character building, moral development, or temperance. The programs often included announcements to keep students informed of events and academic information. Some students were less than enthusiastic about the chapel programs. In an article entitled “Extracts from a Southwestern Girl’s Diary” in the 1907 edition of The Oracle, two entries suggest that the author was not impressed with chapel services.

Tuesday, October 10 - at chapel Dyck and I sat on the back seat and talked while some preacher prayed for an hour.

Monday, October 15 – Caught in gym tripping the light fantastic. Sent up to chapel. Hard luck.

Even the faculty may have been less than enthusiastic about chapel programs. In the 1909 edition of The Oracle, a “Program of Chapel” included in the section of jokes and advertisements suggested the attitude of the author and perhaps the faculty toward services.

**PROGRAM OF CHAPEL**

Hymn announced
Play thro’ by piano and orchestra
Faculty slip in
Hymn sung
Prayer
Announcements
Faculty slip out
(except speaker of the day)
Speech
Applause (very important)
March
Everybody falls down stairs
Even though the attitude of the students and faculty toward chapel programs may have been ambivalent at times, chapel was undoubtedly an important influence on the moral and religious character of the Normal students.

In addition to the moral and religious training the school provided for its students, Southwestern Normal sought to expand its educational and intellectual influence by offering extension classes, establishing a lecture series, and bringing nationally-recognized speakers to the campus. In 1905, Professor Austin Wilber, vice president of the Normal and a popular teacher, initiated a series of extension classes in nearby towns. His lectures covered a wide range of topics from crime and juvenile delinquency to a study of the Passion Play. While these lectures may have been more entertaining than educational, they allowed direct contact between the Normal and surrounding towns and communities and created more support for public education. In the 1904-1905 academic year, Southwestern Normal established a series of lectures on the campus for the benefit of students and the Weatherford community. Professor Charles N. Gould of the University of Oklahoma delivered a lecture entitled “General Geology and Resources of Oklahoma” in which he encouraged students to study the “receding types” such as cowboys and Indians. He rightly predicted that future generations would be “raking the globe for every scrap of knowledge of such things and life in the early days.” Professor Gould impressed the audience with his stereoptician slide presentation. Another lecture entitled “The Influence of Higher Education on Citizenship” was presented by Dr. David Boyd, president of the University of Oklahoma. This lecture series helped to establish Southwestern Normal as the cultural center of western Oklahoma.

In addition to the local and regional scholars who lectured at the Normal, two speakers of national renown made appearances in the early years. Carrie Nation, the hatchet-wielding temperance advocate from Kansas, spoke to Southwestern students and Weatherford residents four times in one week in January, 1905. In her usual flamboyant style, she urged students and citizens to do battle with the forces of evil, especially the saloonkeepers. Her radical views disturbed even the conservative editor of the Custer County Republican, who wrote in a headline, “Carrie the Smasher Was Here and Is Gone.” Stating that she may have “something lacking in her upper story,” the...
editor urged students and residents to “follow what good she offers and overlook her faults.”

Hamlin Garland, a well-known American writer, spoke at the Normal on October 16, 1905. Before he spoke, a hailstorm struck, breaking several windows in the Normal building. He delivered his lecture outside under the stars to an assembly of students and townspeople. Stanley Vestal (Walter S. Campbell), President Campbell’s stepson, was present for the lecture. Garland boasted of his pioneer ancestry, but Vestal reported that the speech, which sounded as if it had been given for “ladies’ clubs in the east,” left “his audience of pioneers stone cold.” Then John Seger, the old Indian agent from Colony, who had driven Garland to Weatherford, was invited to speak. Vestal reported that Seger “entranced us by the hour with true stories of Indian life and his own pioneer endeavor in his own Plains country.”

While Southwestern Normal was engaged in improving student life and developing a reputation as the cultural center of western Oklahoma, President Campbell continued to expand and develop the faculty, facilities, and curriculum of the fledgling institution. Faculty increased from the twelve charter members in the fall of 1903 to thirty-three in the fall of 1909. Part of the increase in faculty was due to a large enrollment, which had increased from one-hundred thirteen in the fall of 1903 to more than four hundred in the fall of 1909. Another reason for the increase in faculty was the establishment of new departments such as Modern Languages, Chemistry and Physics, Industrial Education, Commercial Training, and Athletics. A training school for teachers was established in the fall of 1908, increasing enrollment and faculty in the Education Department. Courses in agriculture were added to the curriculum, with the students in those classes given the responsibility of campus landscaping. With the increase in departments and course offerings came the demand for new equipment. President Campbell’s efficient leadership led to increased legislative appropriations for the Normal. These budget increases allowed the Normal to purchase sci-
ence laboratory equipment, pianos, athletic equipment, and books for the library, nearly 2,000 in 1906 alone. The Southwestern Normal flourished under the administrative leadership of President Campbell from its beginning in fall 1903 until he was removed for political reasons on December 31, 1907.

Until November, 1907, the appointment of college presidents had been made by governmental agencies in Washington. The Republican Party had controlled national and territorial politics since 1897. But, with statehood, the Democratic Party won control in Oklahoma and quickly began a system of political patronage which would plague higher education in Oklahoma for more than forty years. President Campbell, a Republican appointed by a Republican territorial governor, was removed at the end of 1907 in spite of his excellent record as an able administrator and a dedicated educator. Responding to President Campbell’s removal, the editor of the Custer County Republican recognized the danger of political patronage in higher education when he wrote, “Where will things end if every time a new governor takes his seat the heads of educators, not in accord with the political machine, must fall?” His removal, however, did not end President Campbell’s association with Southwestern Normal. After holding the position of
superintendent at Arapaho and Thomas, Mr. Campbell returned to Southwestern Normal as a professor of education from 1917-1921. Professor Campbell returned to Southwestern for the last time in May, 1929, when he delivered an address at the dedication of the new Library Building. Following his death on November 30, 1929, at the age of 81, Professor Campbell was eulogized in a special memorial service at Southwestern on the morning of December 4.

Professor Robert N. Linville, a charter member of the first Southwestern Normal faculty employed by President Campbell, was the principle speaker. Professor Linville remarked, “The great work for which J.R. Campbell will be remembered throughout the ages yet to come is the organization and building of this institution.” President James R. Campbell, along with President Leonard Campbell, would be memorialized by having the Campbell Building named for him in 1997.

James Fletcher Sharp became the second president of Southwestern Normal on January 1, 1908. A native of Tennessee, Sharp was a graduate of Carson-Newman College and had served as a city and county superintendent of schools as well as president of a Normal School in Chillhowee, Tennessee, for twelve years. Sharp came from a geographic area and educational institution commonly associated with religious fundamentalism. That spirit of fundamentalism would mark his administration and would lead to his dismissal as president three years later.

During the first two years of President Sharp’s administration, Southwestern Normal was experiencing growing pains as enrollments increased and building facilities became more inadequate. Several new faculty members were employed, including Dr. Dora Ann Stewart, who would become a legendary teacher and would have a girls dormitory, Stewart Hall, named in her honor. The first “matron” for female students, Mrs. Cynthia Dunston, was employed, reflecting President Sharp’s concern for the moral and social welfare of the students. The first Normal building had become inadequate to meet the needs brought on by increasing enrollment and expanding academic programs. Classroom space was limited, and the library room could no longer house the 8,500...
volumes which were present in 1908. A steadily increasing enrollment would create even more needs in the near future.

In 1908, The Oklahoma Legislature appropriated $100,000 for the construction of a second building for the Normal. The student body and Weatherford community celebrated the news of the appropriation with a big bonfire at the corner of Main and Custer streets and a celebration which included horns, fire whistles, fireworks, and a band. On March 4, 1910, the new Science Building was accepted in a ceremony attended by the Regents and the student body, which had been dismissed from classes for the event. The new three-story building with its white Grecian columns would remain largely unused for another year, however, because of a lack of funds to buy furnishings and equipment. This new building provided ample room for an increasing enrollment for years to come.

The construction of the Science Building was the high point of the Sharp presidency, but problems increasingly plagued the administration. Inadequate funding for laboratory and classroom equipment limited the effectiveness of several departments. The Athletic Department organized fund raising activities to buy equipment and uniforms and to finance team travel. At the end of the 1909-1910 school year, a political controversy added to the problems that beset the Normal. Two faculty members were transferred to Northwestern Normal at Alva, and several were not re-appointed. In a stinging editorial, the editor of The Weatherford Booster sharply criticized E. D. Cameron, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. In an article entitled "Dirty Politics in the Cameron Camp Stirring Things Up," the editor called Cameron "our honorable preacher politician" and referred to the "terrific uproar both among the students and citizens over the recent changes in the faculty here by the Cameron gang." The editor went
on to say, “If a man has an opinion of his own he can’t hold a job under Cameron. Even if the man is very quiet about it or fails to worship at the Cameron shrine little spies are sneaking about, reading minds and telling their masters.” 12

While this political controversy raged on the Normal campus and in the Weatherford community, President Sharp was involved in an incident which contributed to his dismissal a year later. In *A History of Southwestern State College, 1903-1953*, Dr. Mel Fiegel relates the story as told to President Al Harris by Dr. B.B. Chapman, a professor of history at Oklahoma State University, who had researched the incident. 13 The Board of Regents had purchased statues of Apollo, the Discus Thrower, and Hercules for the Art Department at Southwestern. When President Sharp unpacked them, he discovered that they were complete with sex organs rather than the fig leaves he had expected. True to his fundamentalist beliefs, President Sharp removed the sex organs with a hammer and chisel after warning some young teachers who had come to see the statues, “Go back, you cannot see the statues until I have made them decent for company.” 14

News of the neutering of the statues quickly spread among faculty, students, and local citizens. The humor of the event did not escape the notice of Mrs. Nell Smith Snider, the superintendent of schools in Custer County. Responding to a dare from a member of the Normal faculty, Mrs. Snider composed a poem entitled “The Sculptor from Tennessee” which followed the rhythm of “Paul Revere’s Ride” by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

**THE SCULPTOR FROM TENNESSEE**

*By Nell Smith Snider*

Oh say, my friend, have you ever heard
The tale that is told in Weatherford
Of a deed that was done in the art musee
By a modern sculptor from Tennessee?
There are other tales that are somewhat gory,
And celebrated in song and story
But the three blind mice and the farmer’s wife
Who cut off their tails with a carving knife
Could not compare with the statues three
Who met with the self-same cruelty.

This modern sculptor was fresh and green,
And he evidently had never seen,
Since he left the nooks of his native heather,
A statue posed in the altogether;
So he called for chisel and hammer and tong
To handle the things that didn’t belong
In the realm of art; and with one swift blow
He removed the cause of old Adam’s woe,
And left the poor statues standing there
The pictures of impotent, wild despair.

That night as he slept in his trundle bed,
The spooks came floating around his head;
They pointed their fingers at him in scorn
And made him wish he had never been born.
There were doctors there and sculptors too
And they raised a regular hullabaloo;  
The doctors shrieked, "You measly skate  
Who gave you a license to amputate?"
And the sculptors screamed, "You infernal quack  
You'd better get busy and put them back;  
For if you do not we'll cut — (ahem!)  
We'll do unto you as you did to them."
They flourished their knives in fiendish glee  
While the old man begged on his bended knee  
And told them they mustn't emasculate  
A man so essential to church and state;  
"This world," said he, "will go straight to perdition,  
Unless I can issue a second edition."
At that, his inquisitors formed a ring  
And danced a regular Highland fling.

They rode him around from Beersheba to Dan,  
Till he woke a sadder and wiser man.  
That day the illustrious president  
Bought him a bottle of good cement  
And returned to the school with a single thought —  
To repair the damage that he had wrought;  
But "there's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip",  
And the boys hadn't left him a single chip;  
Those innocent cherubs of tender years  
Had carried them off for souvenirs.

There was naught remaining for him to do  
But to manufacture a thing or two.  
So he moulded and chiseled with might and main  
Till his mind gave way from the terrible strain  
For the only model he had, Alas!  
Was the one that he saw in the looking glass.  
Imagine the stalwart Hercules  
With pygmy attachments, if you please,  
And I think you'll then be prepared to say,  
"No wonder the old man's mind gave way!"

Now the modern sculptor is running rife  
With pinchers and saw and a carving knife  
And if you linger outside the gate  
You'll be a eunuch as sure as fate.  
He never stops for bone or gristle  
But whittles them off as slick as a whistle;  
He hopes to find when he looks them o'er,  
An appendage to fit on the Discus Thrower,  
A match for Apollo (the Belvedere),  
And another for Hercules too, I hear.

But you never can find in a little town  
A very good fit in a hand-me-down;  
Good models are scarce in these latter days,  
The average men look more like jays;  
And that is the reason I apprehend  
That no one can tell where the trouble will end.

Now the moral to this isn’t hard to find—  
The nastiness is all in your mind;  
So unless for sculpture you have a knack,  
Don’t take things off that you can’t put back.

Even though the poem was written several months after the incident happened, it spread beyond the Normal and Weatherford to other towns and even other states. In an interview with Dr. B.B. Chapman in 1947, Mrs. Snider contended that she meant the poem to be a joke with no malice intended. President Sharp’s action in neutering the statues and very likely a copy of the poem itself contributed to his dismissal on April 26, 1911. The minutes of the State Board of Education meeting on that date included the statement: “We believe that the President, Mr. Sharp, has caused to have some of the statuary disfigured. This should not have been done as the statuary is worthless at this time.” Although there were other contributing factors to President Sharp’s dismissal, the statue incident at the end of the 1909-1910 school year was the beginning of his downfall.
Mood of the Early Years

German plays were part of the annual events at Southwestern. This is the 1907 troupe.


Southwestern Normal coeds, 1909.

The 1904-1905 Southwestern Normal band.
As the 1910-1911 school year began in September, Southwestern Normal was in a state of unrest. The transfer of two faculty members to Northwestern Normal at Alva and the dismissal of several others, along with the statue incident, did not bode well for the upcoming school year. Although enrollment had increased to over four hundred, President Sharp's leadership had become ineffective.

The State Board of Education began an investigation of Southwestern Normal in the spring of 1911. Even though the Board did not mention the statue incident, it probably played a part in bringing about the investigation. R.H. Wilson, President of the Board, appointed a committee to visit the campus and report on the condition of Southwestern. The written report of the committee was highly critical of the Normal and President Sharp. The report mentioned an excessive number of faculty members, many of whom were inferior, and a president, who was also labeled as inferior. The report also mentioned “statuary dis-
figured.” On April 28, 1911, two days after the report was submitted, the Board voted unanimously to remove President Sharp. Even though the statue incident contributed to Sharp’s dismissal, politics also played a part, since the Board also dismissed the presidents of the Normals at Central, Southeastern, and Northeastern.

On May 25, 1911, the State Board of Education appointed Ulysses J. Griffith to be the third president of Southwestern Normal. A graduate of the University of Indiana, Griffith had been superintendent of schools at Shawnee and had been a faculty member at the Tonkawa Preparatory School and at Northwestern Normal. He was vice president at Central State Normal when he was appointed president at Southwestern. When the fall semester of 1911 began, President Griffith had reduced the faculty to twenty-two. The enrollment had increased to 464. A positive atmosphere had returned to the campus.

In January, 1912, President Griffith proved that he was as conservative and righteous as his predecessor. With tongue planted firmly in cheek, the editor of The Weatherford Booster reported an incident which reflected the social and moral atmosphere of Southwestern Normal in that era. In the language of a dramatic melodrama, the editor described how President Griffith and Weatherford Marshal Daves broke up an unauthorized dance being held in the auditorium of the Administration Building. Since the new Science Building had an auditorium, the seats had been removed from the former auditorium. The Y.M.C.A. held a reception in the large empty room. Bowing to temptation, the students staged an impromptu dance. Obviously enjoying this forbidden activity, the students planned another dance, sending out secret invitations. But the “immoral” activity was cut short by two uninvited guests. President Griffith, “upholding the majesty of the state,” and Marshal Daves, “official wielder of the big club,” crashed the dance. Although the editor did not report what was said in the room, he did report that one participant was the pretty daughter of a local minister and that “words cannot describe the distress that came to that home when the story reached the family circle. Her beautiful voice was missed from
the church choir on Sunday.” Another young lady, the daughter of one of the professors, was intercepted by her irate father on her way to the dance and was “torn from the arm of her escort and taken home to do penance in a good old fashioned way.” Obviously failing to appreciate the seriousness of the matter, the editor wrote, “So the dance that began so cheerfully ended tearfully.”

Like the editor, the students also saw the humor in the situation. Below the photograph of President Griffith in the 1914 edition of The Oracle, the caption refers to “our leader frank and bold” and states, “I am monarch of all I survey; My right there is none to dispute; From the center all around to the sea I am lord of the fowl and brute.” Even though the editor of The Weatherford Booster and the staff of The Oracle had satirized the event, President Griffith had demonstrated his serious concern for the “moral standing of the student body.”

President Griffith would continue in his position until August, 1915. The years of his presidency were marked by increased enrollment, additional courses, and new programs, including the establishment of a training school.

The 1914-15 Bulletin listed twelve departments and a total of one hundred eighty-two courses as compared to ten departments and a total of one hundred twenty-seven courses listed in the 1912-13 Bulletin. Enrollment increased from 464 in 1911, to 522 in 1912, and to 641 in 1913. The 1912-13 Bulletin also listed a number of improvements to the campus including new equipment, a renovation of the Administration Building, and improvements in the heating system. Some of this information seems out of place in a Bulletin, but events of the coming year reveal the reason for the statements. As had often been the case, politics influenced educational decisions on the campus. Lee Cruse had campaigned on the promise of economy in state government. When he was elected as the second governor of Oklahoma, he began a plan to eliminate some of the state Normals. In January, 1913, a bill was introduced to eliminate the Normals at Weatherford, Ada, and Durant. On April 2, 1913, a House subcommittee visited the Southwestern Normal and issued a favorable report, stating that the Normal was performing an important function of providing teachers for the public schools and that there was a strong demand for teachers in the region. In spite of the favorable report, the enemies of the Normals continued
their attack, including a plan to abolish the Northeastern Normal at Tahlequah as well. The bill to abolish the Normals was defeated by a vote of thirty-six to thirty-four. Southwestern Normal had narrowly escaped being abolished.

With the threat of closing now removed, Southwestern Normal could concentrate on new activities and programs. In April, 1913, the first Southwestern Interscholastic Meet was organized. High schools were invited to send students to a two-day competition in literary, artistic, and scholastic contests. This academic competition encouraged high school students to strive for a higher level of scholarship and provided the Normal an opportunity to recruit the students for the future. The Southwestern Interscholastic Meet continues even stronger today.

In January, 1915, another tradition at Southwestern had its beginning. The Q.P. Club, a theatrical organization, was formed with Miss Mildred Duncan as sponsor. The Q.P. Club provided theatrical entertainment for the Normal students and for surrounding communities. The
club, which took as its emblem the “kewpie”
doll, was a forerunner of Alpha Psi Omega, the
current dramatics fraternity. Like the Q.P. Club,
the Alpha Psi Omega fraternity has a club mascot, a Teddy Bear, which has sat on the front
row of each dramatic production since 1953. The two organizations have provided entertain-
ment for Southwestern students for the past eighty-five years.

The Southwestern Normal teacher training
program showed significant improvement
when a training school was established in 1915. The training school included the first eight
grades of public school work. Students from
Weatherford and surrounding communities
were admitted without charge. The classes
were taught by teacher training students from
the Normal under the su-
pervision of licensed
teachers and the director
of the training school.
During the first year of
operation, more than two
hundred students enrolled
in the training school,
prompting the State Board
of Education to pass a
regulation limiting the
size of classes to thirty. The success of the
training school provided more evidence that
Southwestern Normal was fulfilling an educa-
tional need in western Oklahoma.

Even though Southwestern Normal seemed
to have weathered the storm after the attempt
to close the school, President Griffith resigned
in August, 1915. In explaining Griffith’s res-
ignation, R.L. Wilson, president of the State
Board of Education, said Griffith was the vic-
tim of circumstances, crop conditions brought
on by drought, and local and area students be-
ing influenced to attend Central Normal at
Edmond by their teachers, who were trained
there. However, it should be noted that a new
governor, Robert L.Williams, had taken office
in January. Like that of his predecessor, Presi-

Training school
dent Sharp, Griffith’s term in office ended with a new governor’s administration. This problem of political patronage interfering with public education would continue until the 1940s when the Legislature passed a bill forbidding such action.

Dr. James B. Eskridge was elected the fourth president of Southwestern on August 31, 1915. Dr. Eskridge was the first Southwestern president to hold a doctorate degree, having earned the Ph.D. in classical languages at the University of Chicago. He had taught in Tennessee and Texas and had been president of Oklahoma College for Women at Chickasha before accepting the presidency of Southwestern. His educational qualifications and administrative experience had prepared him for the new position, but he faced a major challenge as the fall term of 1915 began.

President Eskridge was immediately faced with the problem of attracting students to Southwestern, the same problem which had plagued his predecessor. President Eskridge began a campaign to acquaint southwestern Oklahoma with the school by organizing student groups to tour the area. During the next two years, the Normal orchestra performed concerts in a number of towns in southwestern Oklahoma including towns as large as Altus and Clinton and as small as Foss and Lone Wolf. Student theatrical groups also toured the area, polishing their talents and boosting the Normal. Administrators and faculty continued their visits and speaking engagements in surrounding schools. The competition for students became so intense that the State Board of Education designated specific areas where the presidents, faculty, and employees of the Normals could recruit students. The Southwestern Normal area included thirteen counties: Beckham, Caddo, Comanche, Cotton, Custer, Dewey, Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa, Roger Mills, Tillman, and Washita. Furthermore, the Normals were forbidden to distribute literature about their schools outside their assigned areas. Presidents and faculty of the Normals were forbidden to accept speaking engagements outside their area unless the president of the Normal in that area had been notified of the visit and its purpose. These restrictions reflect the competitive nature of the
recruiting activities of the state Normals.

Even before America entered World War I in April, 1917, Southwestern Normal began to feel the effects of the war already raging in Europe. In 1916, *The Oracle* included the topic chosen for the Triangular Debate among the Normal schools: "Resolved: That military preparedness, as outlined by President Wilson in his recent message to Congress, increases rather than decreases the possibilities of war."³ In early 1917, the State Board of Education adopted a resolution that requested every public school in the state to display prominently the American flag and to teach the lessons of patriotism for the "welfare and future of the United States." The large number of citizens of German descent living in Weatherford and the surrounding area as well as numerous students of German descent added to the tension created by the impending war. When the declaration of war came in April, 1917, Southwestern Normal students responded with a great outpouring of patriotism. Several male students enlisted in the army at once. During the summer of 1917, numerous other students enlisted. When students entered the auditorium for the opening assembly of the fall semester of 1917, they found the stage decorated with numerous American flags, reflecting the intense patriotic spirit of the entire nation.

The wartime patriotism soon fostered some frightening developments in the state, in Weatherford, and on the Southwestern campus. Groups of citizens, calling themselves the Council of Defense, formed in every school district in Oklahoma. Designed to ensure that all Oklahomans were patriotic, these groups distributed pledge cards throughout the school districts of the state. The pledge cards included a promise of allegiance to the flag as well as a statement that would lead to a disturbing episode on the Southwestern Normal campus. The statement read:

I recognize the danger that arises from the slacker who opposes the country. I realize that every breeder of sedition is as great a menace to our homes and freedom as are our enemies across the seas. I therefore pledge myself to report to the Chairman of my School District [Council] of Defense or to my County Defense Chairman any disloyal act or utterance that I may know of.⁴

Apparently the students at the Southwestern Normal did not oppose these tactics designed to curtail dissent or opposition to the views of the super-patriots. No statements can be found in the student publications to indicate concern for the curtailing of freedom of
The academic program at Southwestern Normal was soon affected by the patriotic fervor brought on by the war. In March, 1918, the State Board of Education directed the chairs of the History Departments at the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma A&M College, and the six Normal Schools to examine all adopted textbooks to determine if they included pro-German references or material of a pro-German nature that might suggest German propaganda. In a related development, all classes in German language were discontinued and were not reinstated until 1930. This spirit of suspicion and repression which pervaded the nation as well as the Normal campus resembled that of the McCarthy era in the 1950s. Like the McCarthy witch hunters of that era, the local Council of Defense would claim a victim from the Southwestern Normal faculty.

On May 9, 1918, the Weatherford Council of Defense met in secret session in which they charged Professor C.H. Simpson, professor of agriculture at Southwestern, with making disloyal remarks. The persons making the charges remained unidentified, but they were assumed to be students. The charges were presented to President Eskridge, who passed them on to the State Board of Education without investigating their validity. Professor Simpson had not been notified that his loyalty was being questioned. The State Board of Education ordered Simpson dismissed from the faculty without giving him an opportunity to answer the charges brought against him and without his knowing that the proceedings were being conducted. Concerning the dismissal of Professor Simpson, the State Board issued the following resolution:

WHEREAS, it has been made to appear to the State Board of Education upon investigation made by the Weatherford Council of Defense, under date of May 9, 1918, that C. H. Simpson, Professor of Agriculture in the Southwestern State Normal, has made remarks to the effect that young men of the white race would be killed off in this war to such an extent that the young women will have to marry negroes to build up the race; that the German Government is a better government than that of the United States of America; that the American citizen has no right on the seas that should be respected by Germany; that soldiers from the front making Liberty Loan and Y.M.C.A. speeches are imposters.....THEREFORE BE IT

Professor C.H. Simpson
RESOLVED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION that the said C. H. Simpson be dismissed on this date from the faculty of the said State Normal School....

In an effort to prevent such problems in the future, the State Board issued another resolution that all faculty and employees were required to accept as a condition of employment.

RESOLVED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION that each employee of the institutions under the jurisdiction of said Board...before entering upon his or her duties for the next school year, take and subscribe an oath of office to the effect that such employee or teacher will support and defend the Constitution of the United States, the State of Oklahoma, and support the Red Cross, Liberty Loans, War Stamp Sales, Food and Fuel Administration, and all war relief societies and organizations and societies, and especially to cooperate with the County and School District Councils of Defense in the matter of reporting disloyal statements and stamping out disloyalty and to teach patriotism.

The patriotic zeal and war hysteria of the time seems to have prevented the members of the Board from recognizing the danger of such a resolution. Like the Communist hunters of the McCarthy era in the 1950s, enemies of any person could destroy him by charging him with disloyalty.

Although Professor Simpson had been charged with disloyalty, found guilty on hearsay evidence, and dismissed without a trial, it was his wife who led the fight to defend him. She circulated a petition among the students and faculty of the Normal asserting that her husband was a loyal, law-abiding, patriotic citizen. Numerous students and all except one faculty member signed the petition. President Eskridge called a meeting of the students and faculty at which he stated that the students who made the charges against Simpson would not now admit that they had done so, that he was not sure of Simpson’s loyalty or disloyalty, that the matter was up to the Board of Education, and that he would like to see Simpson vindicated. However, he stopped short of admitting his own rashness in passing on the charges without an investigation.

Professor Simpson made his only official statement in an “advertisement” on page four of The Weatherford Booster for May 23, 1918. In his statement, he gave his family background, his membership in the Christian Church, and his military service in the Spanish-American War, where he fought in several battles. He also listed the pledge cards he had signed, the donations he had made to the Red
Cross, and the Liberty Bonds he had purchased with money he had borrowed. He further stated that President Eskridge had recommended that he be re-elected to the faculty only a few weeks before the charges of disloyalty had been brought against him. He concluded the “advertisement” by saying that “people who believe in ghosts will see ghosts.” In a strange twist of logic, the editor of *The Weatherford Booster* concluded that although the State Board of Education might have acted un­wisely in the Simpson case, the professor’s “usefulness was irreparably impaired.” No further attempt was made to rectify this apparent injustice.

The school year of 1917-18 brought several notable changes to Southwestern. In April, 1918, the State Board of Education authorized the construction of residences for all Normal school presidents. Dr. Eskridge welcomed the decision and became the first president to occupy the residence. Presidents would continue to live there until President Leonard Campbell moved into his own home in 1976. The former president’s home, now the Burton House, named for Dr. Harold Burton, twelfth president of Southwestern, presently houses the Student Development Services and Placement.

A drastic change in the student population occurred between April and September of 1917. Most of the men joined the armed forces, and the Conscription Act of May 1918 made the academic plans of the remaining men uncertain. Sports activities declined with the absence of male students. Several plays were presented during the 1917-18 school year with all-girl casts. Southwestern had been chosen as the location for a Student Army Training Corps under a plan which provided technical training before the trainees were assigned to officer candidate school. On October 7, 1918, one hundred and two military trainees arrived on the campus. The Normal converted the basketball court on the top floor of the original Normal building into a barracks and designated a rooming house near the campus as a mess hall. The campus and community welcomed
the trainees, but with the end of the war on November 11, the Corps was officially disbanded in December. As World War I ended, Southwestern Normal faculty and students rejoiced with the rest of the nation. Little had changed in the academic program since the war began in Europe in 1914. Now a new era for the nation and Southwestern was about to begin.

Like the rest of the school and nation, the athletic program at Southwestern suffered because of the war as well as from a lack of emphasis. The team records reflect the struggles athletics encountered during the war years. In 1917, the baseball team lost their first four games and “became discouraged and cancelled the rest of the season.” In 1918, the football team lost the only “official” game it played. But two athletes from this decade would go on to become legendary figures in Oklahoma sports history. Rankin Williams, a member of the NAIA Coaches Hall of Fame, began his coaching career at Southwestern in 1922 and continued coaching basketball and baseball at Southwestern for forty-two years before retiring in 1964. Another athlete from those years, Lee K. Anderson, was Executive Director of the
adequate in the early years of Oklahoma. Now that most towns had secondary schools, young people were graduating from high school in increasing numbers. The Normals were no longer adequate to provide the professional training and specific subject matter necessary to prepare teachers for the secondary schools. In December, 1919, the State Board of Education took a major step forward by authorizing two additional years of college work and the granting of baccalaureate degrees by all of the Normals. This conversion to a four-year teachers college marked a high point in the history of Southwestern and presented new challenges for the decade about to begin.
Mood of the Teens

Women’s tennis practice.

The Southwestern football team, 1913.

Southwestern students were tossed into the middle of World War I.

Domestic Science graduates, 1913: Edith Swarz, Delpha Flanagan, Josephine Lackey, and Nell Jarvis.

Two students are dressed in Easter bonnets.

The 1911 girls basketball team.

1910-1919: Peace, War & Changes
A wonderful combination — The sweetest girls and the sweetest bunch of athletes in Oklahoma.
The conversion of Southwestern Normal to a four-year college presented a significant challenge to President Eskridge and his faculty. Expressing a “deep sense of humility” in accepting the responsibility of leading a college, President Eskridge set about expanding the curriculum and raising the level of course work. The transition from a two-year normal to a four-year college officially took place in the fall semester of 1920. German, military drill, and several other courses had been discontinued in 1918-1920. After Southwestern Normal became a teachers college in 1920, a number of courses were added in the subject areas teachers might be asked to teach as well as professional education courses for teachers. With the new four-year program, the number of courses offered increased from two hundred in 1919 to two hundred seventy-eight in 1920.

The State Board of Education required that in order to receive a baccalaureate degree, a student had to complete one hundred and twenty semester hours in regular subjects and four hours of physical education. Further stipulations included a prescribed number of hours in areas such as English, foreign language, history, mathematics, science, and edu-

From the 1920 Oracle: "The queen of the May Day Festivities at Southwest Normal this year is Miss Lois Quinn. She was elected with a close margin by the Student body. Miss Quinn is a Senior and Forensia, and a leader in all school activities. She did grace the throne in a way becoming to her beauty and charm of manner. Raymond McLain, Honor Knight Robin Hood, is a popular Senior and he, without a doubt, presided with all the dignity and gracefulness necessary for such a position." (above right) May Fete festivities.
cation. To meet the requirements of the State Board, Southwestern Normal divided the first college curriculum into eight areas. The list shown below shows the academic areas and the total number of courses in each in the fall of 1920.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Science</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biological Science</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Botany</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zoology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physiology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History &amp; Government</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home Economics</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Arts</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drawing &amp; Design</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>278</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Southwestern Normal had made remarkable progress from a new two-year Normal School housed in churches and former saloons in 1903 to a four-year college offering Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in 1920. The next ten years would bring more progress before the stock market crash of 1929 ushered in a period of struggle for survival that would threaten the existence of Southwestern.

The change from a two-year Normal to a four-year teachers college brought immediate increases in enrollment. The enrollment of 342 in the fall of 1920 increased to 506 in the fall of 1921. The summer enrollment of teachers and prospective teachers increased from 711 in the summer of 1921 to 1,132 in the summer of 1922.

The first Bachelor of Arts degrees awarded by Southwestern were conferred on Genevieve Crosby, Addie Miller, and Mrs. Ina Ferguson at the summer commencement exercise in 1921.

The Oracle of 1921 honored Addie Miller, who com-
completed her course work in May, as the first Bachelor of Arts graduate of Southwestern. In the fall of 1920, the transition of Southwestern Normal to a four-year college brought with it a name change for the school. The State Legislature approved a change of name to Southwestern State Teachers College. President Eskridge presided over the first year of the expanded academic program before submitting his resignation, effective July 1, 1921, to accept the presidency of Oklahoma A&M College. He had been president for six years, longer than any other president. His capable leadership through the war years and the transition period to a four-year school had left a permanent legacy at Southwestern.

Mr. A.H. Burris was chosen as the fifth president of Southwestern in June, 1921. President Burris was a graduate of Phillips University and had been a principal in Oklahoma public schools for fifteen years. He had served on the State Board of Education for two years, which may have influenced his appointment as president. Regardless of the circumstances of his appointment, his tenure as President was short. In January, 1923, John C. Walton was elected governor of Oklahoma. Walton did not believe Burris was suitable to head Southwestern State Teachers College, perhaps because he did not impose rigid restrictions on student conduct. The students of Southwestern apparently did not agree with Governor Walton's view of President Burris. In the summer of 1922, the twelve hundred students attending summer school presented President Burris a Buick Six touring car in appreciation of his leadership. President Linscheid of East Central College called the gift, "the most munificent gift a school man has ever received in the history of the world." Burris resigned in May, 1923, after only two years as President, a victim of politics in higher education in Oklahoma.
After accepting Burris' resignation at the meeting of May 8, 1921, the State Board of Education immediately named James W. Turner as the sixth president of Southwestern. Like his predecessor, Turner was a graduate of Phillips University. He had served as head of the History Department at the University Preparatory School at Tonkawa and was serving as superintendent of schools at Newkirk when he was chosen as president of Southwestern. He would serve until October, 1927, when he resigned the presidency, citing personal and family problems. Two of the major accomplishments of Turner's presidency were the construction of a new Library Building, now the Art Building, and the first gymnasium, which was torn down to allow the construction of the Stafford Center in 1996.

Ernest Edward Brown was named the seventh president of Southwestern in October, 1927. Brown had a varied background in education before becoming president. He had been an elementary teacher at Hollis, superintendent of schools at Erick and Hollis, assistant state superintendent of public instruction, and a high school inspector for the State Department of Education. He would serve as president for five years. His tenure as president would end in 1932 amid an intense controversy with Governor William H. Murray. President Brown was the fourth president to lead Southwestern during the decade of the 1920s, a reflection of the turmoil and controversy which marked higher education in the early years.

The growth of Southwestern brought new needs for additional buildings. The library was housed in the Administration Building. By 1924, the library had increased to nearly 10,000 volumes, causing books to be stacked on the floor. In 1927, the State Legislature appropriated $100,000 for a new Library Building. The new Library Building was officially opened on May 21, 1929. Governor W. T. Holloway, State Superintendent John A. Vaughn, and James Campbell, the first president of Southwestern,
Clay Hall and Ruth Crall walk down the forms of the new library.

attended the dedication ceremonies.

Another need was met by the construction of a new physical education building, completed in March, 1926. Southwestern had never had a gymnasium, using the top floor of the Administration Building for basketball and physical education classes in the early years. In order to avoid architect fees, Joe B. Milam, football coach, and Rankin Williams, basketball and baseball coach, designed the new building. In later years, these two coaches would be honored by having Milam Stadium and the Rankin Williams Field House and the Rankin Williams Field named for them. The new gymnasium included a 50’x 90’ basket-
ball court, shower rooms, and offices. The new gymnasium seated about two thousand. This gymnasium would serve Southwestern until December, 1957, when the new Rankin Williams Field House was dedicated. The old gymnasium would then be converted to a Music Building until it was razed to provide space for the Stafford Center.

Because of the construction of the new library and the gymnasium, a new power plant was constructed in 1928. The new power plant more than doubled the heating output of the old one. That building still stands and is now used as the Theatre Scene Shop.

The sports programs at Southwestern increased both in number and in quality during the decade of the 1920s. While Southwestern had competitive programs in football, basketball, and track in the early years, the athletic program was limited in the number of games scheduled and in the quality of the opposition, with the college teams sometimes competing against high school teams and town teams in the area. As the decade of 1910-1919 ended, the football and basketball teams had recovered from the restrictions of the war years and were playing expanded schedules against other colleges. As the decade of the 1920s began, Southwestern sports began to flourish under the leadership of such outstanding coaches as John Lance, Dutch Voyles, Joe B. Milam, and Rankin Williams. Coach Milam and Coach Williams are now enshrined in the Southwestern Athletic Hall of Fame.
Southwestern football teams compiled a decade record of 42 wins, 38 losses, and 9 ties. Coaches John Lance, Dutch Voyles, and Joe B. Milam led the Bulldogs in the 1920s. In his first season as head coach, Joe B. Milam led the Bulldogs to a conference championship in 1926, compiling a record of 7 wins and 2 losses, one of those losses being a 31-7 defeat by the University of Texas Longhorns at Austin. Four members of that championship team would later be inducted into the Southwestern Athletic Hall of Fame – Swede Umbach, Arnold Shockley, Jenks Simmons, and James Craddock. Another team member, Jake Spann, would later coach the Bulldogs. On November 2, 1926, Hazel Cline, a freshman from Thomas, was crowned as the first Southwestern homecoming queen. Miss Cline was crowned by the team captain, Swede Umbach. Her crown was a regulation football helmet, and her throne was the football bench. In the homecoming football game, Southwestern defeated
Southwestern basketball teams of the 1920s established outstanding records. In spite of having no court to practice on until the fall of 1927 and playing all of their games on the opponents’ courts until that time, the Southwestern Bulldogs won two state championships, two conference championships, and one conference co-championship during the 1920s. The 1921 team posted a record of 15-1 and won the state championship. The star of that team was Rankin Williams, who would become an assistant coach the next year and head coach in 1926. Coach Williams would go on to coach football, basketball, baseball, and track at Southwestern for the next forty-two years, earning a spot in the NAIA Coaches Hall of Fame. In 1926, his first year as head basketball coach, Williams led Southwestern to a conference championship. Jenks Simmons, the star of that team, would go on to play professional football and to become one of the outstanding coaches in the history of Oklahoma sports.

Wrestling was added to the Southwestern athletic program in 1923. Southwestern won the conference championship in 1924 and 1925. Arnold “Swede” Umbach and Roy “Red” Anderson each won three state championships. “Swede” Umbach was later inducted into the Southwestern Athletic Hall of Fame.

Southwestern baseball had a brief but successful history in the 1920s. Southwestern fielded baseball teams in 1928 and 1929. Both teams won championships under the coaching of Rankin Williams. The 1929 edition of The Oracle stated that there were “no plans for baseball” in 1930 because Coach Williams had decided to concentrate on track.

Like sports, the extra-curricular activities changed dramatically during the 1920s. The Oracle, the school annual, featured improved
photography and additional sections as well as somewhat opinionated reporting of campus activities and athletic events where the editors sometimes questioned the officiating as well as the talents of some of the players. The Oracle included an aerial view of the campus in 1921. The Southwestern, the campus newspaper, changed from a monthly to a bi-weekly magazine in 1922. Dr. Grace Jencke, head of the Department of English, became the sponsor, and a journalism class produced the paper, a system which continues to this time. In September, 1924, The Southwestern changed to a weekly publication with a newspaper format. The newspaper format allowed the paper to carry more news of campus events and activities and fewer in-depth articles better suited to a magazine format.

Mrs. G.B. Arnold, who later wrote the Southwestern Alma Mater song, took over what The Weatherford Booster referred to as the "newly organized" band. Miss Elsie Shoemaker became the director of dramatics. She organized a group of students who formed a theatre "workshop." This group produced four three-act plays in 1929-30. "Tommy," the first production, opened on November 12 with Miss Shoemaker as director. The Oracle was highly complementary of the drama. Miss Shoemaker

1920-1929: The Transition to a College
would continue to direct theatre productions until 1943 when she left Southwestern to work for a government agency in Tulsa.

In the 1920s, Southwestern seemed far removed from the “roaring twenties” image currently reflected in literature, film, and the arts. While a conflict between science and religion raged in many parts of the nation, Southwestern experienced a renewed interest in conventional religion. Religious speakers frequently appeared on the campus. The Southwestern sometimes devoted a full page to religious topics. The editor of The Southwestern wrote, “Bible study and church services should be as much of the student’s curriculum as any of the required courses.” Dr. Dora Stewart, a history professor, was influential in establishing the Baptist Student Union and served as its sponsor for many years. In 1927, twenty-four courses on religious subjects were offered.

The famous “flappers” of the twenties were in little evidence on the campus, even though students were sometimes warned against dress and behavior associated with them. Pictures in The Oracle reveal that other than hair styles, fur collars, hats, and dresses only faintly resembling the revealing ones worn by the “flappers” of more cosmopolitan regions, Southwestern coeds exhibited little of the rebellious spirit of that era in American history. The Oracle and The Southwestern show no indication that Southwestern students were influ-
enced in their behavior by the loosening of moral restrictions of that time. However, The Southwestern of September 23, 1924, included a poem, lacking in style but humorous in content, entitled “A Youthful Bachelor’s Observation.”

Every flapper has a duty
And that duty is quite clear—
She must paint to keep her beauty.
For her beauty’s very dear.
Now I’m one of the opposing
Sex, and I won’t criticize.
On the question, I’m not dozing—

Don’t let that be your surmise.
Still, some flappers, I’ve surveyed
Who’d homely be if painted not.
I don’t blame them, for it paid—
I’d have painted too—A LOT.

As the decade of the twenties drew to a close, a spirit of comfortable conservatism pervaded the Southwestern campus. But the Wall Street crash of October, 1929, would shatter that calm and usher in a decade of fear, anxiety, and poverty as the Great Depression descended upon Southwestern and the rest of the nation.

**Ruth Crall and Julia Beach at the top of clock tower.**
Mood of the 1920s

A flapper and her beau.

Al "Kid" Harris, one of the outstanding athletes of the 1920s and later a Southwestern president.

A student arrives at Southwestern Normal.

Southwestern coeds dress to the part for "The May Festival."

"Sing a song of Gym-jams
Lots of stamping feet.
Noise from the Gym court
Carries to the street.

Carries to the Class room,
Drowns the lecturer's speech —
Even drowns the Chorus
Where the flappers screech."

A dog walks through snow after a 1920 storm to the Science Building (which has the SWN letters.)
When the Great Depression descended on America in October, 1929, Southwestern, like the rest of the nation, immediately felt the impact. With falling prices and unemployment, students and their families found it harder to finance their education. As the Great Depression worsened, the faculty and administration of Southwestern were affected by reduced salaries and smaller budgets, but the college continued to show progress in spite of the hard times. Added to the financial problems Southwestern faced in those years was a dramatic increase in political interference in the operation of the school. The decade of the 1930s was a time of trial and testing for Southwestern. With the leadership of dedicated administrators and faculty, Southwestern endured the difficulties and survived that dark period in history, emerging as a stronger institution.

While the nation reeled from the impact of the Great Depression, President Brown exhibited both optimism and courage by expanding course offerings and upgrading the faculty in 1930. He expanded the Biology and Social Sciences departments, added a course in histology, and purchased new equipment. The Southwestern reported that twenty-five percent of the faculty were working toward advanced degrees. With the urging of President Brown, seven faculty members were working toward the Ph.D. degree and four toward the master’s degree. The Southwestern pointed out that the instructors hired to replace the faculty members who were on leave were also highly qualified teachers. In October, 1930, the State Board of Education provided an additional incentive for faculty to seek advanced degrees by passing a resolution requiring all college teachers to complete a master’s degree in their teaching field within two years. In spite of the financial burden this may have placed on the teachers in these years of the Great Depression, these requirements certainly improved the quality of instruction in the teacher training institutions.

Political conflicts with governors continued to plague Southwestern as well as the other colleges in the 1930s. When William H. Murray became governor of Oklahoma in January, 1931, President Brown became one of his
first targets. Governor Murray had announced his plan to reduce college faculties and to reduce funds for higher education. Accusing Brown of “disloyalty” for allowing his faculty members to attend meetings in opposition to the governor’s school measures, Governor Murray set about to remove President Brown. When President Brown submitted a letter of resignation effective at the end of the spring term in 1932, Murray insisted that Brown leave immediately. On April 22, 1932, the president spoke to the student body, informing them of his removal from office. When students and friends prepared to circulate petitions protesting his removal, Brown asked them not to do so, saying the action would be “futile.” Even though President Brown did not fight to keep his own position, he did attempt to protect the college faculty from what he thought would be Murray’s next attack, an attempt to remove faculty members who had not supported him. The April 28, 1932, edition of The Southwestern carried Brown’s warning of the danger to the faculty.

“I am convinced that a very large part of our present organization will be wrecked. The Governor stated to me personally that he had only five friends in the faculty. I do not know of his method of defining friends, but I am convinced that a large number of faculty members will be summarily dismissed.”

Brown urged his followers to write to C. W. Richards, the incoming president, asking him to support the faculty and to “resist the political racketeers.” The students held a special assembly to organize a protest against the removal of faculty members. Weatherford businessmen and prominent citizens flooded the State Board of Education with letters and telegrams. Consequently, the State Board resisted the Governor’s demand to remove most of the faculty. As a result, “only” seven faculty members were removed rather than the “twenty to thirty-five” that Brown had predicted would be fired.

On April 22, 1932, the day that Brown announced his removal as president, the State Board of Education elected Charles W. Richards to be the eighth president of South-
western. Richards was a native of Georgia and a graduate of the University of Nashville, Nashville, Tennessee. He had attended George Peabody College for teachers and had done graduate work at Harvard. After serving as superintendent of schools at Ardmore for fourteen years, he became the supervisor of civilian vocational rehabilitation for the State Department of Education, where he was serving when he was named president of Southwestern. His appointment as president followed the pattern of choosing employees and members of the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education to fill the position of president at state colleges. Perhaps realizing the precarious nature of his new position, President Richards addressed the student body, asking for their loyalty and cooperation.

In an interesting turn of events, Governor Murray announced that he would speak in Weatherford on June 17, 1932. Speaking at the Southwestern football stadium to an estimated five thousand people, Murray did not mention his actions in the removal of President Brown or his negative attitudes toward higher education. Murray's later actions would lead to Southwestern and the other state colleges losing their accreditation by the North Central Association. Governor Murray's opposition to higher education and the worsening economic conditions of the early 1930s led to several major changes at Southwestern.

To meet the demands for budget reductions, President Richards instituted several rather drastic measures. In May, 1931, the May Festival, a traditional Southwestern celebration, was cancelled because of a lack of funds. The Oracle, the Southwestern yearbook, was not published in 1931 for the same reason, and the summer Chautauqua was cancelled.

In the spring of 1932, The Oracle was published again, but only through public donations. In an even more drastic cost-cutting measure, the Industrial Arts Department was closed for the 1932-33 school year. Teaching salaries at Southwestern also reflected the lack of funding. Dr. Dora Ann Stewart's salary of $3,540.00 for 1931-32 was reduced to $2,500.00 for 1933-34. Making the financial situation even worse in those years, college teachers were asked to "contribute" a percent of their salaries to the governor's program in order to keep their jobs. The practice continued until 1935 when the State Board of Education passed a regulation forbidding these so-called "contributions." No one escaped the
economic hardships of the Great Depression.

Students took whatever jobs they could find on campus, in town, or on nearby farms. The boys worked as janitors, yard workers, lab assistants, and construction workers. Girls did clerical and library work. In the fall of 1931, The Southwestern reported that a number of male students were earning twenty-five cents an hour for building the circle drive in front of the college. Another edition of The Southwestern reported that students “well skilled in the art of pulling boles” could earn one dollar an afternoon “if they work long enough.”

Arthur Sweet, a champion wrestler and member of the Southwestern Athletic Hall of Fame, once told this author how he finished his college education at Southwestern during the years of the Great Depression. He would get up at 4:00 a.m. and jog one mile north of the campus where he milked cows for a dairy owner. He would then jog back to campus in time for an 8:00 a.m. class. After a full day of classes and wrestling practice, he would jog back to the dairy to milk the cows again until 8:00 or 9:00 p.m., and then walk the mile back to the campus. He explained that he never had a problem with weight or conditioning. In those days, the term “athletic scholarship” had not existed.

While Southwestern was suffering economic woes along with the rest of the nation, the campus grew with the construction of new athletic fields, an amphitheater, the first student dormitories, and an Industrial Arts Building. The first addition to the campus in the 1930s was a football stadium. In the spring of 1931, the Legislature agreed to fund forty percent of the cost of the land upon which to build the stadium. The campus and community joined in the effort to raise the necessary funds. Weatherford residents formed a Southwestern State Teachers College Trust Fund and soon succeeded in raising the money to build a concrete stadium with lights for night games. Students worked without pay to build the seats in the new stadium. The first game was played in the unfinished stadium on October 3, 1930. The Southwestern reported that people “came from miles around” for the “novelty of seeing a night game” and stated that “nocturnal football” was here to stay. Unfortunately, Coach
Joe B. Milam's Bulldogs lost to the Southeastern Savages by a score of 13-6. The athletic facilities were further developed by the construction of a new baseball field in the spring of 1937. Located between the football stadium and the library, the baseball field was created by removing the top of a hill and filling a gully, thus creating a level space for the field but also creating the infamous bank in right field which has plagued visiting right fielders ever since. These two facilities would be named for two outstanding Bulldog coaches of that era, the football stadium for Joe B. Milam and the baseball field for Rankin Williams.

In the spring of 1935, an amphitheater was constructed on the hilltop north of the Administration Building. The amphitheater was built as a Works Progress Administration project with most of the work being done by students working under the National Youth Administration. Modeled after the Colosseum of Rome, the amphitheater had fourteen rows of seats and held over two thousand people. Until 1947, when it became largely unused, it was often crowded for plays, assemblies, and graduation ceremonies. Cedric Crink, a former Southwestern speech professor, remembered playing to capacity crowds there when he toured with a
Chautauqua troop before he joined the faculty at Southwestern. The amphitheater was demolished in the summer of 1967 and replaced by a parking lot in 1970. Theatre and music students from the thirties and forties have fond memories of performing in that open-air arena.

In 1938, a new Industrial Arts Building was constructed. The native stone building was built as a Works Progress Administration project. Since the workers were mainly local residents, the project provided much-needed jobs for the unemployed. This building is still in use today.

The most important addition to Southwestern in the 1930s was the construction of the first student dormitories. On August 9, 1935, the State Board of Education authorized a committee to proceed with plans to construct student dormitories at several state teachers colleges, including Southwestern. The Public Works Administration soon approved grants for two dormitories at Southwestern, one housing one hundred men and the other housing one hundred forty-eight women. The women's dormitory would include a kitchen and dining hall to serve two hundred fifty. On October 10, 1935, The Southwestern published an interview with President Isle in which he assured
the townspeople that the new dormitories would not cause “any hardship on rooming establishments in Weatherford.” The contract for the new buildings was awarded in December, 1935. The construction went on during the entire year of 1936. The State Board accepted the dormitories in January, 1937.

An open house was held on January 19, 1937. Long lines of students and area residents filed through the new dormitories. The cost of living in the new dormitories reflected the economic woes of the time. Double rooms rented for $8.00 per month per person and single rooms $12.00 per month per person. Board was $14.00 per month per person for three meals per day. The buildings would not be named until 1940 when, at the request of the president and dormitory organizations, the girls dormitory would be named Stewart Hall in honor of Dr. Dora Stewart, head of the Social Sciences Department, and Neff Hall in honor of Professor Audubon Neff, professor of biology. Professor Neff died on June 11, 1940, only a few months after the building was named in his honor. These dormitories still stand today, lasting memorials to these two legendary teachers from the early years of Southwestern.

Southwestern suffered a devastating loss on July 27, 1939. After commencement exercises had been completed earlier in the evening, the fire alarm sounded in Weatherford. The Administration Building, the first building erected at Southwestern, was burning. As the flames consumed the historic building, a large crowd gathered. As the bell tower fell, the crowd
The Administration Building burns down on July 27, 1939.

sang the “Alma Mater.” Although the most important school records were protected by a fireproof vault, certain information about the early years of Southwestern was destroyed along with all of the typewriters and equipment of the Business Department and the band uniforms and instruments. It was not until the spring of 1941 that the Legislature appropriated funds for a new Administration Building for Southwestern.

Even though major construction projects were completed at Southwestern during the 1930s, strife continued with the removal of President Richards. When E. W. Marland became governor in January, 1935, he and his administration followed the pattern set by previous governors in removing President Richards and five other college presidents in July. Furthermore, the State Board removed five faculty members at Southwestern, one of whom, Dr. J. A. McLaughlin, had been on the faculty since 1913. The State Board appointed Dr. Clarence McCormick, professor of mathematics, to serve as interim president until a new president could be chosen.
Walter W. Isle was appointed to be the ninth president of Southwestern on August 15, 1935. President Isle had been superintendent of schools in Ponca City since 1929. He held a bachelor’s degree from the University of Oklahoma and a master’s degree from Columbia University. President Isle led Southwestern through four years of financial crisis and a major change in the academic mission of the college before he too fell victim to the political whims of a new governor.

Southwestern underwent a major change in 1939. A number of legislators and the newly-formed Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges believed that one of the state colleges should offer a vocational curriculum. Southwestern was chosen to carry out that mission. While still maintaining its teacher training function, Southwestern added a vocational curriculum which included industrial arts, home economics, commerce, music, art, aeronautics, and pharmacy. The new curriculum included pharmacy courses which led to a Bachelor of Science Degree in Pharmacy, a program which eventually resulted in the creation of the School of Pharmacy. The Pharmacy Department opened in September, 1939, with twenty-seven students enrolled. Dr. L. J. Klotz, a chemistry professor, was the head of the new department. Other fields of study were cosmetology, auto mechanics, secretarial training, and music for commercial orchestras, bands, or radio. The Civil Aeronautics Authority also granted the college a pilot training school in 1939. The new plan was accepted on July 20, 1939. The vocational program and the
expanded mission of the school resulted in a name change to Southwestern State College of Diversified Occupations.

President Isle had instituted the new program and had seen it approved by the Board of Regents on July 20, 1939. The Board complimented President Isle on his plan and then ten days later, on July 30, removed him as president, apparently at the request of Governor Phillips. At the same meeting, the Board named a new president to lead the school as it embarked on its new mission.

James B. Boren was elected as the tenth president of Southwestern. Boren held Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education degrees from Oklahoma City University and a Master of Education degree from the University of Oklahoma. President Boren had served as superintendent of schools at Bradley and Mangum. Energetic, articulate, and skilled in public relations, he set out to develop the new vocational program and to publicize the program throughout the southwestern part of Oklahoma. He visited high schools and spoke to civic clubs and teachers meetings, extolling the virtues of the new program. With enthusiasm and creative vision, President Boren began to lead Southwestern out of the Great Depression era and into the war years of the 1940s.

In spite of the hardships brought on by the Great Depression, Southwestern changed very little in enrollment and the number of degrees awarded. Enrollments for the academic years of the 1930s ranged from a low of 914 in 1933 to a high of 1,159 in 1936, an unusual consistency for those years of low income and high unemployment. The number of degrees granted ranged from a low of 130 in 1933 to a high of 251 in 1939. Summer school enrollment was high, averaging more than 800, as teachers returned to complete degree work and to pursue advanced class work.

Campus extracurricular activities continued with little change during the 1930s. One ex-
ception was the apparent discontinuation of The Oracle for the years of 1933-1939. No copies exist for these years as well as for 1931 when funds were not available to print the annual. This interruption in the publication of The Oracle may also help to account for the scarcity of pictures in the archives for those years. The debate program flourished in the early 1930s. The Southwestern debate team participated in thirty meets and traveled nearly 3,000 miles in 1929-30 and participated in nineteen meets during the 1930-31 school year. Hurshal Risinger, who would later become chair of the Social Sciences Department at Southwestern, was a member of these teams. The debate team suffered a great loss with the death of their coach, Professor George M. Crisp, who died on April 7, 1931, at the age of 39. A page in The Oracle of 1932 was dedicated to his memory.

Theatrical activities flourished in the 1930s under the direction of Miss Elsie Shoemaker. The practice of presenting four major dramatic productions and numerous one-act plays continued. The first production of the 1930-31 season was the classic Charley's Aunt, first presented on October 24, 1930, in Altus, as the opening number on the Southwest District Teachers Association program and then on October 29 in the Southwestern Science Auditorium. The production of Sheriden's The Rivals, presented on January 6, 1931, was hailed by The Southwestern as one of the best productions ever presented on campus. Ibsen's A Doll's House, first presented at Southwestern on January 12, 1932, would be presented several more times over the next six decades. In the late 30's musical productions directed by members of the music faculty were added to the regular dramatic presentations.

Athletic teams at Southwestern won numerous conference championships and one national championship during the decade of the thirties. Although the Southwestern football teams of the 1930s had a losing record for the decade of 39 wins, 43 losses, and 13 ties, the Bulldogs won conference championships in

1930-1939: The Depression Years
1930 track (Al Harris, sans shoes, is front row, 3rd from left) 1932 and 1933 under head coach Rankin Williams. Several members of those teams are members of the Southwestern Athletic Hall of Fame including Joe Ross, who became one of the most successful coaches in the history of Oklahoma football as coach of the Thomas Terriers. Arthur Sweet, Orville Long, Steve England, and Ralph Teague, all members of the Southwestern Athletic Hall of Fame, were football stars in the 1930s but gained their greatest fame as wrestlers on the championship teams of the 1930s. Southwestern basketball teams of the early 1930s played the large Texas schools such as Texas University, Baylor, Texas A&M, and Southern Methodist University, posting a winning record against these larger schools. Although the basketball teams did not win a conference championship in the 1930s, they did produce several all-conference stars such as Bill Cooke, Francy Young, Cotton Vickers, and Al Harris, who would later serve as president of Southwestern from 1960-1975.

Southwestern baseball teams won two Oklahoma Collegiate Conference championships with Rankin Williams as the head coach. These teams set the stage for the dominance Southwestern enjoyed in baseball in the 1940s and 1950s. There was no baseball competition in 1931 and 1932, but Southwestern won conference titles in 1933 and 1938. Joe Ross, Ted Linville, Bo Belcher, and Gordon “Cake” Gore starred on the teams of the 1930s.

Southwestern track teams were outstanding in the first half of the 1930s. After 1935, track dwindled, but the first half of the decade saw Southwestern athletes establish records which stood for more than twenty years. Conference records were set by Eugene “Hotshot” Medley in the 100 yard dash, broad jump, and 220 yard dash. Marion “Red” Strong defeated every top-ranked high jumper in the nation, placing first at the Fort Worth, Kansas, and Drake relays. Al Harris established records in the 440 and 880 which stood until the 1960s.
Although wrestling lasted only fifteen years as a collegiate sport at Southwestern, the Bulldogs dominated the conference, crowned numerous NCAA champions, and won three AAU National Championships in 1933, 1934, and 1937. Ralph Teague, one of the greatest heavyweight wrestlers in the history of Oklahoma, won NCAA championships in 1933 and 1934 and was a member of the United States Olympic team in 1932. In 1939, Bill Renfro and "Mose" Sims were national A.A.U. champions. "Mose" Sims is a member of the Southwestern Athletic Hall of Fame. In an article celebrating fifty years of Southwestern sports, The Southwestern of June 23, 1953, described what the author called "the peak of the golden age of wrestling at Southwestern." 8

One legendary story, perhaps apocryphal but memorable nevertheless, was told to this author many years ago by long-time journalism teacher, Walter Crouch. According to the story, the wrestling coach went to President James B. Boren with a request for additional funds for the wrestling program. Money was extremely scarce in those late years of the Great Depression. President Boren refused the request, explaining the limited budget for the entire school. When the coach persisted, President Boren challenged him to a wrestling match in the President's Office. If the coach could score a takedown on the president, he would get additional funds. Taking off their coats, they began. The coach could not score a takedown on President Boren, who was a square, solidly-built man. The coach never requested a budget increase again.

After winning conference championships in 1933 and 1934, Southwestern wrestlers won four consecutive conference championships from 1937 to 1940. With all sports cancelled from 1941 to 1945 because of World War II, Southwestern again won conference championships in 1946 and 1947. At the end of the 1949 season, wrestling was dropped as a collegiate sport at Southwestern. But Southwestern had truly experienced a golden age of wrestling.

As the 1930s ended, the Great Depression was also drawing to a close. Economic conditions were improving under the "New Deal" policies of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. When Hitler's armies invaded Poland in September 1, 1939, the entire nation and the students and faculty at Southwestern focused their attention on the war in Europe. Along with the entire nation, Southwestern prepared for the approaching storm.
Mood of the 1930s

A Southwestern wrestler wins a match.

In the 1930s, the Football Queen did not receive a crown. She was adorned with a helmet.

The Oracle in 1930 ran pages of “Campus Beauties,” a yearbook tradition for several decades.

Not everybody was hit hard by The Depression. In 1932, The Oracle ran this picture with the caption, “Depression?”

Students walk across campus to lunch.
The decade of the 1940s brought drastic changes to Southwestern as it did to the rest of America and the entire world. The war years saw almost all of the men join the armed services. Athletic competition was suspended for the duration of the war. Military personnel occupied the dormitories and attended training classes on campus. Southwestern classes were composed of almost all women. When the war ended in 1945, returning veterans who enrolled in school under the GI Bill of Rights brought a new mood to the campus. By the end of the 1940s, Southwestern had become a larger and more complex institution because of the events of that catastrophic decade.

In addition to changes brought on by the war in Europe, Southwestern was undergoing academic changes as well. The name Southwestern State College of Diversified Occupations had never been popular with students or alumni. In a rare display of humor, the editor of The Southwestern explained some of the problems associated with the current name of the college.

When this institution was tagged, “Southwestern State College of Diversified Occupations,” state newspapers couldn’t keep their “two cents worth”
of comment about it out of their columns. Such quips to suggesting name changes as, “Custer County’s College for Cotton Caretakers Children Cramped for Coin” made the rounds. One editor remarked that a yell-leader would be overworked in yelling “Fight for dear old S.W.S.C.O.D.C. [O],” which would be more like a yodel than a yell.2

The editor went on to suggest the name Southwestern Tech. When a legislative committee visited the campus in December, 1940, they were greeted by a large sign reading, “Name us Tech.” In March, 1941, the Legislature voted to change the name of the college to Southwestern Institute of Technology.

Other changes were instituted as Southwestern Tech sought to fulfill its new mission. The Pharmacy Department grew in enrollment, equipment, and facilities. In 1941, the first two pharmacy graduates were J.T. Moore and Clyde Miller, who would be elected the first president of the Pharmacy Alumni Association in 1946. In 1941, President Boren established a Department of Horology, which trained many students in watch repairing for several years. Defense courses in several areas were added as December 7, 1941, neared.

The December 3, 1941, edition of The Southwestern, published just before the attack on Pearl Harbor, carried a lead story announcing the upcoming dramatic production of Lavender and Old Lace to open on Tuesday, December 9, 1941.3 Another story announced that the Tech basketball team would open its season on December 6.4 Along with the rest of the nation, Southwestern Tech was completely unaware of what lay in store for the campus and the nation before the next edition of The Southwestern would be published.

On a quiet Sunday, December 7, 1941, the Southwestern Tech campus was shocked by the news of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The United States declared war on Japan the next day. Before the next Southwestern was published on December 10, 1941, several students had already joined the armed forces. The Southwestern announced that Pete Landrum, Billie Short, L.M. West, and W.T. Brown had passed a physical examination to enter the Army Air Corps, making them the first Southwestern Tech students to volunteer for service since the declaration of war.5 President Boren issued a statement supporting the war effort:

I am an American, and I have but one thought—that it is the religious, civil, and economic obligation of the United States to appropriate its energies and resources...
to the final and complete defeat of the axis powers which seek to exterminate those who oppose their philosophy of totalitarianism.

The United States is not only the wealthiest nation because of her natural resources, which are the greatest on the face of the earth, but also because of her faith in God. That faith is demonstrated by American practices of worship, charity and the common brotherhood of mankind. We will win. 6

During the first week of the war, the Civilian Pilot Training planes used at Southwestern were grounded until further notice as were all planes except those in the military service and those given special permission to fly by the government.

In an article entitled "President Boren Asks Students to Think Straight," the president supported those who had already volunteered for service, commending their "spirit of loyalty that moves us deeply." 7 Then President Boren stated, "Until you have found a definite field of service, I urge you to remain in school and in so doing better not only yourselves but also your country." 8 In spite of the president's request, Southwestern students and faculty rushed to enlist. In April, 1942, faculty members J.C. Krumtum, Dick Jewell, J.C. Barnett, and L.J. Miner left the campus for military service. By the beginning of the fall semester of 1942, only ninety-eight of the three hundred fifty-six students who enrolled were males.

The first Southwestern Tech graduate to die in the service was Lt. Woodrow Christian. A 1940 graduate, Lt. Christian had taught as an assistant art instructor at the college before he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in early 1941. He was killed in a plane crash while in training at Harlingen, Texas. President Boren helped conduct the funeral service and delivered a eulogy for the popular former student in his home town of Lone Wolf. In April, 1941, large pictures of Lt. Christian and Lt. Roy Crothers, the second alumni to die in a plane crash, were hung in Neff Hall where they once lived. Another Southwestern student who was an early casualty of the war was Lt. Sam Neill, whose B-26 bomber was shot down over France.

Numerous changes came to the Southwestern campus as the war accelerated. The 1942 Southwestern Interscholastic Meet as well as the Bulldog Relays were cancelled primarily to conserve automobile tires. Competitive ath-
Military students.

Athletics soon fell victim to the war. Although Coach Jake Spann did not believe it was necessary to suspend football competition, in July, 1942, President Sanders announced the suspension of football competition “for the duration or until such time that it would be advisable to reinstate the activity.” He listed the reason for suspending the football program as an inadequate coaching staff, inadequate equipment, insufficient number of capable players, a heavy financial loss estimated at $5,000.00, and transportation difficulties. In October, 1942, Jake Spann, Bulldog football coach, joined the Navy. Before the end of 1942, all other competitive athletics were also suspended. Athletic competition would not be resumed until the spring of 1946.

As students and faculty left the campus to enter the armed services or to work in war-related occupations, Southwestern Tech sought to build enrollment through offering courses for military personnel. A fifteen-week course in airplane mechanics was begun in the spring of 1942. The Air Corps enlisted men used Neff Hall as their barracks. More than six hundred men completed the course before it ended in May, 1943. On January 1, 1943, a program was instituted to train enlisted men in clerical
work, eventually training more than six hundred men. Responding to the request by the State Board that all colleges release their dormitories to the federal government for military use, President Sanders notified the girls living in Stewart Hall that they would have to find other housing. The clerical trainees moved into Stewart Hall as their barracks. Now both dormitories were occupied by service personnel. The Southwestern coeds and Weatherford citizens welcomed the military trainees. Although both programs were cancelled in May, 1943, for a while, the Southwestern campus and the community were alive with the sounds of marching feet and the sight of numerous young men on the campus and on the streets of Weatherford.

The impact of the early years of the war was also evident in the May, 1942, commencement exercise. The graduation ceremony was dedicated to five senior men who had already reported for active duty in the armed forces. Francis Rhodes, Ralph Kelting, Berlie Turner, Marlin Norris, and Colin Alfred were recognized at the commencement program. In July, 1942, The Southwestern reported that Lt. Albert DeFehr would be on active duty at Easler Field in Louisiana when his name was called for his diploma. Lt. DeFehr would be killed on March 15, 1944, while on a flying mission over Italy.10

While the campus life was changing as a result of the war, administrative changes and building projects were occurring as well. On April 23, 1942, President Boren tendered his resignation, to become effective July 1, and announced that he had accepted the presidency of Harding Junior College in Wichita Falls.
Texas. Harding Junior College would later become Midwestern University where Dr. Boren would remain as president for the next thirteen years. President Boren stated that a substantial increase in salary offered by the school had largely influenced his decision to leave Southwestern. The thirty-six-year-old Boren had accomplished much at Southwestern in his three years as president. He had initiated the vocational program, established training programs for military personnel, carried out a successful recruiting program in area public schools, and supervised a building program which included the construction of the Y Chapel, the Field House, and the Administration Building.

The Board of Regents for Oklahoma Colleges accepted President Boren's resignation at their meeting on April 30, 1942. Mr. G.S. Sanders, chairman of the Board of Regents, was presiding at the meeting. At the same meeting, the Board of Regents voted unanimously to elect him to fill the vacancy. G.S. Sanders became the eleventh president of Southwestern. He was serving as superintendent of schools at Holdenville when he was chosen as president. He had once been a student at Southwestern but had completed his Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Oklahoma and his Master of Science degree at Oklahoma A&M college. After assuming his position on July 1, 1942, one of his first actions was to suspend football competition for the duration of the war.

Before the shortage of material made new construction impossible, Southwestern added three new buildings in 1941 and 1942. The Y Chapel was started in early spring and completed in June, 1941. The new building was built with WPA funds and private donations, with much of the work donated by local citizens and students. The 1942 edition of the Bulldog yearbook carried a picture of the new
An architect's drawing of the Administration Building.

building and proudly proclaimed, “... a building larger than itself, it symbolizes what indomitable purpose and concentrated effort can do.” 11 The Y Chapel has recently been renovated and converted to the Southwestern Museum. The 1942 Bulldog also included a picture of the partially-completed new Administration Building and the announcement that the “...new Administration Building is rising again over the ruins of the old.” 12 The building was completed later that year. In March, 1942, the Southwestern Field House was dedicated. The native stone structure, built by the WPA, still stands, now housing the offices of the athletic director and other members of the Athletic Department as well as a ticket office.

As the physical facilities of Southwestern grew in the war years, the faculty and student enrollment declined as a result of the war. Faculty members continued to join the armed services as the war progressed, including J.C. Naiman, head of the Biology Department, Dr. Gordon Williams, the college physician, and Mary Boyd, the college nurse. The faculty

The field house.
numbered forty-three in 1943-44, down from fifty-one in 1941-42. In the fall of 1944, Southwestern enrollment dropped to one hundred seventy-two, the lowest of the war years. On June 30, 1944, Southwestern had 1,033 graduates and former students serving in the armed forces.

As World War II continued and more faculty and students entered the armed forces, The Southwestern attempted to keep the campus informed of their activities. A weekly column entitled "Tech’s Fighting Men" carried short reports on former students and gave addresses where they could receive mail from friends at Southwestern. Front page articles, frequently with pictures, announced the deaths of those killed in the war. Wives and family members frequently sent The Southwestern news of their husbands and relatives.

As the war in Europe drew to a close, The Southwestern announced the plans for the victory celebration. The campus would join the city in celebrating V-E Day by dismissing all classes for a twenty-four hour period. Students and faculty would join two services to be held in the First Baptist Church and the First Methodist Church. The college chorus would sing at the First Baptist Church. The Southwestern announced, "In keeping with a nationwide plan, wild celebrations are being discouraged locally and the people of this area are asked to pay tribute to the success of their armed forces in a serious and thankful manner." Dean A.M. Keeth announced that V-E Day in Weatherford would be signaled by the ringing of church bells.

When the war ended in Europe on May 8, 1945, Weatherford and Southwestern joined together to celebrate V-E Day. The Weatherford News reported that two union church services at the First Baptist Church and the Federated Church were attended by more than five hundred people. Businesses closed for the day, and classes were dismissed by Southwestern and Weatherford Public Schools.

When the war with Japan ended on August 14, 1945, Southwestern was not in session, but the students and faculty joined with the rest of the world in celebrating the end of the most destructive war in the history of America and the rest of the world. The Weatherford News carried the headline "War Is Over." The fire siren and the sound of automobile horns signaled the announcement at 6 p.m. The Baptist and Methodist churches were opened for services. Weatherford businesses were closed the
next day to observe the victory.

World War II had brought significant changes to Southwestern. Athletic competition had been suspended for nearly four years. Nearly all male students had left the campus to serve in the armed forces. Military training classes had replaced some of the regular courses. The enrollment had dropped to the lowest mark since the earliest years of the Normal. Only twenty-four seniors graduated in the spring commencement on May 24, 1945, when former senator and then head of the Civil Aeronautics Board, Josh Lee, a native of Rocky, addressed the graduates. As an indication of the changes brought on by the war, one graduating senior had never seen a college football game or a homecoming celebration.

Well over 1,000 Southwestern graduates and former students had served in the armed forces during World War II. Many had been wounded, and several had been awarded medals for bravery. Several Southwestern graduates and former students made the supreme sacrifice by giving their lives for their country. The 1945-46 Bulldog included a dedication page featuring the pictures and names of twenty-two Southwestern students killed in service during World War II.

Along with several others not included in this dedication page, these twenty-two men left a permanent legacy to their nation and Southwestern.

The end of World War II brought numerous changes to the Southwestern Tech campus. In June, 1945, President Sanders submitted his resignation. In his resignation letter, he pointed out that during his years as president, the college had been continuously involved in war training programs and that the school was then involved in meeting the needs of returning veterans. His three years as president from 1942-1945 had included some of the most challenging years in the history of Southwestern.

When the State Board of Education accepted the resignation of President Sanders, Mr. R.H. Burton was a member of the State Board. During the course of the meeting, Mr.
As World War II ended, Southwestern experienced numerous changes. Returning veterans began enrolling under the GI Bill of Rights, which provided educational benefits to veterans enrolled in higher education programs. The first former student to enroll after service overseas was Homer Storm, a native of Custer City, who enrolled on June 20, 1945. By the end of the first week of enrollment in September, 1945, Southwestern showed an increase of thirty per cent over the previous fall enrollment.

In August, 1945, Mr. R.H. Burton became the twelfth president of Southwestern. Mr. Burton, a native of Virginia, received a bachelor’s degree from Central State College and a master’s degree from Oklahoma A&M College. Before accepting the presidency of Southwestern, he had served as superintendent of schools at Idabel for ten years. In an interview with The Weatherford News, President Burton stated that there would be no drastic changes in the program or personnel. He predicted a twenty-five per cent increase in enrollment because of veterans entering college. He announced that competitive sports would be resumed as soon as it was practical.

By the fall of 1946, the enrollment was more than double that of any semester since fall 1942. While the increase was beneficial to Southwestern, it brought a new problem to the school and the community. Since many of the veterans were married, some with children, student housing was in short supply. Southwestern secured several barracks-style buildings from the federal government and placed them on the southwest corner of the campus. The plain wooden buildings were converted to apartments for married students, most of whom were veterans. Residents quickly named the apartments “Vetsville.” Residents of Vetsville created their own culture and lifestyle- study-
ing together, sharing baby-sitting duties, sometimes sharing meals, and hanging diapers on the clotheslines between the buildings.

As the enrollment increased, new demands were placed on Southwestern for more classroom space and student services. Enrollment of male students had increased from one hundred four in the fall of 1945 to five hundred eighty-two in the fall of 1948. Enrollment of female students had remained nearly the same from two hundred twenty-six in the fall of 1945, to two hundred thirty-two in the fall of 1948. The large freshman enrollment in those years indicated an even larger enrollment in the future. Two new buildings were constructed to provide more classroom space. In 1946, a new Industrial Arts building was constructed west of the original rock building. This new facility provided classrooms and workshops for the growing programs in the practical arts. In 1948, construction began on a new classroom building, now the Education Building. In the fall of 1947, Southwestern took a major step in providing a new student service by purchasing a building from the former air base at Frederick and converting it to the first Student Center on campus. Located just north of Stewart Hall where the Chemistry, Pharmacy, Physics Building now stands, the building included a snack bar, recreation area, offices, and speech classrooms. The new buildings were necessary when, in the fall of 1949, enrollment exceeded one thousand for the first time in the history of Southwestern.

The transition to a peacetime campus was marked by the renewal of several campus activities. Competitive athletics returned to Southwestern in January, 1946, with the first conference basketball game since the beginning of World War II. Football competition
returned in September, 1946, along with the annual homecoming celebration, when June Ladd Leathers was crowned football queen. Coach Jake Spann returned from service in the Navy to lead the team to a third place finish in the conference. Coach Rankin Williams led the Bulldog basketball team to the conference championship in 1946, picking up where they had left off after winning the championship in 1940 before athletic competition was suspended in 1942. The Bulldog wrestling team followed their four consecutive conference championships before the war with two more championships in 1946 and 1947 before the sport was discontinued. The decade of the 1940s produced several athletes who are members of the Southwestern Athletic Hall of Fame, including “Bullet Bill” Thompson, Steve Graham, Lloyd Graham, “Moon” Stinson, and Orville Long.

In addition to athletic competition, other activities were resumed. In May, 1946, Senior Day drew approximately one thousand high school seniors to the campus. In May, 1947, the first Southwestern Interscholastic Meet since the war drew more than three thousand students from fifty-four high schools to the campus. During the war years, fewer dramatic productions were scheduled. Often the music and speech departments combined to cast and stage the productions. Since few men were enrolled, plays with nearly all female roles were chosen. A major production of Thornton Wilder’s Our Town was performed on April 13, 1944, with Bill Bernhardt playing the role of George Gibbs and Merle Holly cast as Emily Webb. The Southwestern declared the play “one of Southwestern’s best performances.”

In the years immediately following the war, the-
atre, along with other activities, returned to normal. With the return of male students, traditional dramas such as *The Imaginary Invalid*, *Ten Little Indians*, and *Arsenic and Old Lace* were performed. In the fall of 1946, Miss Damarise Kitch joined the Speech-Theatre faculty along with Cedric Crink, both of whom would leave lasting contributions to the department.

In the late 1940s, several significant developments occurred. In June, 1948, the people of Oklahoma voted to approve a Senate resolution creating a Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges. This new board had complete control over the six regional colleges, including Southwestern. Under the new system, governors could no longer interfere in the operation of the colleges. The practice of partisan politics in the appointment and removal of college presidents and faculty had ended. President Burton led a campaign to reduce the vocational offerings and to secure a name change for Southwestern which would more accurately reflect the mission of the college. Even though the Board of Regents ordered the college to continue offering trade courses, on April 26, 1949, the legislature approved a name change to Southwestern State College. Also in late 1949, Southwestern began preparing to request accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and the American Council of Pharmaceutical Education. These efforts would soon be successful and would elevate Southwestern to a new level of academic excellence.

As the decade of the 1940s ended, Southwestern stood on the threshold of a new era. From the last years of the Great Depression, through the darkest years of World War II, and into the readjustment period following the war, Southwestern had undergone monumental changes and had emerged from that traumatic decade prepared to meet the challenges of the 1950s.
Mood of the 1940s

Students line up to get mail.

Students practice filling prescriptions in the pharmacy department.

Members of the Writers' Guild show off the 1943 fashions.

Mark Jackson advises Sanders Cox in a boxing match.

Home economics students work on sewing.

Marge Savage and Juanola Swartz put out another edition of The Southwestern.

SWOSU: A History
Historians refer to the 1950s as "The Placid Decade." Despite the major military conflict of the Korean War, Americans experienced a decade of progress and prosperity. A spirit of conservatism marked the 1950s in America and on the campus of Southwestern. Although Southwestern experienced progress and development in the 1950s, there was little of the anxiety and doubt of the 1940s and even less of the spirit of rebellion that would mark the 1960s.

As the "Placid Decade" began on the Southwestern campus, the girls wore their hair curled, their skirts at mid-calf, and their feet shod in black and white saddle shoes. The boys sported hair of medium length, oiled and carefully parted and combed, sports shirts with wide collars open at the neck, and, for special occasions, doubled-breasted suits with wide lapels. They listened as the juke box played Perry Como singing "Forever and Ever," Bing Crosby crooning "Galway Bay," and Frankie Lane shouting "Mule Train." The lucky few who owned cars cruised Weatherford’s Main Street on twenty cent a gallon gasoline and took their favorite date to the Tech Theatre, "The Showplace of Weatherford," where they might see Tyrone Power in Prince of Foxes.

When war broke out in Korea in June, 1950, the young men at Southwestern and across the nation again faced the prospect of military service. Unlike World War II, the Korean War did not drastically reduce the number of male students at Southwestern. The demand for military personnel was not as great, and the deferment qualifications allowed many students to remain in school. Students entering college could be granted deferments if they could verify that they had planned to enter college before the war broke out. Men who were in the upper half of their classes and who had completed at least one full year of higher edu-
In the early 1950s, Southwestern showed marked academic progress when the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools granted the college full accreditation. In February, 1951, the Southwestern School of Pharmacy was granted accreditation by the American Council of Pharmaceutical Education. Recognizing the need for graduate level education for teachers, the Board of Regents authorized Southwestern and the other state colleges to offer a Master of Teaching program in May, 1953.

With the approval to offer the first graduate program, Southwestern had reached a new level of academic excellence.

In the fall of 1953, Southwestern observed its fiftieth anniversary. Rather than 1951, which would have marked the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the school, Southwestern observed its Golden Anniversary in 1953, fifty years from the time classes began in 1903. The Centennial Celebration will be held in 2001, a hundred years from the time Southwestern was created by the Territorial Legislature. Although a number of departments and campus organizations sponsored fifty-year anniversary events, the homecoming celebration and the Southwestern Cavalcade were the high-
lights of the year. The homecoming celebration drew a record attendance with numerous former students returning to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Southwestern. Juana Faye Hipkins was crowned homecoming queen. Governor and Mrs. Johnston Murray were special guests for the fiftieth anniversary homecoming celebration. The Southwestern Bulldog football team continued the tradition of winning the homecoming game by defeating Northwestern 26-0. On November 14, *Southwestern Cavalcade* was presented in the college auditorium. *Southwestern Cavalcade*, written by faculty members Damarise Kitch and Theodore Trucks and featuring over 100 cast members, presented the Golden Anniversary story of Southwestern. Employing slides, art, dance, music, and drama, the production presented the history of Southwestern from 1903 to 1953, highlighting such events as the opening of the school, portraits of former presidents, new buildings, the war years, and athletics. *The Southwestern* reported that one segment featured a “torrid love scene a la 1917 starring Jackie Sprague, George Montgomery, and Leroy Thomas,” who would return to Southwestern as an English professor who taught for more than thirty-five years. *Southwestern Cavalcade* was the most elaborate production ever presented in the fifty-year history of the school. During the 1953-54 school year, *The Southwestern* carried a series of articles presenting the fifty-year history of theatre, football, basketball, baseball and wrestling at Southwestern. As the Golden Anniversary year drew to a close, Southwestern chose “The Next Fifty Years” as the homecoming theme for 1954.

During the 1950s, Southwestern doubled in student enrollment. From a fall enrollment of 932 in 1950, fall enrollment increased to 1,882 in 1959. This dramatic increase in enrollment led to other changes including additional faculty and new buildings. From a faculty of approximately sixty in the fall of 1950, the faculty increased to more than eighty in the fall of 1959. A classroom annex building was constructed in 1951 to provide more classrooms. Two married student apartment buildings were built in 1959 where some “Vetsville” buildings had stood. A new, modern Student Center was constructed in 1956 to replace the old wooden military surplus Student Center that had served since the end of World War II. In 1957, a new modern physical education building and gymnasium was added to the cam-
pus and later named for Rankin Williams, long-time coach at Southwestern.

Reflecting the increased enrollment, the number of degrees granted also increased in the 1950s. In 1950, a total of 224 baccalaureate degrees were granted compared to 255 in 1959. The first Master of Teaching degrees were granted in the summer of 1955. The total of 13 Master of Teaching degrees in the summer of 1955 grew to a total of 66 in the summer of 1959 as the program grew in popularity with teachers in western Oklahoma. The 1950s showed a steady increase in students, degrees, faculty, and physical facilities, reflecting the quiet progress of that decade across America.

The 1950s witnessed the arrival of several faculty members who would leave a lasting mark on Southwestern as well as the departure of faculty members who had changed the course of history on the Southwestern campus. Dr. Walter Dickison, who joined the faculty of the School of Pharmacy in 1957, would later become dean and would lead that program to national prominence before his retirement in 1979. Dr. H.F. Timmons, who joined the faculty in 1956, would serve as the acting dean of the School of Pharmacy and the first dean of the School of Health Sciences. Dr. Benny Hill joined the Physics Department in 1959. As the long-time chair of the Physics Department, Dr. Hill would establish a national reputation for the department and would prepare many students for outstanding careers in industry and government programs such as NASA. Dr. Earl Reynolds, who joined the Chemistry faculty in 1953, would supervise numerous National Science Foundation grants, which would add funds, equipment, and prestige to the science programs at Southwestern, and would go on to serve as chair of the Education Department as well as academic vice president before his retirement in 1986. Dr. Donald Hamm, who joined the Chemistry Department faculty in 1951, would become the first dean of arts and sciences in 1978 and would author a nationally recognized chemistry textbook before he retired in 1989. Dr. L.J. Van Horn, one of the most popular and colorful faculty members at Southwestern, joined the faculty in 1957 and developed an outstanding water safety program before his retirement in 1978.

Three veteran Southwestern faculty members retired during the 1950s. Dr. J.C. M. Krumtum, head of the Foreign Language Department, retired in 1954 after twenty-nine years of teaching at Southwestern. In Octo-
ber, 1957, the Southwestern faculty sponsored a banquet honoring two teachers who had a combined total of seventy-five years of service to Southwestern. Dr. Grace Jencke, English professor and chair, taught for thirty-six years. When she began her career at Southwestern in 1921, there were 295 students and two buildings on campus. Dr. Clarence McCormick, mathematics professor and chair, taught for thirty-nine years at Southwestern. Dr. McCormick had also served as interim president in the summer of 1935 and had twice served as dean of instruction.

Dr. Gladys Bellamy, chair of the English Department, won international acclaim in 1950 with the publication of her book entitled *Mark Twain as a Literary Artist*. The scholarly work appeared for several weeks on the *New York Times* Bestseller List and was translated into several foreign languages. The work still holds a prominent place on bibliographies of Mark Twain. In 1998, a chapter from *Mark Twain as a Literary Artist* was included in a new collection of critical essays on Mark Twain, published by Duke University.

An academic milestone was marked in December, 1959, when Southwestern was awarded its first National Science Foundation summer institute grant of $48,500. Directed by Dr. Earl Reynolds, the summer institute provided advanced chemistry education for forty high school chemistry teachers. Southwestern has continued to receive National Science Foundation grants for summer science programs for teachers as well as outstanding high school students.

Elaborate dedication ceremonies marked the opening of two new buildings on the Southwestern campus. In September, 1956, the Memorial Student Center was dedicated to Southwestern’s war dead. The dedication ceremonies included a fly-over by Oklahoma Air National Guard jets, a dedication address by General Hal L. Muldrow, commanding officer of the 45th Division, a gun salute by Battery C of Weatherford, and the playing of taps. Dr. Merle Taff led the college choir in “Bless This House,” and the
President Burton breaks the ground for a new gym.

Fort Sill band presented a short concert.

On January 6, 1958, the new Southwestern State College gymnasium was opened to the public. Preceding the game with Central State College, recognition was given to players from four Bulldog championship teams from 1922, 1923, 1927, and 1953. Special recognition was given to Coach Rankin Williams, who had been a player or coach of all four teams. Among the former players from those teams attending the ceremonies were Jenks Simmons, Bill Davis, Jerry Doyle, and Jim Litsch, all now members of the Southwestern Athletic Hall of Fame. Following the pre-game ceremonies, the Southwestern Bulldogs defeated the Central State Broncos 64-61 before an overflow crown of 3,000 in the first game played in the new gymnasium.

Southwestern athletic teams enjoyed great success during the 1950s. In spite of having four different head coaches during the decade, the Bulldog football team won or shared three conference championships. In 1950 under the leadership of Coach Keith Ransport, the Bulldogs were co-champions along with Central State. Led by team captain Wayne McGee and all-conference back Jim McCoy, the 1950 Bulldogs posted a record of 6-4-0. After the resignation of Coach Ransport, assistant coach W.C. Whiteside was elevated to head coach in 1951. Because of graduation and military service in the Korean War, only eleven lettermen returned in 1951, resulting in a 4-7-0 record. After Coach Whiteside resigned to return to high school coaching, Joe B. Metcalf became the Bulldog head coach in 1952, where he would lead a successful program for the next six seasons. In his tenure as coach of the Bulldogs, Coach Metcalf led the Bulldogs to one conference championship, one co-championship, and one tri-championship while compiling a career...
record of 32 wins, 21 losses, and 2 ties. Coach Metcalf is a member of the Southwestern Athletic Hall of Fame.

Coach Metcalf's teams included Southwestern Athletic Hall of Fame members John Buck, Truman Smith, and Bill Davis. In 1954, tackle Truman Smith was the first Southwestern player named to the NAIA All-American team. Other outstanding athletes on Metcalf's teams were Ray Hobbs, Gary Laird, Don Stutters, and Haydon Battles, who was named to the all-conference first team three times. Quarterback John Buck compiled one of the most amazing records in any sport in school history. Buck was chosen first team all-conference quarterback all four years of his career without a single dissenting vote. In 1955, he was named to the NAIA All-American team.

After Coach Metcalf resigned in 1957 to accept the position of superintendent of schools at Hollis, where he had coached before coming to Southwestern, he was replaced as head coach by J.W. Cole, a Bulldog assistant coach. Coach Cole led the Bulldogs for the last two years of the 1950s and four years in the 1960s. Southwestern athletic director Cecil Perkins started at quarterback on the 1958 Bulldog team.

Bulldog basketball teams were conference co-champions in 1953 and 1958. Coach Rankin Williams led the Bulldogs to the co-championship and a trip to the NAIA national tournament in 1953. The Southwestern called that team the "Cinderella Cagers" because of their ability to come from behind to win games in the last few minutes and because they were not expected to win the title. Led by Jerry Doyle, Loyd Howeth, and Harold Nippert, the 1953 Bulldogs...
earned a headline in *The Southwestern* which read “Never-Say-Die Bulldogs Not Soon Forgotten.” In 1958, led by Dudley Savage and Danny Lydia, the Bulldog basketball team again shared the conference championship with Central State.

The 1950s produced outstanding basketball athletes such as Harold Nippert, Lloyd Howeth, Bill Davis, Keith Wiginton, Jerrell Chesney, and Jimmy Peck. Bob Henry, Jerry Doyle, Bill Davis, and Jim Litsch, basketball stars of the 1950s, are members of the Southwestern Athletic Hall of Fame, along with their coach, Rankin Williams.

The Bulldog baseball teams of Coach Rankin Williams dominated the conference in the 1950s. Beginning in 1951, the Bulldogs won or shared nine consecutive Collegiate Conference championships, a record never equaled by any other Southwestern men’s team in any sport. Outstanding athletes such as Jerry Doyle, Gerald Nipp, W.L. Jackson, Jay Jones, and Bud Tinney led the Bulldog baseball teams of the 1950s. Coach Rankin Williams was elected conference Coach of the Year in 1951 and 1952. Coach Williams was the first baseball coach to be elected to the NAIA Coaches Hall of Fame.

During the 1950s, Southwestern athletics returned to normal after the interruption of sports competition in the 1940s brought on by World War II. In 1957-58, Southwestern teams were champions or co-champions in all three major sports of football, basketball, and baseball. The 1950s was a decade of successful teams, outstanding athletes, and coaches who left a per-
permanent legacy to sports at Southwestern.

Theatre and forensics flourished at Southwestern during the 1950s. Miss Damarise Kitch, theatre director, organized a chapter of Alpha Psi Omega, the national honorary dramatics fraternity. As the director of all dramatic productions, Miss Kitch directed outstanding productions of *Blithe Spirit, Lute Song*, and *Witness for the Prosecution*. Although Miss Kitch did not know it at the time, her production of *The Curious Savage* in April, 1953, would establish a tradition in the Southwestern Theatre which continues today. *The Curious Savage* required as a part of the plot a teddy bear with a zipper in his posterior and a pocket in which secret messages could be concealed. Miss Kitch bought the teddy bear for $10.00 in a shop at Love Field in Dallas. After convincing business manager Everett Gartrell that ten dollars was not too much to pay for the teddy bear, she used the bear in the production. After the show ended, the Alpha Psi Omega drama fraternity adopted the bear as the official mascot of the Theatre Department and named him Teddy. Since April, 1953, Teddy has sat in the center seat of the front row for every dramatic production. Cast members leave each other “good luck” messages in his “secret pocket.” Theatre awards given at the theatre banquet each spring are called “Teddy Awards.” In addition to establishing the tradition of “Teddy,” *The Curious Savage* cast included Eugene Hughes as Dr. Emmett. Dr. Eugene Hughes would return to Southwestern as professor of English and chairman of Language Arts for a total of twenty-one years.

The Southwestern debate program achieved national prominence in the 1950s under the leadership of Professor Cedric Crink. Southwestern debaters Robert E. Lee
Richardson and Dean Linder won the state championship in 1955. Robert E. Lee Richardson went on to become dean of the School of Law at Oklahoma University. Dean Linder became a district judge for Northwestern Oklahoma. In April, 1959, Bobby Mac Sunderland and Jonathan Burns competed in the national debate tournament held at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. In May, 1955, Mr. Harry C. Mabry, a Southwestern graduate, a prominent Los Angeles attorney, and a Distinguished Alumni of Southwestern, established the Harry C. Mabry Award to honor outstanding forensics students.

Entertainment on the Southwestern campus in the 1950s reflected the mood of the times. In May, 1950, Bob Hawk, a star radio-quizmaster and former Southwestern student, returned to the campus as a guest speaker. Hawk predicted that the new phenomenon of television would change the course of our lives. He predicted that in “fifteen or twenty years we will be able to see any event as it happens anywhere in the world.” He also warned, “care will have to be taken to make the children earn the time spent in viewing the receiver.”

Big name bands dominated the campus entertainment of the later 1950s. On May 9, 1955, the Russ Morgan Band presented their “music in the Morgan manner.” At a 7 p.m. concert in the auditorium and a 9 p.m. dance in the gymnasium, the Russ Morgan Band played to a near-capacity crowd, performing their hits such as “Bye, Bye, Blackbird,” “Forever and Ever,” and “Crusin’ Down the River.” On April 16, 1957, Harry James and His Music Makers presented a concert and played for a dance in the gymnasium. Known for this trumpet playing, James and his band played such hits as “You
Made Me Love You” and other hits from the World War II Big Band Era. On December 13, 1957, the Christmas formal dance featured the George Shearing Quintet performing hits such as “I Only Have Eyes for You” and “You Are Too Beautiful.” The decade of big band entertainment on the Southwestern campus ended on May 19, 1959 with a concert and formal dance featuring the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra under the direction of Lee Castle. The orchestra performed the hits from the Swing Era which made Dorsey famous such as “Tangerine” and “Green Eyes.”

As the 1950s drew to a close, the mood of the campus had changed very little during the decade. Southwestern was still a quiet, conservative campus. Students exhibited the same traditional values that had become a symbol of the 1950s. But the music had changed. Instead of Perry Como, Bing Crosby, and Frankie Lane, students now listened to Bobby Darin, Paul Anka, and Elvis Presley. Oiled hair had given way to waxed flat tops. Hoop skirts and pony tails had come and gone. A few more students now had cars, and gasoline had increased in price from twenty cents a gallon in 1950 to twenty-five cents a gallon in 1959. John F. Kennedy had been elected President in November, 1959, and a new decade was about to begin, an era which would bring catastrophic events to America and unforeseen changes to the Southwestern campus.
Mood of the 1950s

Homecoming queen Jackie Thomas takes a ride in a convertible during the 1950 Homecoming parade.

“Once there were three little pigs...” Professor Cedric Crink performs a dramatic reading.

Dean Linder speaks as president of the senior class and Circle K club. Linder went on to become an Oklahoma district judge.

Four students are all dressed up for the Tri-J Homecoming Breakfast in 1957.

Southwestern music major Boomer Hooten (far right on piano) and his orchestra, the Collegians, provided music for many dances.

Barker Cheer Leaders 1953: Carolyn Hyatt, Dwaine Schneider, Juana Faye Wagon, Don Barker, LaDonna Stutzman.
The 1960s opened on a note of optimism. The inauguration of John F. Kennedy in January, 1960, ushered in a period of growth in funding for higher education and a new emphasis on the role of education in society. Before the end of the decade, that bright hope would turn to despair and turmoil as the Vietnam War divided American and turned many campuses into battlegrounds. The 1960s would change American society forever. Along with the nation, Southwestern also would be changed by that turbulent decade.

Change came quickly to Southwestern in the 1960s with the retirement of President Harold Burton on June 30, 1960. In his fifteen years as president, Dr. Burton had led Southwestern through the recovery years at the end of World War II and through the progressive development of the 1950s. He had seen Southwestern grow from an enrollment of 330 in the fall of 1945 to an enrollment of 1,822 in the fall of 1959. During his administration, the mission and name of Southwestern had changed. The college had gained accreditation by the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges and by the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy. The Master of Education program had been added. Dr. Burton could be proud of his contribution to Southwestern.

On July 1, 1960, Dr. Al Harris became the thirteenth president of Southwestern State College. He was the first graduate of Southwestern to return as president. President Harris had been an outstanding athlete at Southwestern in the late 1920s and early 1930s, setting several track records that would remain for more than twenty years. After serving as teacher and superintendent at Custer City and superintendent at Watonga, Dr. Harris had been superintendent of the Clinton Public Schools for thirteen years when he was appointed president of Southwestern. The first challenges Dr. Harris faced were to build new dormitories and class-
rooms and to recruit new faculty members to serve the rapidly-growing student enrollment. In his fifteen years as president, Dr. Harris would carry out the most extensive building program in the history of Southwestern. His skillful supervision of the college finances helped Southwestern to secure budget increases to meet the needs of the rapidly-changing college.

The 1960s brought the greatest change in the history of Southwestern. From a fall enrollment of 1,871 in 1960, Southwestern enrollment increased to 5,070 in the fall of 1969. Even though the dramatic increase was welcomed by the administration and faculty of Southwestern and the business community of Weatherford, the college experienced a critical lack of student housing and classroom space. As the 1960s began, Southwestern had only two dormitories, Stewart Hall for women and Neff Hall for men. These dormitories had served the housing needs of Southwestern students since their construction in 1935. In September, 1960, one of the brick married student housing apartments was converted to a women’s dormitory housing fifty-eight coeds. The new residence hall was named Savage Hall in honor of Mrs. Mary Mabry Savage, the first coed to enroll at Southwestern in 1903. This dormitory was returned to use as married student housing when Oklahoma Hall, the new dormitory for women, was built in 1965. Four dormitories were built in the 1960s, two for women and two for men. Quanah Parker Hall, which was named by Dr. Hurshal Risinger’s Oklahoma History class,
was completed in 1964 and housed 308 men. Oklahoma Hall, a women’s dormitory housing 366 coeds, was opened in August, 1966. Rogers and Jefferson Halls opened in January, 1969. Rogers Hall, housing 200 women, and Jefferson Hall, housing 200 men, were connected to a cafeteria located between the buildings. These would be the last residences constructed on the Southwestern campus.

Two major additions to the campus in the 1960s provided more classroom space and laboratories for the expanding academic programs. The Chemistry-Pharmacy-Physics Building was completed in 1963. Called “an architect’s dream,” the new three-story building was equipped with the most modern laboratory facilities as well as computers of the same type as those used in the space center at Cape Canaveral. The building represented a major improvement for the three departments housed there. In 1969, an addition to the building provided more classrooms and laboratories. In July, 1968, the Arts and Sciences Building was completed. This new building included thirty-three classrooms and twenty-seven offices, providing much-needed relief from the crowded conditions brought on by the sudden increase in enrollment.

The largest construction project of the 1960s was the new college library. The original library, built in 1927 to serve fewer than one thousand students, had become inadequate to meet the needs of the 4,500 students enrolled in 1967 when the construction began. The new library had top priority in the college building project.
The extensive building program of the 1960s was necessary to meet the demands of the increase in enrollment. In the fall of 1960, the enrollment was 1,871. By the fall of 1965, enrollment had increased to 3,737. By the fall of 1969, enrollment had reached 5,070, the largest in the history of the school. The increase in the number of degrees granted in the 1960s was proportionate to the increase in enrollment. In 1960, spring and summer graduates totaled 306 undergraduates and 50 graduate students. In the spring and summer of 1968, 670 students received undergraduate degrees, and 211 students received Master of Teaching.
degrees. No other decade in the history of Southwestern would ever bring so much change to the campus.

The rise in enrollment caused a dramatic increase in faculty. As the 1960s progressed, the number of new faculty increased each year. Seventeen faculty members were added in 1964. Included in that group were Dr. Benny Hill, Dr. M.C. Weber, Dr. Hal White, and Mr. Bob Maynard. In the fall of 1966, Dr. Stuart Burchett joined the faculty. In the fall of 1967, forty-eight new teachers and administrators were added including several who would teach many years at Southwestern, among them Dr. Jerry Nye, Dr. Clarence Sturm, Dr. Don Mitchell, Mr. George Atkins, Dr. Gary Wolgamott, Dr. Roy Dick, Dr. John Ludrick, and Ms. Lin Murdock. Dr. Eugene Hughes joined the faculty as chair of Language Arts in January, 1967. In the fall of 1968, thirty-eight new faculty members were employed including eight in the Language Arts Department, among them Mrs. Lois Fisher, Mrs. Mona Suter, Mr. Jack Shaw, and Mr. Ted Pyle. Others in the group such as Dr. Garo Armoudian, Dr. Dan Dill, Dr. James Breckenridge, and Dr. Robert Morris would remain on the faculty for many years. In the fall of 1969, fifty-one new faculty members joined Southwestern, the largest group in the history of the university, bringing the total faculty to 223. Several members of that group would have long careers at Southwestern, including Dr. Ray Jones, Mr. Leroy Schultz, Dr. Don Hertzler, Dr. Bernard Keller, Dr. Allen Lane, and Mr. Claude Kezer. The 1960s brought a large increase in faculty and a significant growth in the quality of education at Southwestern.

Dr. James Sill joined the Southwestern faculty in September, 1960. One of the most active and versatile faculty members at Southwestern, Dr. Sill served as professor of speech, philosophy, and religion as well as representing Southwestern as a high school recruiter, influencing many students to enroll at Southwestern. Dr. Sill also was Director of General Education, debate coach, sponsor of several organization, and a campus minister. Dr. Sill was the most popular public speaker in the history of Southwestern, delivering hundreds of speeches and sermons for high school commencements, civic clubs, and churches throughout the area. Frances Sill, his wife, was
the school nurse. Dr. Sill retired from Southwestern in 1977 to return to the ministry.

Three major administrative changes occurred in the 1960s. Dr. Louis Morris was appointed dean of instruction in 1960. Dr. Harold Massey became the first dean of the Graduate School in 1963. In 1965, Dr. Walter Dickison was appointed dean of the School of Pharmacy. All three of these deans would retire in May, 1979.

Four other current Southwestern faculty members were employed in the 1960s. Dr. Charles Chapman, professor of music, joined the Southwestern faculty in 1962. Dr. Harry Nowka, professor of business, was employed in 1963. Dr. Laura Switzer, professor of health, recreation, and physical education, joined the faculty in 1965. In the fall of 1965, Miss Joe Anna Hibler, now President Joe Anna Hibler, was employed as an instructor in the School of Business.

In the 1960s, several veteran faculty members retired, ending notable careers at Southwestern. Professor J.R. Pratt, chair of the Physics Department, retired in 1964 after thirty-seven years on the faculty. Millie Thomas retired in 1966 after serving as registrar for twenty-six years and having worked in the Registrars Office for a total of thirty-eight years. In 1964, Dean W.D. Strother retired after serving for sixteen years as the first dean of the School of Pharmacy. In January, 1967, Dr. Gladys Bellamy retired as chair of the Language Arts Department after a distinguished and colorful career as a teacher and scholar. In May, 1967, Dr. Fred Allen and Mr. Walter Crouch retired after many years on the Southwestern faculty. Dr. Allen was chair of the Biology Department for twenty years. Mr. Crouch served twenty-seven years as placement director, journalism instructor, and director of public relations. These outstanding educators left an enduring legacy to Southwestern.

Curriculum changes and program development reflected the interests and values of the 1960s. In 1966, five new majors were approved in political science, sociology, German, French, and Spanish. These majors reflected student interest in politics, social reform, and the liberal arts. For the first time in a four-year teachers college, a course entitled “Film as Literature” was developed by Professor Bob Green. For the first time at any college or university in Oklahoma, a course in trapshooting, taught by Dr. Verlin Koper, was approved as a
regular part of the curriculum. Professor Cedric Crink received a National Defense Education Act grant of $65,000 to conduct a summer institute designed to bridge the communication gap between Indian youths and their teachers. National Science Foundation grants were awarded to Southwestern each year to fund the summer institutes for public school teachers of science, mathematics, and chemistry. Dr. Earl Reynolds secured more than a million dollars in National Science Foundation grants for Southwestern during the decade of the 1960s.

Along with all other aspects of Southwestern, student activities flourished in the 1960s. Student government took a more active role than ever before. Reflecting the mood of the 1960s, the Student Senate influenced administrative decisions by the dean of men, Dr. Bob Brown, and the dean of women, Dr. Freda Sauer. Visitation and curfew rules for women’s dormitories were modified to allow more freedom. The dress code for women was changed to allow women to wear jeans and slim jims to class. Two Student Senate presidents, Rick Shelby and Kent Sampson, led major reforms in student government by increasing the budget for the Student Senate, increasing student involvement in decisions affecting the student body, and improving the quality of student life on the campus. In November, 1969, Student Senate president Rick Shelby led a successful campaign to establish a mandatory student activities fee, which allowed the Student Senate to increase the activities on campus such as the big name entertainment, student dances, movies, and the Miss Southwestern Pageant. Their dedicated service to the Student Senate made a permanent contribution to student government at Southwestern.

The changes associated with the 1960s were also reflected in the Bulldog yearbook and The Southwestern newspaper. In the 1960s, the Bulldog became progressively larger and more comprehensive. In addition to including pictures of students, faculty, queens, and athletic teams, the Bulldog yearbooks of the later 1960s included more color pictures, more sections on campus organizations, and many more pages reflecting student life and campus activities. These yearbooks also featured a re-
The Oracle including more text describing the organizations and activities pictured in the books. Along with the Bulldog, The Southwestern reflected the changing times of the 1960s. In January, 1960, The Southwestern was four pages of campus news, mainly relating to campus events, news articles about campus organizations, and sports news. By December 17, 1969, The Southwestern had grown to twelve pages covering campus events, club news, and sports, but also featuring full-page picture ads for clothing stores, a full page of editorials, and several letters to the editor relating to the campus issues as well as national concerns such as the Supreme Court debates over discrimination against those who wore long hair. Editors frequently challenged dress codes, instructors whose attitudes and classroom practices they found objectionable, and changes in campus policy such as campus security officers carrying sidearms, which they had not done until 1969. In the fall of 1969, The Southwestern won the Oklahoma Collegiate Press Association first place award as the best newspaper among the seven colleges in Oklahoma, which included all of the state colleges in addition to the University of Tulsa, Phillips University, Oklahoma City University, and Oklahoma Baptist University. The Southwestern also received a “medalist” award from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

Publications had changed and matured at Southwestern in the 1960s. Three major musical productions were presented in the 1960s. Dr. Charles Chapman di-
rected combined casts from music and theatre in outstanding productions of *The King and I* in 1963, *South Pacific* in 1964, and *Camelot* in 1968. Theatrical productions of *Our Town* in 1962 and *The Children’s Hour* in 1967 received excellent reviews in *The Southwestern*. In a review entitled “Blonde Steals Show,” Sherry Wilson was called “the center of attention throughout the play” for her strong portrayal of Billie, the “Brooklynese” speaking blonde, in *Born Yesterday*. This memorable production also starred Bill Harris as Harry Brock, the “junk” tycoon.¹

 Debate continued to flourish in the 1960s as two new coaches led the squad. Taking over debate coaching duties from Professor Cedric Crink, Dr. James Sill developed several outstanding debaters who would go on to be leaders in education and law, including Sara Levescy Webb, Bill Brogden, Ronald Mize, and Pat Coleman. In 1968, Professor Jack Shaw became coach of the debate team, which he would lead to several successful seasons in the 1970s.

The athletic programs were marked by change as were all other aspects of Southwestern in the 1960s. In May, 1964, Coach Rankin Williams retired after forty-two years of coaching at Southwestern. During his career at Southwestern, Coach Williams had been at some time coach of football, basketball, baseball, and track as well as athletic director for several years. He was the first baseball coach inducted into the NAIA Coaches Hall of Fame. In his last year at Southwestern, Coach Williams was one of the first three men to be inducted into the Southwestern Athletic Hall of Fame. Coach Williams’ legendary career at Southwestern resulted in the naming of Williams Field and Rankin Williams Gymnasium in his honor.

In September of 1964, Otis Delaporte became head football coach of the Bulldogs. In his fourteen years as head coach, Delaporte

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¹ In 1960-1969: Growth and Change
would establish a record of 94 wins, 48 losses, and 2 ties, making him the winningest football coach in the history of Southwestern. He is a member of both the Southwestern Athletic Hall of Fame and the NAIA Coaches Hall of Fame. In 1968, Bulldog rodeo coach, Dr. Don Mitchell, became sponsor of the Southwestern Wranglers, the college rodeo club. From that beginning as a college club, Coach Mitchell organized a collegiate sport, which has given Southwestern athletics national prominence and has resulted in numerous individual and team national championships for the Southwestern rodeo team. After his retirement from teaching in December, 1998, Dr. Mitchell has continued as head coach of the rodeo team.

Bulldog football began the 1960s with limited success. Under Coach J.W. Cole, the Bulldogs posted a record of 12 wins, 28 losses, and 1 tie from 1960 to 1963. After the arrival of Coach Otis Delaporte in 1964, the Bulldog football program achieved prominence in the Oklahoma Collegiate Conference in the later 1960s. Coach J.W. Cole had his best season in 1962 when the Bulldogs posted a record of 6 wins and 4 losses. Quarterback Gary Abercrombie led the Bulldogs during the first four seasons of the 1960s, throwing two touch-down passes in his first game as a freshman. He was named to the all-conference team his last two years. In 1961, all-conference lineman Roger Van Cleef was signed by the Minnesota Vikings, the first Bulldog football player in many years to sign a professional contract. Other outstanding players for Coach Cole were Bill Barker, Tex Yeager, and Kenneth Anderson.

Southwestern’s football fortunes improved with Coach Otis Delaporte’s first season as head coach in 1964. Freshman quarterback Mike Freeman led the Bulldogs to a 5-4-1 season. Freeman led the Bulldogs for the next three years, joining Gary Abercrombie, who preceded him, as one of the few players to start all four years as quarterback. The 1964 Bulldog team included all-conference selections Jerry Craig, Dennis Skinner, Mutual Bryant, and Roger Newberry. For the next three seasons, the Bulldogs posted records of 5-5-0 in 1965, 7-3 in 1966, and 8-2 in 1967. Outstanding players in those seasons included Mike Freeman, Charles Randle, Mike Blazer, and Gene Dillman, who received an honorable mention All-American Award in 1967. In the last two years of the 1960s, the Bulldogs won the conference championship in 1968 with a
7-4 record and were conference co-champions in 1969 with a record of 9-1. The 1968 championship was the first for the Bulldogs since 1957, the last year for Coach Metcalf. These two championship teams were led by such outstanding players as Buddy Burris, Charles Stevens, Rudy Thompkins, and Joe Sheegog.

The 1960s marked the beginning of the Delaporte Dynasty, which would culminate with the Bulldogs playing in the Apple Bowl in 1977, the last game before Coach Delaporte retired as head coach.

Bulldog basketball also recorded a rise to the conference championship during the 1960s. The first five seasons of the 1960s were lean times for the Bulldogs. In his final five seasons as Bulldog head basketball coach, Rankin Williams' teams compiled a record of 34 wins and 87 losses. Outstanding players from those teams were Danny Lydia, Dean Ingram, Jim Jones, and Gary Abercrombie. Coach Williams retired in May, 1964, after forty-two years of coaching at Southwestern. Jerry Jobe became the Bulldog basketball coach in the 1964-65 season. Coach Jobe compiled a record of 90 wins and 47 losses during the last five years of the 1960s. In Coach Jobe's first season, a young team including Richard O'Hara, Gilbert Moll, Skippy Cannon, and Bert Rickner im-

1960-1969: Growth and Change
When the Southwestern Bulldogs blasted seven home runs to earn a 16-11 victory over Texas Tech at Lubbock May 8, there was the same sound that belonged to an artillery salute to a great man. This was Rankin Williams’ last time to wear a Southwestern coach’s uniform — the familiar No. 20 — in the sport he loved best of all...baseball. And the Bulldogs gave him the best farewell of all, a terrific salvo of base hits. Years will pass and Southwestern will grow but the campus will never be quite the same again with this man retired. As a student and coach his life covered the entire history of the institution. Forty-two of his 68 years had been dedicated to coaching every major and minor sport at one time or another and most of those years as athletic director. Come September a great tradition will have passed and a great legend will begin...the legend of one man who gave so much for so long. The campus won’t be the same again...Mr. Southwestern has hung up his spikes.” — 1964 Bulldog record of 23 wins and 8 losses. Loyd Lacy was named to the all-conference team for the second consecutive year. Archie McGill was named to the all-conference team for the third consecutive year and was also named honorable mention All-American. Coach Jobe was chosen the Oklahoma Collegiate Conference Coach of the Year.

Like the Bulldog football and basketball teams, the Bulldog baseball team won the conference championship later in the 1960s. After winning nine consecutive baseball championships in the 1950s, the Bulldogs finished behind Phillips University for five years in the 1960s. Coach Rankin Williams fielded excellent teams in the first five years of the 1960s, but Phillips University barely edged the Bulldogs each year from 1960-1963. The 1961 Bulldogs, one of the best teams in Southwestern history, posted a record of 20 wins and 8 losses but could not beat Phillips. But in 1961, Coach Williams established a national record
by becoming the first coach ever to win 1,000 games as a head coach in all sports. In his final game as head coach on May 8, 1964, Coach Williams watched his Bulldog team hit seven home runs in beating Texas Tech 16-11 for his final victory.

Coach Jerry Jobe led the Bulldog baseball team for three seasons from 1965 through 1967. In his final season as head baseball coach, the Bulldogs won the conference championship and posted a record of 20 wins and 9 losses. That championship team included Benny Looper, Eddie Williams, Sonny Vermillion, and Richard O’Hara. Cecil Devine became head coach in 1968 when the Bulldogs finished behind Phillips University once again.

Track returned as a major sport in 1966 under the coaching of Clint Ponder, dean of men. By the late 1960s, track had entered a new era, reminiscent of the days when Al Harris and Gene “Hot Shot” Medley led the Bulldogs to national prominence in the late 1920s and early 1930s. In 1969, the Bulldogs placed second in the conference meet with Rudy Thompkins placing in the shot put and discus competition and the mile relay team of Hector Herrera, Bill Blankenship, James Hewett, and Harry Monroe winning the conference championship.

The changing mood of the 1960s was apparent in the big name entertainment that appeared on campus. Reflecting the conservative mood of the previous decade of the 1950s, the Navy Band performed in March, 1962, and the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra in May, 1963. Southwestern students experienced the folk music popularity of the mid-1960s when The Kingston Trio appeared on campus in November, 1966, and The Lettermen in December, 1967. Glen Yarbrough, Neil Diamond, and the Righteous Brothers performed to packed houses in the last three years of the 1960s. The increased interest in politics and international affairs which marked the end of the decade was reflected on the Southwestern campus in May, 1969, when Senator Fred Harris appeared in an open forum to answer student questions.
cerning the pressing problems facing the nation. In September, 1969, political satirist Art Buchwald entertained a capacity crowd in the college auditorium with his barbs aimed at the White House, Pentagon, FBI, and CIA. One of his stories drew loud applause when he evaluated the candidates in the last presidential election. Buckwald said, “Nixon looked like the kind of guy you wouldn’t buy a used car from; Humphrey looked like the guy who bought it, and Wallace looked like he would steal one.”

The mood of the 1960s also changed in student attitudes toward dress codes, curfews, and moral issues. In May, 1966, an editorial in The Southwestern entitled “Why Not Wear Shorts?” prompted a letter to the editor in which a male student wrote, “Wearing shorts, regardless of sex, is a step toward nudity and promotes lust.” The writer reluctantly conceded that, on rare occasions, a woman might wear slacks, but “…the slacks should be for comfort and not for exposure.” Another letter protested an incident in which a faculty member reprimanded a student for wearing slim jims into a building to look at grades posted on a bulletin board. As the Oklahoman Legislature debated a bill to curb obscenity in art, literature, and language, in March, 1967, a two-page article appeared in The Southwestern concerning the fate of what the writer called “air-conditioned Katy,” a picture of a nude lady which had hung in the Southwestern Library since it was built in 1928. After considering the issue of obscenity in art, the author concluded her article with, “As we say, Katy is a lady, with or without.” No one seems to know the fate of that painting today. In September, 1968, curfew hours were lengthened to 9 p.m. on Monday-Thursday, 1:00 a.m. Friday-Saturday, and 11 p.m. Sunday. Sophomore, junior and senior women had slightly later curfew hours, with one hour of “late leave” extended once a week to freshmen and sophomore women. Dean Freda Sauer explained that the curfew was necessary to encourage better academic performance.

The Southwestern changed along with the rest of the campus in the late 1960s. Letters to the editor addressed such issues as the role of The Broadside, a student publication which sometimes challenged the administration, the effectiveness of Religious Emphasis Week, and the attempt by the Oklahoma Legislature to ban...
certain speakers on college campuses. In an interview in February, 1969, the editor of The Southwestern, Ben Weaver, called for a student newspaper that was "not on campus just to look good on a 'brag' sheet." From January, 1960, to December, 1969, The Southwestern had developed from a four-page paper reporting mainly campus news and sports to a fourteen-page paper reporting not only campus news and sports but also addressing controversial issues, campus conflicts, and student complaints.

As 1969 drew to a close, Southwestern had changed dramatically from the small, conservative campus of January, 1960. The 1970s would usher in even more changes in the early years of the decade before the end of the war in Vietnam and the changes in the economy and student values would lead to a return to the conservative mood of the early 1960s. But Southwestern would always bear the imprint of the 1960s, the decade of change at Southwestern.

**MISS SOUTHWESTERN**

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**HOMECOMING QUEENS**

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<td>Charla Cain</td>
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<td>Sue Lynn Jenkinson</td>
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Mood of the 1960s

Long lines and crowded tables were the scene during registration time in the 1960s.

Brandy the Bulldog hangs out with the baseball team (above). Brandy II poses with Kent Sampson and Brandy the statue (left).

1960 Freshman Follies Master of Ceremonies Mark Berrong talks with cast member Betty Mitchell.

The decade of the 1970s began on a note of unrest at Southwestern. Although the student protests at Southwestern were mild and peaceful as compared to the Kent State University protest in which four students were killed by National Guard troops in May, 1970, the campus did witness several student protests involving issues such as the war in Vietnam, freedom of the press, and cafeteria food. Between 1970 and 1974, student activism reached its height on the Southwestern campus. At the end of the “streaking” episodes in the spring of 1974, students seemed to return to the quiet behavior reminiscent of the 1950s and early 1960s.

The first student unrest began in February, 1970, during Black Heritage Week. On February 13, a forum of Black leaders in Oklahoma addressed about 100 students and faculty. Featured speakers were Dr. George Henderson, Goldman Professor of Human Relations at the University of Oklahoma; Nimrod Chapel, president of the Afro-American Society at Oklahoma State University; Robert Smith, an Urban League associate from Oklahoma City, and Clara Luper, Youth Counselor for the NAACP in Oklahoma. The underlying theme for the forum was “Blacks should accept their situation, then get together.” Mrs. Luper told the audience that plans were in progress to integrate faculties at Oklahoma colleges. When she asked if there were any Black administrators or assistant deans at Southwestern, she was answered by a chorus of voices saying, “No!” Mrs. Luper replied, “Then your president is a bigot.” When a reporter interviewed President Harris, the president explained that Southwestern had recently employed an Afro-American professor who had accepted a position and then resigned “for reasons we assumed to be personal.”

The same week this forum was held, a conflict continued between the editor and staff of The Southwestern and a local supporter of the John Birch Society. The Weatherford resident had objected to “The Broken Cross,” a symbol
of the anti-war movement, which had appeared on the front page of the January 14, 1970, issue of The Southwestern. In an editorial and an exchange of letters, the controversy continued. After a particularly bitter letter in which the writer referred to the Weatherford citizen as a “brain washed dupe” and described him as one who had been “crippled by his blind allegiance to a force of hatred and suspicion,” Cathy Purcell, editor of The Southwestern, extended an apology to the Weatherford citizen and anyone else “enraged or insulted” by the letter and stated that it was time to drop the issue. Although other verbal clashes between the citizen and University students and faculty continued. The Southwestern officially ended its participation in the conflict.

The Vietnam War sparked other conflicts on the Southwestern campus. Although no injuries or destruction of property occurred at Southwestern as it did on many other campuses, peaceful protests and verbal debates showed the emotional involvements of Southwestern students. In February, 1970, Captain Robert Poolaw, a Marine Corps captain and a Southwestern graduate, spoke to the Indian Heritage Club. In a time when controversy about the Vietnam War was raging across the country, Captain Poolaw spoke about the advantages of a military career.
In April, 1970, Southwestern held a War Day Forum, a day of decision on war. Although The Daily Oklahoman reported that “...450 students participated in a peaceful demonstration,” The Southwestern questioned the term “demonstration,” referring to the forum as a “peaceful dialogue” since both sides of the war issue were represented. Tom Hollingsworth, a crew-cut former Green Beret and a member of the John Birch Society, defended the war as necessary to defeat Communism. Reverend Wade Watts, state president of the NAACP, argued that Democracy itself would defeat Communism without war. He suggested that the government stop drafting from 19 years up and start drafting from 80 years down, taking the congressmen first. Reverend Jerry Sinclair stated, “God is committed to peace.” English instructor Bill Faulk said, “The killing of another human being for political and ideological reasons can never be justified.” The War Day activities also included a poster contest and four bands playing to nearly 1,000 students during the evening.

In February, 1971, a small group of students staged a protest of the expansion of the Vietnam War into Laos. During the demonstration, a student who disagreed with protestors took a Viet Cong flag away from one of the protestors and burned it. A female student took down another Viet Cong flag that had been raised and took it to President Harris.

The same week that the war demonstration was held, a cafeteria walk-out by 280 students drew the attention of The Southwestern and other papers around the state. The students left their filled trays on the tables to protest what they considered unappetizing food. Joe Stebbins, editor of The Southwestern, defended the cafeteria service in an editorial entitled “Pass Alka-Seltzer for Walk-Outers.”

In the same edition of The Southwestern, Editor Stebbins denied the rumor that the administration censored the newspaper. He stated, “The Southwestern does not go through any form of administrative censorship.”

One of the more humorous forms of “unrest,” or perhaps “undress,” was the “streaking” craze which hit the Southwestern campus in the spring semester of 1974. The week before spring break in March, Southwestern students joined other students across the nation in the “streaking” fad. For several days, students streaked the Student Union, the dorms, and classroom buildings. Although many students, faculty, and even police officers found
the fad humorous, President Harris and Dean Fred Janzen were not amused. Dean Janzen published the following policy statement:

After careful analysis of our own experiences regarding this type of behavior and also considering the adverse effects such conduct has had upon our total institution, I hereby notify all persons that any student engaging in any form of streaking, wherein his/her attire or lack of attire constitutes a violation of public decency, shall be subject to suspension from this institution for at least one semester duration beginning with the current semester. Any student arrested for streaking off campus shall be confronted with penalties associated with violations of civil law (indecent exposure) as well as subjecting himself to the consequences of a similar act committed on campus.

On the night before spring break began, a large number of students gathered in the parking lot between Oklahoma Hall and the Science Building. A number of streakers, including one girl, streaked the crowd. The campus security officers caught some of the streakers, one of whom was a cadet officer of the ROTC unit. The fad was short-lived, but in 1975, a letter to the editor of The Southwestern wondered where the streakers had gone and hoped they might return with warm weather.6

As the decade of the 1970s reached its midpoint, tranquility returned to the Southwestern campus. The years of protest and unrest had ended, and Southwestern was none the worse for its experiences.

The administration of Southwestern underwent numerous changes in the 1970s including the retirement of President Harris and the appointment of Dr. Leonard Campbell as the fourteenth president of Southwestern. On June 30, 1975, Dr. Al Harris retired after fifteen years as president of Southwestern. During his tenure as president, Dr. Harris saw Southwestern grow from an enrollment of 1,871 in the fall of 1960, his first year as president, to a peak enrollment of 5,563 in 1972. He administered the construction of four dormitories, three major classroom buildings, and the library. Under the leadership of President Harris, the faculty grew from seventy-eight in
1960 to more than two hundred in 1975. In his years as president of Southwestern, President Harris established a legendary reputation for his skill in financial management of the University. President Harris’s association with Southwestern began in 1927 as a freshman athlete labeled “The Kid” by his older teammates and ended in 1975 with the title “President Emeritus” and The Al Harris Library named in his honor.

Dr. Leonard G. Campbell became the fourteenth president of Southwestern on July 1, 1975. He came to Southwestern from his position as superintendent of Western Heights Public Schools in Oklahoma City. He had previously served as assistant superintendent and principal for the Moore Public Schools. He had also taught and coached in the Moore Public schools and the Amarillo, Texas, public schools. President Campbell earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Southeastern State College and Master of Education and Doctor of Education degrees from the University of Oklahoma.

An administrative re-structuring and retirements brought several more administrative changes to Southwestern during the 1970s. In the spring of 1970, the Division of Mathematics and Physical Sciences was divided into two departments with Dr. Donald Hamm as chairman of the Chemistry Department and Dr. Raymond McKellips as chairman of the Mathematics Department. Dr. Earl Reynolds, former chair of the Division of Mathematics and Physical Sciences, was appointed chairman of the Division of Education and Psychology to replace Dr. George Ryden, who retired in May, 1970.

An administrative re-structuring brought numerous changes to Southwestern in the fall of 1978. The former structure of president, dean of instruction, and chairs of departments and divisions was changed to a structure of president, vice president for academic affairs, and deans of the School of Arts and Sciences, School of Business, School of Teacher Education and Psychology, School of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Health, and the Graduate School. Dr. Donald Hamm was appointed dean of Arts and Sciences, a new position. In the fall of 1978, Dr. Charles Hundley became chair
of the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Department, replacing Dr. L.J. Van Horn, who retired. Dr. Jerry Nye became chair of the Language Arts Department, replacing Dr. Eugene Hughes, who returned to classroom teaching.

The most extensive administrative changes in the history of Southwestern occurred in May, 1979, with the retirement of three veteran administrators. Dr. Louis Morris, vice president for academic affairs, first worked at Southwestern from 1938 to 1947 as a supervisor of student teachers in the public school and became a full-time faculty member in 1947, serving as mathematics instructor, chair of Teacher Education, dean of instruction, and academic vice president during his forty-one year association with Southwestern. Dr. Walter Dickison, dean of the School of Pharmacy, Nursing, and Allied Health, joined the Southwestern faculty in 1957 as a pharmacy professor, becoming dean in 1965. During his fourteen years as dean, he led the School of Pharmacy to national prominence. Dr. Harold Massey, dean of the Graduate School, assumed his position in 1963. During his sixteen years as dean, Dr. Massey saw the graduate enrollment increase from 192 in 1963 to nearly 600 in 1979. These three veteran educators served Southwestern for a total of seventy-nine years.

The three replacements for these administrators would carry on the traditions set by their predecessors. Dr. Homer Timmons was appointed acting dean to replace Dean Dickison. Dr. Earl Reynolds was appointed academic vice president to replace Dr. Morris. Dr. Bob Brown, a former dean of men at Southwestern, returned to the campus to replace Dr. Massey as dean of the Graduate School. Dr. Brown would later retire as academic vice president of Southwestern.

The 1970s brought the retirement of a number of other outstanding Southwestern faculty members. In May, 1970, Dr. George Ryden retired as chair of the Division of Teacher Edu-
cation and Psychology. Others retiring in the 1970s were Dr. Ruby Drinkwater Gartrell, Dr. L.J. Van Horn, Dr. James Sill, and Dr. W.W. Ward. The Language Arts Department was particularly hard hit when Mrs. Thelma Clampitt, Mrs. Della Whisenhunt, Mrs. Thelma Glass, Miss Mabel Owen, and Mr. Cedric Crink all retired during the 70's.

In 1974, the Legislature changed the name of the institution to Southwestern Oklahoma State University. This new name was the seventh in the seventy-three year history of the school. Southwestern grew to its largest enrollment in history during the early years of the 1970s. The largest fall enrollment was 5,563 in 1972. Just one year later, the fall enrollment was 5,053 in 1973, a loss of 510 students. By fall of 1979, enrollment had dropped to 4,718. The end of the Vietnam War and changing economic conditions accounted for the changes in enrollment. Faculty numbers changed with the drop in enrollment. In the fall of 1971, thirty-eight new faculty members were employed. By spring of 1973, most of the part-time faculty had been released, and some full-time faculty vacancies were not filled. The enrollment rose to over 5,000 in 1976 and 1977, then averaged about 4,800 for the rest of the decade.

Construction on the Southwestern campus reflected the conditions of the 1970s. A building was completed in 1971 to house the new ROTC unit, which had been formed in 1970. The Pharmacy Annex building was constructed to meet the needs of the rapidly expanding School of Pharmacy. With the exception of the greenhouse and the observatory, no other buildings were constructed in the 1970s. In 1972, an expansion of Milam Stadium added ten rows of seats to the west side grandstand and an expanded press box. One of the original “Vetsville” apartment buildings was demolished in 1974. In November, 1976, President Campbell moved into his own home. The original president’s home was then converted to the Nursing Center.

Academic programs continued to expand and develop in the decade of the 1970s. In the
fall of 1971, Southwestern began an ROTC program. While some campuses were closing their ROTC programs because of student protests of the war in Vietnam, Southwestern instituted a program that quickly grew into one of the outstanding programs in the state and southwest region. First housed in Room 100 of the Arts and Sciences Building, the program soon grew to occupy its own building by December, 1971. Under the leadership of Colonel Jode Wilson, the ROTC unit had grown to seventy-five cadets by the fall of 1973 and had added a women’s organization, the Saberettes.

ROTC was active in campus events, providing the color guard and cannon crew for athletic events and marching in the homecoming parade. In the spring of 1972, an ROTC firing range was constructed in the basement of Jefferson Hall.

Under the leadership of Dr. James Jurrens,
the "Showcase of the Southwest," the university marching band, established a national reputation during the 1970s. Arriving at Southwestern in the fall of 1970, Dr. Jurrens set out to create a nationally-known marching band. Formerly a small band with a limited schedule, the marching band grew rapidly in numbers and quality, performing before 50,000 fans and a national television audience on November 7, 1971, at a Denver Bronco game. Dr. Jurrens fielded a band of nearly 200 and a twirler and flag corps of thirty-five by 1973 when the band traveled to St. Louis for a National Football League half-time show. By 1975, the Southwestern band was the largest university college music organization in Oklahoma. Dr. Jurrens became nationally and internationally known as a band director, workshop presenter, and composer of band music.

Several academic departments flourished in the 1970s. The School of Business began a Master of Business Administration degree program in 1977. The Department of Physics gained a national reputation with their graduates working for NASA and other prominent organizations. The School of Pharmacy had its largest enrollment of 455 in 1975. Teacher Education graduated more than 500 students in 1972. In the summer of 1970, more than 700 full-time students were enrolled in the Master of Education degree program. Workshop and short course enrollments increased the total Teacher Education enrollment to over 1,000. Master of Education degrees were awarded to 138 students in the summer of 1970 commencement exercises.

In 1970, Dr. Alfred Turney, professor of history, published Disaster at Moscow: Von Bock's Campaigns 1941-42, a history of Von Bock's defeat by the Russian army. The Sunday Oklahoman reviewer, Val Thiessen, wrote, "It has a nostalgic flavor that warms the cold bones of history." In 1973, Dr. Gladys Bellamy, retired chair of the Language Arts Department, died in Mexico, while travelling with a Southwestern tour group. In her will, she left more than 1,500 books to the Southwestern Library, including her doctoral dissertation, her Bible, and copies of her book Mark Twain as a Literary Artist.

A Distinguished Alumni program was created in 1976. The Distinguished Alumni Award honored Southwestern graduates who have achieved prominence in their fields. The Distinguished Alumni are honored each year at the Southwestern homecoming celebration. The
first two Distinguished Alumni honored in 1976 were Glenn English, Sixth District Congressman from Cordell, and D.J. Witherspoon, a prominent businessman from Omaha, Nebraska. Portraits of the Distinguished Alumni are displayed in the Ballroom of the Student Union.

Dramatic productions during the early 1970s reflected the mood of the times. In November, 1970, Delenna Williams directed *Lysistrata*, a Greek drama written by Aristophenes in 411 B.C. Though ancient in origin, the play addressed two modern concerns of war and women's liberation. The plot developed the conflict between the Greek men, who were frequently away at war, and the Greek women, who had banded together to end war by withholding sexual favors from their husbands unless they ceased to fight in wars. Employing graphic language and gestures and emphasizing the double entendres for which Aristophanes was famous, the cast performed for packed houses for four nights. Memorable performances were turned in by Barbara Huff, Pat Robinson, Vicki Turnipseed, and Monte Snider. In “Viewed and Reviewed,” Jon Burris wrote, “Last week, the Southwestern State College Drama Department impregnated an SWSC stage with its controversial production of the play, *Lysistrata*. From this conception was born nothing but greatness.” In spite of some critical letters to the Language Arts chair and the president, the play was generally applauded as one of the most relevant and artistic productions ever produced at Southwestern.

Another production which aroused much discussion was *Slightly Left of God*, an original play by Southwestern English instructor, Bill Faulk. Produced in March, 1970, the play questioned the relevance of traditional religion and dealt with issues such as war, unbelief, and sexuality. The play aroused much discussion in letters to *The Southwestern* and sparked some controversy among local ministers. In a time of unrest, these two plays mirrored the issues, reactions, and mood of the early 1970s.

In 1978, Delenna Williams directed *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, one of the best productions ever presented at Southwestern. The play
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof.

starred Jerry Brewer, Nita Elsener, Kevin Hill, and George Ann Bordelon. The Tennessee Williams play was brought to life on the Southwestern stage by the strong cast. The production received excellent reviews at the American College Theatre Festival in Oklahoma City.

Southwestern athletics enjoyed great success in the 1970s. In addition to conference championships in football, basketball, and baseball, Southwestern also had three coaching changes during the 1970s. Coach Otis Delaporte stepped down as head football coach in 1977 after leading the Bulldogs to the national championship game in the Apple Bowl in Seattle, where the Bulldogs were defeated by Abilene Christian University. Coach Bob Mazie replaced Coach Delaporte as Bulldog football coach. George Hauser became head basketball coach in 1976. Larry Geurkink was named head baseball coach in 1977.

Southwestern football teams were outstanding in the 1970’s, winning four conference championships and playing for the national championship in 1977. After winning conference championships in 1968 and 1969, the Bulldogs continued their winning tradition by winning championships in 1970 and 1971. These four consecutive championships were the most in Southwestern football history. The 1970 Bulldogs posted a record of 8-1-1, led by stars such as John Lombard, Randy Lawrence, Charles Hicks, and Eugene McGlory. The 1971
Football coach Otis Delaporte.

Bulldogs had an 8-2-0 record. Coach Delaporte was named conference Coach of the Year for the fourth consecutive time. All-Conference players included Bob Densmore, Eugene Wilton, Joe Shegog, and Charles Hicks. Hicks was honored as conference Offensive Player of the Year and signed to play for the Green Bay Packers. Coming off of a 3-7-0 season in 1973, the Bulldogs won the conference championship again in 1974 with a record of 6-3-0. The 1974 championship team was led by all-conference quarterback Jeff Troutt and all-conference tackle Tom Bergman, who would be named to the NAIA All-America Team twice.

The 1977 season was the most memorable in the history of Bulldog football until the 1996 season when Coach Paul Sharp led the Bulldogs to the National Championship. The 1977 Bulldogs entered the national championship game undefeated with a record of 10-0-0. Playing Abilene Christian in the Kingdome in Seattle, the Bulldogs were defeated 24-7 in the Apple Bowl. The 1977 Bulldogs receiving honors were all-conference players Doug Brown, Louis Mendoza, Robert Bridges, and Louis Blanton. Louis Blanton was named to the NAIA All-America Team. Rocky Powell, currently a Bulldog coach, started at defensive end. This was the last game for legendary Bulldog football Coach Otis Delaporte. Delaporte was named Coach of the Year in the conference, district and region. In his fourteen seasons as head coach of the Bulldogs, Delaporte completed a record of 98-47-2, won six conference championships, and was inducted into the NAIA Coaches Hall of Fame in March, 1981, just three weeks before his death on April 1, 1981. Assistant Coach Bob Mazie was named to replace Delaporte as head coach of the Bulldog football team in 1978. Coach Mazie would lead the Bulldogs for the next eight seasons. Coach Mazie’s 1979 team would feature two NAIA All-Americans in Alfonzo McMillian and Carl Birdsong. Birdsong would go on to be an all-pro selection as a punter for the St. Louis Cardinals. Birdsong is also a member of the Southwest-
Southwestern basketball coaches Jerry Jobe and George Hauser both won conference championships in the 1970s. Coach Jobe led the Bulldog basketball team the first six years of the decade. In 1970-1971, his team won the conference co-championship, his third as Bulldog head coach. Led by Ken Turner and Amos Thomas, the Bulldogs had a record of 18-5 in 1970-1971. The first six years of the decade featured outstanding players such as Randy Sullivan, Ken Turner, Amos Thomas, Joe Pierce, Jim Calley, and David Offord. In the 1974-1975 season, Coach Jobe’s last season as head coach, the Bulldogs posted a record of 20-8. P.J. Simmons and Jack Coody were named to the all-conference team. Chuck Johnson was chosen as the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Conference and the District 9 Player of the Year. At the end of the season, Coach Jobe resigned to accept the head coaching position at Oklahoma Christian College. In his ten seasons as coach of the Bulldogs, Jobe led the team to eight NAIA playoffs, three conference championships, and one national tournament appearance.

Gene Robbins replaced Jerry Jobe as Bulldog head basketball coach. In his one season as coach, the Bulldogs had a record of 12-12. P.J. Simmons was named to the all-conference and all-district teams. At the end of the season, Coach Robbins resigned to pursue other opportunities outside of coaching.

George Hauser, head coach at American University in Tulsa, was named to replace Robbins. In 1976-1977, his first year as coach, Hauser led the Bulldogs to a 24-5 season, winning the conference championship and competing in the national NAIA tournament in Kansas City where the Bulldogs lost to Campbell College in the second round. Coach Hauser was named Conference Coach of the Year and District 9 Coach of the Year. Eli Parnell and P.J. Simmons were chosen for the all-conference team. P.J. Simmons was also chosen as District 9 Most Valuable Player. Coach Hauser continued his winning ways by leading his team to conference championships.
in 1977-1978 and 1978-1979. The three consecutive championship teams featured outstanding players such as P.J. Simmons, Eli Parnell, Tony Simmons, Sharky Sheridan, Jerry Jones, and Brad Lenaburg. Bulldog basketball reached a high point at the end of the 1970s.

The 1970s brought a memorable season in the history of Bulldog baseball. The 1971 season saw the Bulldogs win the conference championship for the first time since 1967 and advance to the national NAIA tournament in Phoenix, Arizona, where the team placed fifth in the nation. Charles Teasley, current head coach of the Bulldog baseball team, was named to the all-conference team. Ray Burris, a future major league player, was named to the All-America Team. Burris was chosen for the All-America Team again in the 1972 season when he signed a major league contract with the Chicago Cubs. Burris is a member of the Southwestern Athletic Hall of Fame.

Coach Devine left the baseball coaching position in 1976 after posting a record of 189-99 in his nine years as head coach. He was replaced by Larry Geurkink, who came to Southwestern from Putman City High School. In the last three years of the 1970s, Coach Geurkink’s Bulldogs won 90 and lost 70 games, twice finishing second to Phillips University in the conference standings. The Bulldog teams of the late 1970s were led by Lamont Woody, Lawane Woody, Gerald Nipp, Rex Thompson, Rex Enterline, and Brad Lenaburg.

Coach Clint Ponder’s Bulldog track team dominated the conference in the early 1970s. From 1971-1973, the Bulldog track team won three consecutive conference championships. Conference individual champions included Larry Stinson, Jim Glasgow, Henry Shawnee, and Mike Ryles. Larry Stinson placed second in the nation in the 220 in 1971 and was na-

The Southwestern rodeo team showed steady progress during the 1970s under the leadership of Coach Don Mitchell. Growing in numbers and competitive quality in the first five years of the decade, the Bulldog rodeo team made its first appearance in the National Finals Rodeo in 1975 when the team placed tenth in the nation. In 1976, the team again qualified for the National Finals where Randy Taylor became the first national champion from Southwestern when he placed first in the steer wrestling competition. In 1978, the rodeo team again made the National Finals, led by Bob Cheney and Drew Hays. By 1979, the rodeo team had grown to sixty-five members and again appeared in the National Finals Rodeo where Bana Perry won the national championship in barrel racing.

The Southwestern golf team won the conference championship for three consecutive seasons in 1977-1979. Coach Otis Delaporte’s golfers were led by Bob McAfee and Everett Dobson. Bob McAfee was a District 9 Medalist. Everett Dobson, who went on to win several championships in the 1980s, would later be inducted into the Southwestern Athletic Hall of Fame as well as the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame.

The Bulldog men’s tennis team won three consecutive division titles in 1971-1973. Outstanding individuals on these teams were Brad Lam, Don Leverett, and Paul Nail. The Bulldog women’s team had an outstanding season in 1978 when Kim Weast advanced to the state tournament finals in singles competition. Cherry Davenport and Penny Thomas advanced to the state tournament finals in doubles competition.

The excitement and energy of the early 1970s was reflected in the big name entertainers who appeared on campus from 1970 to 1974. On February 17, 1971, Vincent Price presented his one-man show entitled “Villains of the Theatre.” Price thrilled and chilled the audience that filled the Old Science Auditorium with his readings of such works as Poe’s “The Raven” and “The Tell-Tale Heart.” A week later, on February 22, the Carpenters performed a concert before a crowd of 1,800 in
the college gym. Despite near blizzard conditions, the show was excellent, “the best big name entertainment yet,” according to Jon Burris, the reviewer from The Southwestern.  

The third big name entertainment group of 1971 was the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, who appeared in March. Although the audience was disappointingly small, the response to the show was tremendous. One of the warm-up acts had the students helpless with laughter. A young comedian named Steve Martin received a standing ovation for his nose-on-microphone, glove-into-dove, and balloon-into-animal routines. The most popular song that the band performed was “Mr. Bojangles.” On November 13, 1971, Mac Davis appeared in concert at Southwestern. An enthusiastic crown heard Davis perform “Watching Scotty Grow,” “In the Ghetto,” and “I Believe In Music.” Two weeks later, on November 29, Curtis Mayfield appeared in concert. Mayfield went on to become one of the most influential Black singers and songwriters. In April, 1972, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band made a return appearance at Southwestern.

Another one of the future stars to perform at Southwestern in the 1970s was John Denver, who presented a concert on November 9, 1972. On December 9, 1973, Dr. Hook and His Medicine Show and B.W. Stevenson appeared together in concert in the gym. On January 23, 1974, Lily Tomlin delighted the Southwestern audience with her creations of Ernestine, the telephone operator, and Edith Ann, the bratty five-year-old. Budgetary constraints eventually ended the big name entertainment series. But for a few years, Southwestern students were entertained by performers who would become legendary figures in the entertainment world.

As the decade of the 1970s ended, Southwestern had returned to a period of quiet traditionalism much like the 1950s and early 1960s. Students seemed more concerned with preparing for the future than with changing the present. The unrest and idealism of the early years of the decade had been replaced by a new concern for success in the future.
Pam Franklin, 1976 Miss Southwestern and first runner-up Miss Oklahoma.

MISS SOUTHWESTERN
1970 Kathy Olds
1971 Sue Lynn Jenkins
1972 Gayle Smith
1973 Cindy Laubach
yielded crown to Ora Ray
1974 Jan Burkharter
1975 Gayla Sue Donnell
yielded crown to Margaret Park
1976 Pam Franklin
First Runner-up, Miss Oklahoma
1977 Leeann Wimberly
1978 Kerry Fisher
1979 Lawana Kissinger

HOMECOMING QUEENS
1970 Toni Finfrock
1971 Coreta Banks
1972 Jayne Bode
1973 Ramona Ballew
1974 Paula Reed
1975 Denice Chadwick
1976 Kathy Kennedy
1977 Chris Rodriguez
1978 Barbara Tauriello
1979 Sharon Matthews

SOUTHWESTERN DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HALL OF FAME
1976 Congressman Glenn English Jr.
James Witherspoon
1977 E.H. "Hack" McDonald
Major General John J. Murphy
1978 James P. Dawson
Carl M. Bogdahn
1979 A.J. Alexander
Jerry Hodge

ADMINISTRATION
Mr. Everett Gartrell – 27 years
President Al Harris – 15 years
Dr. Harold Massey – 16 years
Dr. Louis Morris – 41 years
ART
Mr. Richard Taflinger – 31 years
BUSINESS
Ms. Cora Herzog – 30 years
Ms. Fern Lowman – 25 years
Dr. W.W. Ward – 30 years
EDUCATION
Dr. Ruby Gartrell – 23 years
Dr. George Ryden – 9 years
HPER
Dr. L.J. Van Horn – 21 years
LANGUAGE ARTS
Dr. John Abel – 9 years
Ms. Thelma Brandly – 9 years
Mrs. Thelma Clampitt – 13 years
Mr. Cedric Crink – 27 years
Ms. Mabel Owen – 17 years
Dr. James Sill – 17 years
Mrs. Della Whisenhunt – 33 years
LIBRARY
Mrs. Mabel Mickley – 10 years
MUSIC
Ms. Mary Griffin – 24 years
PHARMACY
Ms. Ina Black – 12 years
Dr. Walter Dickison – 22 years
Dr. Charles Schwartz – 25 years
PHYSICS
Mr. Perry Jones – 20 years
Mr. Paul Umbach – 14 years
SOCIAL SCIENCES
Dr. Alfred Turney – 11 years
TECHNOLOGY
Mr. Grant Hendrix – 35 years
Mr. Arthur Raley – 12 years

1970-1979: Unrest, Decline & Recovery
Mood of the 1970s

A contrast in styles, two students in 1972.

Brandy takes a shot at journalism.

Nelson and Janie Sims, married students in 1971, walk together after class. Nelson was inducted into the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame in 1992.

Kim Turner studies with help from Dr. Pepper.

Kim Gardner, a member of the women’s rodeo team in 1979, ties a goat during rodeo action.
Southwestern progressed rapidly in several areas during the 1980s. The curriculum expanded with new programs and new courses being added. The computer age arrived on campus with new computer labs, personal computers for faculty, and computerized administrative procedures. In July, 1987, the Oklahoma Legislature approved a merger between Sayre Junior College and Southwestern. The new branch of Southwestern was designated as Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Sayre Campus. The Sayre campus offered programs in Radiologic Technology and Medical Technology which had not been available to Southwestern students. During the 1980s, Southwestern developed and matured as the leading educational institution in western Oklahoma.

Several administrative changes occurred during the 1980s. Dr. Joe Anna Hibler became vice president for academic affairs in July, 1986, becoming the highest-ranking woman in Oklahoma higher education. Dr. Hibler succeeded Dr. Earl Reynolds, who retired after thirty-three years at Southwestern, the last seven years as vice president for academic affairs. Dr. Dan Dill became the dean of arts and sciences in July, 1989, replacing Dr. Donald Hamm, who had been a faculty member since 1956 and dean of arts of sciences since the position was created in 1978. Dr. B.G. Keller became dean of the School of Pharmacy in 1981, where he would serve until 1987. Dr. H. David Bergman was appointed dean of the School of Pharmacy in September, 1988, the first off-campus person to be selected as dean since Dean Strother in 1949. Otis Sanders was appointed director of public relations in July, 1981, replacing Jack Shelton, who had held the position for fifteen years. Mrs. Sara Van Horn retired as secretary to the president after twenty years in that position. Mrs. Van Horn had been secretary for two presidents, Dr. Al Harris and Dr. Leonard Campbell.

In the 1980s, student enrollments ranged from a low of 4,800 in the fall of 1980 to a high of 5,514 in the fall of 1987. Part of the increase in enrollment could be attributed to the merger of the Sayre campus. In the fall of 1983, President Campbell announced that the
state budget shortfall would require Southwestern to cut $1,100,000 from the budget. Cuts were made in student wages, equipment, supplies, and travel. A freeze was put on all hiring. After the budget decreases brought on by the oil bust, Southwestern resumed normal operation in 1984 for the remainder of the decade. New computer equipment and building construction and renovations improved the quality of instruction for Southwestern students. Computer labs were added in the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Education. The School of Pharmacy and School of Business upgraded their instructional computer systems and added computer labs for student use. The Al Harris Library began a computerized library system which would be functional early in the next decade. The 1980s saw the dawning of the computer age at Southwestern.

The major building project of the 1980s was the construction of the Fine Arts Center and the Music Hall. Construction began in March, 1982, with phase one being a 1,500 seat auditorium, which was completed in 1984. The first performance in the new Fine Arts Center was the musical Oklahoma, which opened on March 27, 1985. Phase two was the construction of a music building which included performance rooms, offices, practice rooms, and listening rooms. Mrs. Margaret Renz Replogle, a Southwestern alumni and member of the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame, donated $250,000 to the construction of the project. The building was finished in June, 1986. At the...
Margaret Renz Replogle recently visited Southwestern's campus to take part in dedication ceremonies for the new Music Building named for her. Also present were Dr. Leonard Campbell, Southwestern President; Dr. James Jurrens, Southwestern Department of Music Chairman, and Otis Sanders, Southwestern Director of Public Relations. (The Southwestern, June 11, 1986).

building dedication, the facility was named the Margeret Renz Replogle Music Hall. Mrs. Replogle was present for the dedication ceremony. In the summer of 1985, a new two-level press box was constructed for Milam Stadium. The new press box included broadcasting booths, a videotaping room, a room for food and beverages, and a room for special guests. Other construction projects included a liquid storage building and a baseball field house.

Major building renovations were completed during the 1980s. A major remodeling of the Administration Building in 1980 included redecorating the entire interior, building new offices for all administrators, and relocating all student services on the first floor of the building. The Science Building was completely remodeled inside and out with new windows, new interior paint, and several new offices.

In July, 1987, Jim Loomis was named director of the Physical Plant. Coming from a career in construction, Mr. Loomis built a professional staff of maintenance personnel and instituted a long-range plan to improve the physical facilities of the University. Since his appointment, Mr. Loomis has completed many major building renovations and has improved the appearance of the building and grounds.

Two academic units held fiftieth anniversary celebrations during the 1980s. On April 29-30, 1989, the School of Pharmacy invited all pharmacy graduates to an open house marking the fiftieth anniversary of the school. Among the activities were tours and the dedication of the Recognition Courtyard. The program emphasized the progress from twenty-five students in 1939 when the department occupied quarters in the basement of the Old Science Building to more than 600 pre-pharmacy and pharmacy students attending classes in a large, well-equipped building. The first two graduates were Clyde Miller and J.T. Moore in 1941. Forty-seven years later, in 1988, one hundred two students received pharmacy degrees in the spring commencement ceremony.
Another fiftieth anniversary was celebrated on the Sayre campus on April 2, 1988. The Sayre college was founded in 1938 under the name of Oklahoma Western Junior College. Mr. Oscar McMahan, the first president of the college, attended the fiftieth anniversary celebration. Former presidents Maurine Fails, Arch Alexander, Harry Patterson, and Paul Conner were special guests at the anniversary celebration.

Academic highlights of the 1980s included special recognition for the School of Education. In 1989, the Southwestern School of Education became the first program in the state to meet all standards for accreditation set by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). President Leonard Campbell commended Dean Gary Gilliland and his faculty on their outstanding evaluation and the service they performed in supplying most of the public school teachers in western Oklahoma. In 1982, Industrial Technology was added as a new degree program. Areas of specialization in the new program included manufacturing, construction, electricity-electronics, power and energy, and industrial communications. The program expanded rapidly with students being placed in careers in business and industry. In May, 1988, the ROTC program at Southwestern ended. The program was initiated in 1971 and flourished during the 1970s. In the 1980s, enrollment in the program dwindled until the Army decided to phase out ROTC at Southwestern.

In February, 1985, Southwestern hosted the Texas and Southwest Popular Culture Association meeting. Dr. Jeanne Ellinger coordinated the conference which featured speakers from all across the nation. The conference addressed subjects from history, politics, literature, music, religion, and art. This convention marked the first time a regional convention had been hosted by a school as small as Southwestern.

Another first for Southwestern was the establishment of a foreign exchange program in 1989. Dr. Francis Feeley, professor of political science, coordinated the program, which began with students from France and eventually expanded to include students from the Soviet Union. A number of Southwestern students studied in France and the Soviet Union while the French and Russian students attended Southwestern. The foreign exchange program provided cultural enrichment for Southwestern students and faculty until its demise in the mid-1990s.

On October 25, 1989, Southwestern re-
ceived a $50,000 Southwestern Bell Foundation grant to establish a lectureship series. Southwestern matched the grant with $50,000 for a total of $100,000 for the series. A Southwestern Bell vice president stated, “Establishment of the lectureship series illustrated our corporate commitment to higher education and cultural enrichment in Oklahoma.” Beginning in 1990, the lectureship series brought outstanding speakers to the campus from the areas of politics, journalism, and business.

In the fall of 1980, Dr. Bob Brown, Dr. Donald Hamm, Dr. Clarence Petrowsky, and Dr. Jerry Nye attended a National Endowment for the Humanities conference in Birmingham, Alabama. The subject of the conference was establishing regional studies programs in colleges and universities. Following the conference, Southwestern presented a grant proposal to establish a regional studies program. The grant was approved, and Southwestern began a regional studies program which consisted of courses taught in the Social Sciences Department and the Language Arts Department. Guest lecturers from Emporia State University and Black Hills State University presented regional studies workshops. A minor program in regional studies was approved through the Social Sciences Department. Even though the regional studies program was short-lived, one part of the program remains today.

*Westview*, a regional studies journal, was established in the fall of 1981. Dr. Robin Montgomery was the first editor, and Dr. Leroy Thomas was the first managing editor. *Westview* published scholarly articles, memoirs, biographies, autobiographies, graphic arts, and creative writing. Since its early years, *Westview* has become an outstanding regional studies journal, featuring works by nationally famous writers such as W.P. Kinsella, Miller Williams, Walter McDonald, and Robert Cooperman. Under the leadership of Dr. Fred Alsberg, editor, and Professor Joyce Stoffers, managing editor, *Westview* has become nationally recognized as an outstanding model for regional studies publications.

The Southwestern Jazz Festival brought outstanding jazz performers to Southwestern during the 1980s. Dianne Reeves, an outstanding young jazz singer, appeared four times during the 1980s, drawing standing ovations from large crowds. Clark Terry and Bobby Shew, jazz trumpeters, highlighted other jazz festival performances. Other headline performers were Rich Matteson and the Chicago Jazz Quintet.

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1980-1989: *Curriculum, Computers, and a New Campus*
Southwestern’s own jazz ensemble and show choir presented concerts for each jazz festival. Numerous high school stage bands and show choirs entered contests in conjunction with the jazz festival. Dr. Terry Segress established a national reputation as a jazz band director and workshop coordinator.

The Theatre Department presented several outstanding productions during the 1980s. In 1980, Delonna Williams directed a memorable production of *Spoon River Anthology*, presented on a bare stage with platforms as the only stage set. An outstanding cast of Ricky Mathis, Michael Kelley, Debbie Franklin, and Damita Davis performed all of the numerous roles in the production. Two musicals, *The Unsinkable Molly Brown* and *Oklahoma*, drew enthusiastic responses from large audiences. Professor Claude Kezer directed *High Dollar Woman in a Low Dollar Town*, his own play about the life of his Aunt Dolly, who was a colorful character in the early days of Woodward. The show was also presented in the Woodward Community Theatre.

Other outstanding theatre productions of the 1980s included *Detective Story*, directed by Jack Shaw, *Stop the World, I Want to Get Off*, directed by Claude Kezer, and *Night Mother*, the first major production directed and produced by Alpha Psi Omega, the drama fraternity.

Southwestern athletics reached new heights in the 1980s. The Lady Bulldog basketball
Kelli Litsch

team won four national championships in the 1980s while the men’s and women’s rodeo teams each won a national championship. Coaching and administrative changes in athletics influenced the success of the athletic program at Southwestern. The decade of the 1980s was a time of change in Bulldog sports.

Two events marked the rise of Lady Bulldog basketball to national prominence. In March, 1981, John Loftin was selected as head coach of the Lady Bulldogs. Highly successful in his six seasons at Murray State College, Loftin took over a program which had not enjoyed great success in recent years. His challenge was to build a team which could compete on a national level. His first victory as coach of the Lady Bulldogs was to sign Kelli Litsch to a letter of intent in April, 1981. One of the most sought-after players in the entire nation, Litsch led the Lady Bulldogs for the next four years, establishing herself as a legend in Southwestern sports history.

In his first year as coach of the Lady Bulldogs, Loftin led his team to a perfect 34-0 record and the national championship in 1982. Kelli Litsch, a freshman, was named to the All-America Team and was chosen Most Valuable Player in the national tournament. Coach Loftin was chosen as the NAIA Coach of the Year. Chelly Belanger, Anita Foster, Mary Champion, and Vicki Seal also starred on that first championship team. Led by Kelli Litsch, Coach Loftin’s Lady Bulldogs won two more national tournaments in 1984 and 1985 and finished runner-up in 1983 to post a record of 129-5 and to complete another perfect season of 34-0 in 1985. In her four years, Kelli Litsch was named to the All-America Team each year and was chosen Most Valuable Player in the
national tournament three times. In 1985, she was named to the Kodak All-America Team. During this period from 1982 to 1985, Coach Loftin was named NAIA Coach of the Year three times. Two other Lady Bulldogs, Anita Foster and Shelly Brown, were also named to the All-America Team during those years. Two members of those first championship teams, Kelli Litsch and Anita Foster, are members of the Southwestern Athletic Hall of Fame. No other Bulldog teams in any sport have ever been so dominant as the Lady Bulldogs of the early 1980s.

The Lady Bulldogs won another national championship in 1987. Led by Rhonda Smith and Joyce Boudreaux, the Lady Bulldogs won 30 games and lost 2. Coach Loftin was again named NAIA Coach of the Year. The decade of the 1980s was the golden age of Lady Bulldog basketball.

Coach George Hauser’s Bulldog basketball team had its own measure of success in the 1980s. The Bulldogs won conference championships in 1984 and 1987. Outstanding Bulldog players of the 1980s were Jerry Jones, Rod Turney, Charles Harris, Flonzo Hollins, and Daron Harris.

The Southwestern Bulldog football team was led by two head coaches during the decade of the 1980s. During the first six years of the decade, Coach Bob Mazie’s teams were conference co-champions in 1980 and 1985. The Bulldogs featured All-America selections Carl Birdsong and Richard Lockman. Other outstanding players on Coach Mazie’s teams in the 1980s were David Thomkins, Steve Price, Gary Harper, Randy Webster, and Lonnie May. In the first six seasons of the 1980s, Coach Mazie’s Bulldogs had a combined record of 29-10-1.

Paul Sharp was named Bulldog head coach in 1986. Coming from a position as defensive coordinator at Lamar University, Coach Sharp assumed the duties of head coach for the first time. Coach Sharp’s Bulldogs posted a record of 19-21-0 for the last four seasons of the 1980s. In Coach Sharp’s first year, Bulldog running back James Hicks was named to the All-America Team. All-conference selections in the 1980s included Randy Messer, Todd Helton, Sohn Seifried, Kefrin Rusk, and David Johnson. Derrick Bailey set a Southwestern career record of 15 touchdown passes in 1986-89. David Johnson, Mark Baetz, and Todd Helton became football coaches after their playing careers at Southwestern. Todd Helton is now a coach for the Bulldogs.

The Southwestern rodeo team established
For the third time, Southwestern is the home of a national titlist Joe Ed Eckert, bareback champion. The other titles came in 1976 for steer wrestling and in 1979 for barrel racing. In 1980, Joe Ed won the National Bareback title at the College National Finals Rodeo in Bozeman, Montana.

a national reputation in the 1980s. Coach Don Mitchell led the men’s team to a national intercollegiate championship in 1985 and the women’s team to a national intercollegiate championship in 1988. Individual national intercollegiate men’s championships were won by Joe Eckart in bareback riding in 1980 and Marty Musil in steer wrestling in 1986. Individual national intercollegiate women’s championships were won in breakaway roping by Donelle Kvenild 1988 and Shannon Lord in 1989. In addition to the Southwestern rodeo team members who won intercollegiate rodeo championships in the 1980s, National Finals Rodeo champions were Kerri Beaman in breakaway roping in 1984, Bryan Wright in saddle bronc riding in 1985, Mark Ladnar and Wayne Smith in team roping, and Shannon Lord as all-around cowgirl in 1989.

Coach Larry Geurkink’s Bulldog baseball team won the conference championship in 1987. Coach Geurkink was named District 9 Coach of the Year, and Jeff Deckard was chosen District 9 Player of the Year. Outstanding Bulldog baseball players of the 1980s included Brad Lenaburg, Lawane Woody, Bobby Pearson, Kelly Gaunt, and Rick Castenada.

The Southwestern golf team won seven conference championships during the 1980s. Coach Otis Delaporte called the 1980 team “the best golf team in the history of the school.” The 1980 Bulldogs were the first team in Southwestern history to qualify for the national NAIA tournament after winning both the Oklahoma Collegiate Conference and District 9 championships. The team was led by Everett Dobson, who was a three-time all-conference and two-time District 9 all-star player in his career at Southwestern. Dobson is a member of the Southwestern Athletic Hall of Fame as well as member of the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame.
While repeating as conference champions in 1981, the team suffered a great loss when Coach Delaporte died of a heart attack on April 1, 1981, shortly after returning from a golf tournament at Cameron University. Cecil Perkins replaced Coach Delaporte as golf coach and athletic director in August, 1981. Coach Perkins continued the tradition by leading the golf team to five more conference championships during the decade of 1980s. He was named conference Coach of the Year three times during the 1980s. Rocky Walcher led the Bulldogs to four conference championships and represented the district in the national tournament.

The Bulldog track team won the conference championship in 1985 and 1986. Coach Tony McFarland was named Coach of the Year in 1985 when Howard Wise received the Most Valuable Player Award.

The Bulldog women’s tennis team qualified for the District 9 tournament in 1986. Coach Lin Murdock’s team was led by Melani Mouse and Dawn Engleman. In 1988, Herb White placed second in singles in the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Tournament.

The death of Coach Otis Delaporte marked the end of an era in Southwestern athletics. Coach Delaporte was appointed athletic director and head football coach of the Bulldogs in 1964. In his fourteen years as coach of the Bulldogs, he compiled a record of 94-48-2, making him the coach with the most wins in Southwestern history. His Bulldog football teams won six conference championships. His team was runner-up for the national championship in 1977. Coach Delaporte was inducted into the NAIA Coaches Hall of Fame in March, 1981, only three weeks before his death. In 1982, he was inducted into the Southwestern Athletic Hall of Fame.

Cecil Perkins, baseball coach and athletic director at Northwestern Oklahoma State University, was named athletic director and golf coach to succeed Delaporte in September, 1981. A former Bulldog quarterback, Perkins graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1954 and from Southwestern in 1960. He had coached at Carnegie High School and Northern Oklahoma College. Coach Perkins is currently in his twentieth year as athletic director and golf coach at Southwestern.

Several veteran faculty members retired in the 1980s. Dr. Grace Burcham retired as chair of Elementary Education in 1980 after twenty-four years at Southwestern. Dr. Burcham es-
established a legendary reputation as a teacher of elementary methods courses and taught most of the elementary teachers in western Oklahoma. In 1985, Dr. Burcham was inducted into the Southwestern Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. Dr. Eugene Hughes, English professor and former chair of the Language Arts Department, retired in December, 1987, after twenty-one years at Southwestern. Dr. Hughes led the Language Arts Department during its years of growth from sixteen faculty members in 1967 to thirty-three faculty members in 1972. His brilliant classroom teaching inspired a number of his students to continue their studies and to complete doctorates in English. Dr. Donald Hamm joined the Southwestern faculty in 1956. During his thirty-eight years at Southwestern, he served as chair of the Chemistry Department and as the first dean of the School of Arts and Science. He authored a chemistry textbook which was widely used in chemistry departments across the nation. Dr. Tom Gray taught biology for twenty-nine years before retiring in 1987. Dr. James Jurrens established a national and international reputation as a marching band director and a composer of band music in his seventeen years as chair of the Music Department and director of the Southwestern marching band.

On January 26, 1983, one of the most popular and colorful teachers at Southwestern died following heart surgery. Professor Ted Pyle taught writing courses and published numerous articles in magazines and newspapers. Dr. Leroy Thomas wrote a tribute which reflected the colorful character of Ted Pyle.

Mrs. Lorraine Witcher, who had been a Southwestern employee for 38 years, retired in 1985. Mrs. Witcher began her employment at Southwestern in 1947 in the Business Office. From 1961-1985, she was secretary and administrative assistant for Dr. Louis Morris and Dr. Earl Reynolds in the office of the dean of instruction and the office of the vice president for academic affairs. In 1989-90, she returned to work half-time as secretary to the president.

As the 1980s ended, events were in motion which would bring major changes to Southwestern in the next decade. In September, 1989, President Leonard Campbell announced his retirement effective June 30, 1990. The process to select a new president for Southwestern began in December, 1989. With the beginning of the new decade, Southwestern would inaugurate a new president to lead the University into the last decade of the twentieth


**ADMINISTRATION**
Dr. Donald Hamm – 38 years
Dr. Freda Johnson – 17 years
Mr. Robert Maynard – 27 years
Dr. Earl Reynolds – 33 years
Dr. Warren Wilson – 15 years

**BIOLOGY**
Dr. Bucna Ballard – 15 years
Dr. Roy Dick – 20 years
Dr. Tom Gray – 29 years

**BUSINESS**
Dr. Thomas L. Foster – 18 years
Dr. Dale Hanson – 28 years
Dr. Verda McKellips – 21 years
Dr. Ruby Robertson – 21 years

**CHEMISTRY**
Dr. G.E. Castleberry – 28 years

**EDUCATION**
Dr. Harold Budde – 29 years
Dr. Grace Burcham – 24 years
Dr. Charlotte Lam – 19 years
Dr. Morris Robertson – 20 years

**HOME ECONOMICS**
Mrs. Helen Brown – 18 years

**HPER**
Mrs. Ernestine Wright – 19 years

**LANGUAGE ARTS**
Mrs. Bernice Delaney – 9 years
Mr. George Hejna – 17 years
Mr. Con Hood – 17 years
Dr. Eugene Hughes – 21 years
Ms. Elsie Lang – 15 years
Mrs. Joanna Roper – 13 years
Mrs. Irene Rowlett – 21 years
Dr. Anna Laun Smith – 14 years
Mr. Richard Wilson – 17 years

**LIBRARY**
Mr. Charles Ingram – 14 years

**MATHEMATICS**
Dr. Raymond McKellips – 28 years

**MUSIC**
Mr. Paul Fry – 19 years
Dr. James Jurrens – 17 years
Dr. Merle Taff – 34 years

**PHARMACY**
Dr. Floyd Ulrich – 15 years

**PHYSICS**
Dr. Edwin Green – 12 years

**SOCIAL SCIENCES**
Dr. Wayne Ellinger – 26 years
Mr. Lee Jones – 20 years
Dr. Clarence Petrowsky – 24 years
Mr. Henry Reynolds – 18 years
Mr. Robert W. Wininger – 14 years

**TECHNOLOGY**
Mr. G.B. Stotts – 18 years

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**Ted Pyle**
1934-1983

*Portraiture — Ted*

Departmental ray of light — stolen by subtle thief Death.
Leaving happy memories of a
Giggler, hee-hawer, overcome with his own laughter
Over a private joke or a student faux pas.
A trick-player but also a sport when the trick was on him.
No one’s rubber stamp — a man of his own —
Even among the Big Boys —
Self-styled complainer
Willing to fight for something considered right.
Crusty exterior almost concealing sensitive nature —
With a Christian heart and soul.
Happy memories of an inspired
Teacher, scholar, and devoted friend.
Death — an empty word
For
Ted.

By: Leroy Thomas
**MISS SOUTHWESTERN**
1980  Trayce Jo Bradford
1981  Candace Lawrenz
1982  Cinda Hill
1983  Cathy Reinschmidt
1984  Rebecca Dorrough
1985  Rhonda Hoeksema
1986  Tracy Lea Tims
1987  Paige Daily
1988  Kimberly Swails
1989  Lori Entz

**HOMECOMING QUEENS**
1980  Lisa Patterson
1981  Leslie Carter
1982  Diane Johnson
1983  Melanie Mouse
1984  Amy Stone
1985  Susan Tennery
1986  Becky Bond
1987  Cheryl Garmon
1988  Traci Hamric
1989  Trilby Long

**SOUTHWESTERN DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HALL OF FAME**
1980  Dawson “Tack” Nail
       Richard D. Shelby
1981  Harry Mabry
       Joe Schwemin
1982  Ed Berrong
       W.T. Malone
1983  Margaret Renz Replogle
       Frances Avritt Curb
       M.A. Diel
1984  Rudie and Gladys (Jarvis) Janzen
       Richard (Dick) Moore
       Dr. Louis Morris
1985  Dr. Grace M. Burcham
       Dr. Rollin D. Reimer
1986  Bob and Betsy Magness
       Yvonne Kauger
1987  Ron Anderson
       Anita Burgdorf Pauwels
1988  Frank Polk
       Stan Powers
1989  Darrel Bose
       Bryant Potter

1980-1989: Curriculum, Computers, and a New Campus
The 1984 football cheerleading corps, circling Brandy, consisted of (clockwise from upper left): Marta Payne, Paula Danley, Lori Goodwin, Shelly Jacques, Debra Hallmark, Melody King, Kathy Foster, and Susan Sweigart.

Kelli Litsch cuts down the net after hitting the winning basket in the NAIA championship game in 1985.

Pharmacy students Marsha Ingram and Alice Anglin work on a pharmacy club project.

David Johnson takes a break during a football game in 1987.

Tamara Walker, Miss Oklahoma USA, performs for students on Las Vegas night.

At the May, 1990, commencement exercises, 1989 Southwestern football players wear yellow ribbons to honor their late teammate Chris "Hammer" Norman.
As the 1990s began, Southwestern entered a new period of administrative leadership. With President Campbell’s announcement that he would retire on June 30, 1990, the process of selecting a new president began in December, 1989. The usual excitement that goes with the selection of a new president was heightened when Dr. Joe Anna Hibler, vice president for academic affairs, applied for the president’s position. The faculty and administration began a campaign to support Dr. Hibler’s application for the position.

On Monday, April 23, 1990, Dr. Joe Anna Hibler was named the fifteenth President of Southwestern Oklahoma State University. The announcement was made at a reception in the Student Union Ballroom attended by a large crowd of faculty, administrators, community members, and friends. When Regent Wayne Salisbury made the announcement, President Hibler entered the room to a long standing ovation. In her speech, President Hibler expressed appreciation to her mother, Bess Hibler, for the influence and support she had provided throughout her life. The new president traced her long association with Southwestern from her first year as a freshman on the campus to her appointment as president. In her final remarks, she thanked the audience for their support and friendship and assured them that nothing would change in her relationship to the faculty and her friends. She stated, “I was ‘Joe Anna’ when I first arrived on this campus, and I will be ‘Joe Anna’ as long as I remain at Southwestern.” She received another standing ovation at the end of her remarks.

Dr. Leonard Campbell retired as president on June 30, 1990. In his fifteen years as president, Dr. Campbell had led Southwestern through the affluent days of the oil boom and the lean days of the oil bust. He had presided over the construction of the Fine Arts Center and the Margaret Renz Replogle Music Hall and had withstood the budget cuts of...
over $1,000,000 in 1983. During Dr. Campbell’s presidency, the University had been restructured to include five schools headed by deans with an academic vice president supervising the entire academic program. President Campbell was proud of the athletic program he had built and the athletic director and head coaches who had been employed in his tenure as president. Southwestern had matured as an academic institution under President Campbell’s leadership. In 1997, the former Mathematics and Business Building was renamed the Campbell Building in honor of Dr. James R. Campbell, the first president of Southwestern Normal, and Dr. Leonard Campbell, the fourteenth president of Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Pictures of both of the presidents are displayed on the dedication plaque in the Campbell Building, a lasting tribute to their service to Southwestern.

Dr. Joe Anna Hibler assumed the presidency of Southwestern on July 1, 1990. As the fifteenth president in the history of Southwestern, Dr. Hibler became the first woman president of Southwestern and the first woman president in Oklahoma since 1935. President Hibler began her career at Southwestern as a freshman student in 1957. After completing a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Education in 1960, she taught for four years at Altus High School. In 1965, she joined the Southwestern faculty as an instructor in the Division of Business. Rising steadily through the ranks, she was chair of the Office Administration/Business Education Department, dean of the School of Business, and executive vice president for academic affairs before being appointed as president. No other president in the history of Oklahoma education could claim such a record.

In addition to the appointment of Dr. Joe Anna Hibler as president, several other University administrators were appointed during the 1990s. In June, 1990, Dr. Bob Brown, dean of the Graduate School, was named to replace Dr. Hibler as vice president for academic affairs. Dr. Brown continued to serve as dean of the Graduate School until July, 1991, when Dr. Bill Kermis was named to fill the position. In the fall of 1991, Dr. Ken Rose was appointed chair of the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Department. In February, 1992, Mr. Brian Adler was appointed director of public relations. Dr. Paulette Woods became vice president for student services in June, 1993. In May, 1994, Dr. John Folks was selected to
fill the position of dean of the School of Education. Dr. Folks, the former state superintendent of public instruction, served as dean until 1997. Dr. Bill Kermis was promoted from his position as dean of the Graduate School to the post of vice president for academic affairs in July, 1997. In July, 1998, Dr. Dan Dill, dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, was promoted to dean of the Graduate School and associate vice president for academic affairs. In July, 1998, Dr. Vilas Prabhu was appointed to serve as dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. No other decade in the history of Southwestern has witnessed so many administrative changes.

The retirement of numerous administrators and faculty brought significant changes to the University in the 1990s. In February, 1992, Mr. Otis Sanders retired after eleven years as director of public relations. In July, 1992, Mr. Mark Mouse retired as director of high school relations and placement services. During his twenty-five years in that position, Mr. Mouse had become "Mr. Southwestern" to thousands of Southwestern students he had recruited from high schools across the state. Many public school teachers had been placed in their positions through the Placement Office directed by Mr. Mouse. In July, 1997, Dr. Bob Brown retired from his position as vice president for academic affairs. He had also served as dean of men and dean of the Graduate School during his twenty years at Southwestern. Dean Fred Janzen retired in July, 1992, after serving 21 years as dean of students. Three faculty members who had served as academic deans retired in the 1990s—Dr. Roger Egerton in the School of Business, Dr. Bernard Keller in the School of Pharmacy, and Dr. Homer Timmons in the School of Pharmacy. Dr. Timmons had been on the faculty for 38 years before his retirement in 1994. Another long-time faculty member, Dr. Al Gabriel, retired in 1994 after 38 years at Southwestern. Dr. Benny Hill retired in 1990 as chair of the Physics Department after 26 years on the faculty at Southwestern. Dr. Jana Lou Scott taught at Southwestern for 33 years before her retirement in 1999. Dr. Jerry Nye retired in 1999 after 32 years on the faculty at Southwestern, the last 21 years as chair of the Language Arts Department.

As the 1990s began, Southwestern enrollment stood at nearly 5,500. By the end of the decade, enrollment had declined to slightly less than 5,000. Economic conditions, fewer public school graduates, and increased competition for students among the colleges and uni-
The music hall. 

versities of Oklahoma accounted for this decline. Near the end of the decade, Southwestern launched a new recruiting emphasis designed to increase enrollment as well as new strategies to retain students until they had completed their degree programs. The total number of degrees granted by Southwestern increased from 860 in 1990 to 1,017 in 1999. By the end of the decade, Southwestern had instituted new recruiting techniques, an improved system of student advisement, and an increased use of mass media to attract students to the university.

The 1990s brought dramatic changes to the campus with the construction of new buildings, the purchase of buildings near the campus, and the renovation of existing buildings. In 1990, a new physical plant was built, which gave the maintenance department much-needed space for offices, storage, and construction. The former maintenance building was converted to a theatre scene shop. In 1994, the Music Hall was constructed, providing space for departmental offices, faculty offices, classrooms, practice rooms, and performance rooms. In 1997, a new green house was completed which served the Biology Department as well as provided plants and trees for campus landscaping. In 1994, a Student Union building was constructed on the Sayre Campus.

In June, 1994, the old Music Building, a campus landmark, was razed to make room for a new building to be constructed on that site. The building was the first Southwestern gymnasium, constructed in 1925. It served as the gymnasium until December, 1957, when the new gymnasium was dedicated and named for Rankin Williams, the coach who, along with Coach Joe B. Milam, designed the original gymnasium. When the destruction of the building began on June 11, 1994, workmen discovered a time capsule behind the cornerstone of the building. The time capsule contained a 1925-26 fall quarterly bulletin, a November 3, 1925, issue of The Southwestern, a 1900 quarter, and a 1925 penny. The former gymnasium had been the scene of many memorable basketball games and wrestling matches in the early glory days of Southwestern sports.
The major building project of the 1990s was the construction of the General Thomas P. Stafford Center, a 60,000 square foot building located on the site of the original Southwestern gymnasium. Named in honor of Thomas P. Stafford, astronaut and Weatherford native, the building includes computer labs, classrooms, conference rooms, offices, and a lecture hall named in honor of Dr. William Bernhardt and his wife Theda Juan, graduates and benefactors of Southwestern. The Stafford Center also houses the School of Business, the Computer Science Department, the Computer Services Office, and several offices of Student Services. The building is named for General Stafford to honor his accomplishments in the space program, his work in establishing a Southwestern scholarship endowment program, and his generous financial contributions to the funding of the building. General Stafford spoke at the dedication of the building on February 14, 1996.

During the 1990s, several buildings adjacent to the campus were purchased and converted for university use. In 1990, a former fast food restaurant south of Stewart Hall was converted for use as the Public Safety Office. The former Lutheran Church across from Milam Stadium became the Conference Center in 1991. A former sorority house across from Neff Hall was converted to become the Assessment Center in 1993. A former nursing home across from Milam Stadium became the University Print Shop. The Southwestern Stu-
dent Government Association found its first home when the White House, a former dwelling, was opened south of the former president’s home. The former president’s home was converted to office space and named the Burton House in honor of Dr. Harold Burton, the twelfth president of Southwestern. In 1995, the Y Chapel became Southwestern’s first museum. Dr. Michael Kerley, chair of the Biology Department, supervised the renovation and began collecting memorabilia to display in the museum.

When the School of Business moved to the Stafford Center in 1996, the Mathematics and Business Building was renovated with new departmental suites for the Language Arts Department and Mathematics Department, new faculty offices, and newly-decorated classrooms. A major renovation of the Science Building was begun in 1999 and completed in 2000. The Science Building renovation included new faculty offices, improved classrooms, departmental offices for the Biology Department and the Medical Records Department, and a suite of offices for the dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. The construction projects and building renovations of the 1990s brought major improvements to Southwestern both in the effectiveness of instruction and the quality of student life.

In addition to new administrators and new buildings, two new programs were inaugurated in the 1990s. In 1991, the Panorama Series was inaugurated through a grant from Southwestern Bell. The series brought outstanding entertainment to Southwestern. The first event was *King Lear*, performed by the National Shakespeare Theatre Troup. Other programs that year featured Linda Ellerbee, television news journalist; George Plimpton, writer and literary personality; and country music performers Carlene Carter and Dan Seals. Other Panorama programs in the 1990s featured the Count Basie Orchestra, the Kingston Trio, Dr. Arthur Schlesinger, and journalist Bettina Gregory. The Panorama Series continues to bring
outstanding entertainment to the Southwestern campus.

In 1994, Dr. Bill and Theda Juan Bernhardt established the Bernhardt Academic Excellence Award. The award is presented to one faculty member each year in recognition of excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service to the university and community. The award includes a cash award of $2,500 and a Waterford crystal desk set. The first recipient of the Bernhardt Academic Excellence Award was Dr. Vilas Prabhu, professor of chemistry. The award is presented each year at a faculty dinner funded by Bill and Theda Juan Bernhardt to honor the recipients and the faculty of Southwestern.

The 1990s was a time of renewed student activities and departmental enrichment programs. The forensics program was revived after several years of inactivity. Mrs. Sherrie Sharp organized a team and began competition in the fall of 1990. The first year, Lorenzo Dunford, Wendy Weber, and Vandy Cramer qualified to compete in the national tournament. The team continued to develop and become more competitive. In the fall of 1991, Mr. Jeff Gentry joined the faculty as an assistant coach of forensics. For the remainder of the decade, members of the forensics team qualified for the national tournament. When Sherrie Sharp entered private business in 1997, Jeff Gentry became coach of the team. In the spring of 1998, the forensics team won its first state championship by placing first in the Oklahoma State Forensics Tournament at Ada. Two members of that team, Jason Hough and Sunny Craig, won the national championship in debate. Jeff Gentry and Robin Jones now coach the forensics team, which has established a national reputation for excellence.

On November 12, 1991, Dr. Leroy Thomas, professor of English and editor of Westview was inducted into the Western Oklahoma Hall of Fame. Dr. Thomas was honored for his ten years as editor of Westview as well as for his scholarly publications and creative writing, especially his poetry. Dr. Thomas was the first person to earn a

1990-1999: The End of a Century
Dr. James Breckenridge, music professor and coordinator of the Oklahoma Beethoven Society Inaugural Festival, slips into the role of Beethoven at a piano in his office.

Ph.D. in English at Oklahoma State University. Dr. Thomas died unexpectedly of a heart attack while attending church services at the First Baptist Church on September 13, 1992.

The Westview Writers Festival brought outstanding writers to the Southwestern campus during the 1990s. Under the leadership of Professor Fred Alsberg and Professor Joyce Stoffers, the Westview Writer’s Festival has featured prominent writers such as Miller Williams, Walter McDonald, and W.P. Kinsella, who presented workshops and readings of their works. Since its beginning in 1992, the festival has grown in both the quality of the speakers as well as the number of students, faculty, and area residents who attend the events.

The Music Department marked two milestones in the 1990s. In February, 1995, the Southwestern Jazz Festival celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. The guest soloist for the Twenty-Fifth Annual Jazz Festival was Clark Terry, who had been the guest soloist for the first Jazz Festival in 1971. In April, 1996, Southwestern hosted the Oklahoma Beethoven Society Inaugural Festival under the leadership of Dr. James Breckenridge. The festival featured performances by a number of outstanding pianists including the internationally re-
nounced guest solo artist Fernando Laires. In a lighter moment, Dr. Breckenridge, dressed as Beethoven, posed at a piano in his office. Southwestern has continued to host the Beethoven Society Festival each spring.

A change in leadership marked the 1990s in the Theatre Department at Southwestern. The three drama directors, who had all begun directing productions in the 1960s, retired. With his last production of The Shadow Box, Jack Shaw retired in the spring of 1991. Professor Shaw had taught speech, directed plays, and coached forensics since 1968. With her dinner theatre production of Beauty Meets the Beast, Delenna Rogers Williams retired in the spring of 1992 after teaching English, speech, and theatre and directing dramatic productions since 1966. In the spring of 1994, Claude Kezer directed his last production, A Company of Wayward Saints, before retiring after teaching speech and theatre and directing plays since 1969.

Steve Strickler, an outstanding theatre student and graduate of Southwestern, was employed as an instructor and drama director in the fall of 1992. Mr. Strickler’s first production, The Rainmaker, suggested the impressive shows which would follow. Other memorable shows directed by Mr. Strickler in the 1990s included Of Mice and Men, Blue Plains, The Little Foxes, and The Cover of Life. The dramatic productions directed by Mr. Strickler have won numerous awards in the Oklahoma Theatre Festival competition. Two other drama teachers in the 1990s, Rozilyn Miller and Scott Crew, directed excellent dramatic productions. Rozilyn Miller directed outstanding productions of Agnes of God and Godspell. Scott Crew presented memorable performances of Sylvia and Wings.

Curriculum changes affected several departments in the 1990s. Three new academic degree programs were approved during the 1990s. The Bachelor of Science in Health Science degree, approved in 1997, was designed to provide students with career training in the health care field. In response to numerous requests from students interested in broadcasting and journalism as careers, the Mass Communications degree program was approved in 1996. In 1996, the Doctor of Pharmacy de-
degree was approved, marking the first time a doctoral program was offered on the Southwestern campus. The budget cuts of 1993 resulted in the closing of the Home Economics Department, which was phased out in 1995.

Other changes took place in the 1990s that would have a lasting effect on Southwestern. In 1992, an interactive video system was installed which allowed Southwestern to offer classes to students on the Sayre campus as well as other locations in western Oklahoma. In August, 1997, Southwestern took over the operation of Crowder Lake. Major improvements in the facilities and a full-time park supervisor made Crowder Lake a popular recreation area for students and residents of the area. Because of a low occupancy rate in men’s dormitories, Quanah Parker Hall was closed in May, 1997. A campus tradition ended in May, 1994, with the publication of the last Bulldog, the campus yearbook. The Bulldog was replaced by The Graduate Record, a magazine-format publication which includes the pictures of the senior class members and sections devoted to major campus events such as sports events, queen crowning, organization activities, and campus life.

The Southwestern Oklahoma State University Foundation progressed to new heights in the 1990s. The Foundation was established on May 23, 1977, as an organization to promote Southwestern through endowments, scholarship funds, and private contributions. The Charter Board of Trustees members were Ed Berrong, Sr., Dr. Leonard Campbell, Paul Flick, Jr., Dr. W.W. Ward, and R. Lamar Crall. By 1978, the Foundation had raised $32,500. In 1990, Foundation assets had grown to $836,900. By 2000, the Foundation had grown to assets totaling $7,000,000. Under the leadership of Foundation Director Jim Waites and the Board of Trustees, the Foundation will continue to raise funds for scholarships, endowed chairs, and faculty development. The Foundation will also contribute to the construction of a Wellness Center, an Intramural Varsity Athletic Complex, and a Student Center.

During the 1990s, the Southwestern campus was saddened by the untimely deaths of faculty members and students. In January, 1996, Barbara Matthews, assistant professor of Business Administration, suffered a heart attack in the Stafford Building. A memorial
One of the many untimely deaths in the 1990s was Alvin Milton (3), being congratulated after scoring the winning touchdown against East Central. A few hours later, Alvin and three other athletes were killed in a car accident.

A Dr. James Blagowsky Memorial Scholarship was established in his honor. On August 25, 1998, Molly Strickler, wife of Language Arts faculty member Steve Strickler, died after a lengthy illness. Molly was a graduate student and university secretary as well as an accomplished actress in several dramatic productions. The entire campus and community became involved in benefit activities to raise funds for Molly’s medical treatments. A large number of celebrities such as Brooke Shields, Pam Tillis, and Richard Petty sent items to be auctioned and letters of support for Molly. A theatre scholarship fund was established by her husband, family, and friends to honor the memory of Molly Strickler, whose courage inspired everyone who knew her.

On October 27, 1996, four Southwestern athletes were killed in a traffic accident near Hydro. Alvin Ray Milton, Charles “Chucky” Gulley, Telly Gatewood, and Cornelious “Wheezy” Chiles were killed when their car went out of control in a rain storm and was struck by a truck. Only a few hours earlier, Alvin Milton had caught a pass for the game winning touchdown in the Bulldog victory over the East Central Tigers. On October 30, students, faculty, friends, family, and team members attended a memorial service in the Rankin Williams Field House to honor the athletes. Coach Paul Sharp announced that the football team would wear Milton’s number 3 on the back of their helmets to honor their teammate. Coach George Hauser dedicated the season to Chiles, Gatewood, and Gulley, all members of the Bulldog basketball team. The basketball team wore the initials of their fallen teammates on their jerseys during the season. Memorial trees were planted in honor of the athletes in front of the Rankin Williams Field House.

Southwestern sports changed dramatically in 1997 when the university left the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and

1990-1999: The End of a Century
Coach Paul Sharp was named the Rawlings NAIA Coach of the Year in 1996.

The 1996 NAIA football champions hold up three fingers in remembrance of their teammate, No. 3 Alvin Milton, who was killed in a car wreck earlier in the school year.

moved up to the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II. This move brought about a higher level of competition and new conference opponents. Several of Southwestern's traditional opponents from the former Oklahoma Collegiate Conference also made the move upward, preserving some of the historic rivalries.

Southwestern football reached its highest point in history when the Bulldogs won the NAIA national championship in 1996. After winning the conference championship, the Bulldogs entered the national playoffs where they defeated traditional rival Northwestern to qualify for the national championship game against Montana Tech. The Bulldogs defeated the Orediggers 33-31 for the national championship. In an emotional moment at the end of the game, Coach Sharp and the team gathered on the field and stood silently for a few moments, holding up three fingers in honor of Alvin Milton, their fallen teammate. Coach Paul Sharp was named the Rawlings NAIA Coach of the Year. Reggie Jackson, Willie Brown, Robert Newberg, and Yohance Brown were named to the All-America First Team.

The Bulldogs were conference co-champs twice more in the 1990s in 1992 and 1997. John Wichert, Junior Lowden, and Yohance Brown were two-time All-America selections during the 1990s. As the 1990s drew to a close, Bulldog football ended an era with a national title and began a new era with the move to the NCAA level.

Coach George Hauser led the Bulldog men's basketball team to another conference
The Lady Bulldogs, national champions again.

Led by Cal Clinton, Damion Porter, and Barry Schwarz, the Bulldogs posted a record of 20-12 and earned a spot in the national tournament where they lost to Masters of California in the first round. Coach Hauser was again chosen as conference Coach of the Year. With the deaths of Charles Gulley, Cornelius Chiles, and Telly Gatewood, the Bulldog basketball team was devastated. Coach Hauser began a rebuilding program which produced positive results at the end of the decade.

The Lady Bulldogs continued their winning ways in the decade of the 1990s. The Lady Bulldogs won their fifth national championship in 1990, posting a record of 30-4. Kris Lorenz, Carla Duncan, and Valerie Fariss led the team, with freshman Valerie Fariss named to the all-tournament team. Coach Loftin was named District 9 Coach of the Year and NAIA Coach of the Year.

For the first nine years of the 1990s, the Lady Bulldogs reached the NAIA national tournament. The Lady Bulldogs were NAIA runner-up in 1991 and semifinalists in 1992, 1993, and 1995. For the decade of the 1990s, the Lady Bulldogs posted a record of 260-61. During the 1990s, Jackie Snodgrass, Linda Broomfield, Lisa McMullen, and Denise Jones were chosen for the NAIA All-America First Team. Coach Loftin and the Lady Bulldogs continued to be a dominant force in the last decade of the twentieth century.

Coach Don Mitchell’s Southwestern rodeo

The Bulldog baseball team won the District 9 championship in 1992. Doug Kaiser, Josh Neece, and Ray Oakes led the team in pitching while Rhett Butler, Chuck Frizzell, and Ricky Morris were the leading hitters. Coach Larry Geurkink retired in May, 1998, after leading the Bulldog baseball team for twenty-two seasons. On April 14, 1998, Coach Geurkink won his 600th game as coach of the Bulldogs. Coach Geurkink was only the fourth coach in the history of Bulldog baseball. Charles Teasley was named to replace Coach Geurkink. Coach Teasley had compiled an outstanding high school coaching record, winning three state championships at Yukon High School and Weatherford High School. Teasley played second base for the 1971 Bulldog team that competed in the national tournament. Coach Teasley became the fifth coach of the Bulldogs, following in the footsteps of Rankin Williams, Jerry Jobe, Cecil Devine, and Larry Geurkink.

Southwestern golf continued to dominate the competition in the 1990s. The men's team won nine championships in the decade. Golfers named to the All-America team included Donnie Stokes, Greg Jones, Russell Smith, and Cory Smith, who was named to the All-America Team three times during the decade. In 1992, Coach Cecil Perkins was inducted into the NAIA Coaches Hall of Fame. In 1995, Southwestern began a women's golf team. The first scholarship recruit was Kayla Freeman, who became the first Bulldog woman golfer to earn All-America honors. Freeman was named to the All-America team in 1996 and 1998 and was named NCAA Woman of the Year for Oklahoma in 1999. In
1997, Rachel Preble-Poole and Melanie Folsom earned All-America honors as they led the team to third place in the national tournament. Rachel Preble-Poole finished second in the individual competition in the national tournament in 1997.

Other sports for women made news in the 1990s. Women’s track recorded a banner year in 1996. The Bulldog women’s track team won the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Conference championship. The cross country team won the NAIA national championship. Nicole Goldston was the individual cross country national champion. Coach Kevin Lawler was named conference Coach of the Year. Southwestern expanded the women’s sports program by adding women’s softball in 1997 and women’s soccer in 1998.

Coach Rocky Powell and Coach Kelli Litsch led the Bulldog tennis teams in the 1990s. In 1991, Wayne Thomas was runner-up in both the conference and District 9 competition. In 1993, the Bulldog men’s team was runner-up in the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Conference tournament. Coach Litsch led the 1993 Lady Bulldog tennis team to a record of 29-4 and a third place finish in the District 9 playoffs. Jennifer Crowe and Angela Ray led the team in 1993. Tennis was dropped as a varsity sport at the end of the 1998 season.

In the fall of 1999, Southwestern fielded its first men’s soccer team with Jim Loomis as head coach. With the inauguration of a soccer program in the last year of the century, Southwestern had progressed from a football team that did not finish the season in 1903 because of a lack of support to an athletic program that fielded both men’s and women’s teams in every major sport. As the century ended, Southwestern athletics had established a proud tradition and stood ready to move into a new century.

As the 1990s ended and the twenty-first century dawned, Southwestern could look back on a century that began with a bare hillside overlooking the frontier town of Weatherford and ended with a modern university standing firmly on the hilltop. From 1903 when the idea of an institution of higher education in western Oklahoma was only a dream in the hearts of the frontier people to 1999 when Southwestern was the leading university in western Oklahoma, Southwestern had withstood a devastating depression, four wars, and numerous financial crises and political threats. As the twentieth century ended on December 31, 1999, Southwestern stood ready to face the challenges of the twenty-first century.

1990-1999: The End of a Century
BERNHARDT ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD
1994 Dr. Vilas Prabhu
1995 Dr. Stuart Burchett
1996 Dr. Gary Wolgamott
1997 Dr. Terry Segress
1998 Dr. James Hunsicker
1999 Dr. Jill Jones

SOUTHWESTERN DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HALL OF FAME
1990 Bill Brewster
Ronald Scott
1991 W.G. Bernhardt, M.D.
Norma Foreman Glasgow
1992 Arch Alexander
Nelson Sims
1993 James R. Bates
Charles E. Capshew
William R. Romig
1994 Colonel Jerry Wayne Grizzle
Dr. David Siegler
1995 James Ferguson
Jesus B. Lucero
1996 James L. Males, M.D.
Lorena G. Males
1997 M. Keith Dodson
Henrietta Mann
Richard Morris, M.D.
1998 Dr. James Rhymer
Gary Dean Russi
1999 Carolyn Buckenmaier
Jim Mogg
Donald L. Weeks

MISS SOUTHWESTERN
1990 Tamara Walker
1991 Jennifer Chapman
yielded crown to Gayle Ousley
1992 Stephanie Gunning
1993 Nancy Simpson
1994 Teresa Biddle
1995 Lori Ann Kromer
1996 Ann Marie Perkins
1997 Lacey Legnon
1998 Tascha Lawless
1999 Kara King

Dr. Vilas A. Prabhu, professor of medicinal chemistry, School of Pharmacy, received the first Academic Excellence Award.
Sunny Craig, Homecoming Queen, 1995

HOMECOMING QUEENS
1990 Dayna McGuire
1991 Casey Greenroyd and April Moon, co-Queens
1992 Richell Dodoo
1993 Jennifer Travis
1994 Erin McGuire
1995 Sunny Craig
1996 Kay Robinson
1997 Carrie Trusler
1998 Danielle Felts
1999 Ginamarie Scott

HOMECOMING KINGS
1998 Steve McLemore
1999 Scott Duncan

Sunny Craig, Homecoming Queen, 1995

RETIREES IN THE 1990s

ADMINISTRATION
Dr. Bob Brown – 20 years
President Leonard Campbell – 15 years
Mr. Mark Mouse – 25 years
Mr. Otis Sanders – 11 years
Dr. Fred Janzen – 21 years

ART
Mr. George Calvert – 12 years
Ms. Marge Donley – 19 years
Dr. Park Lang – 27 years
Mr. Leroy Schultz – 22 years

BIOLGY
Dr. Allen Badgett – 26 years
Dr. Harry Henson – 23 years
Dr. Henry Kirkland – 24 years
Dr. Robert Lynn – 26 years

BUSINESS
Mr. Lamar Crall – 29 years
Dr. Roger Egerton – 30 years
Dr. Pauline Fahlke – 24 years
Dr. Al Gabriel – 38 years
Dr. Charles Page – 29 years
Mr. Earl Raleigh – 25 years
Dr. Robert Redder – 15 years

CHEMISTRY
Dr. Talbert Brown – 29 years
Dr. Rolan Decker – 31 years
Dr. Harold Frame – 27 years
Dr. Bobby Gunter – 29 years
Dr. Marvin Weber – 27 years
Dr. Harold White – 31 years

COMPUTER SCIENCE
Mr. George Atkins – 32 years

EDUCATION
Dr. Dean Wheeler – 16 years
Mrs. Opal Hampton-Crall – 8 years
Dr. William David – 11 years
Dr. James Kitchens – 28 years
Dr. Jana Lou Scott – 33 years
Dr. Wanda Stimson – 11 years
Dr. Pauline Travis – 10 years
Dr. Kay Williams – 12 years
Dr. E. T. Woody – 34 years

HOME ECONOMICS
Dr. Virginia Dick – 26 years
Mrs. Be Fiegel – 24 years
Dr. Keren Miller – 28 years

HPER
Mr. Larry Geurkink – 22 years
Dr. Charles Hundley – 25 years
Mrs. Joella Hundley – 25 years
Dr. Lin Murdock – 31 years

LANGUAGE ARTS
Dr. Jeanne Ellinger – 27 years
Mrs. Lois Fisher – 23 years
Mrs. Linda Howard – 6 years
Mr. Claude Kezer – 25 years
Dr. Robert Sam Lackey – 28 years
Dr. Caroline Mitchell – 10 years
Mr. John McCoy – 21 years
Dr. Jerry Nye – 32 years
Mr. Jack Shaw – 23 years
Mrs. Mona Jean Suter – 27 years
Mrs. Eleanor Waggoner – 27 years
Mrs. Delonna Williams – 26 years

LIBRARY
Mrs. Marinelle Ellinger – 23 years

MATHEMATICS
Dr. Gerald Church – 30 years
Dr. Verlin Koper – 28 years
Dr. Don Prock – 33 years
Mr. Dan Williams – 27 years

MUSIC
Mr. Kenneth Snyder – 19 years

PHARMACY
Dr. David Coates – 31 years
Dr. Pedro (Pete) Huerta – 20 years
Dr. Bernard Keller – 25 years
Dr. Charles Nithman – 26 years
Dr. Peter Ratto – 15 years
Dr. Homer Timmons – 38 years
Dr. W.G. Waggoner – 23 years
Dr. William Waggoner – 21 years
Dr. Neal Weber – 30 years
Mrs. Lynne Young-Studier – 23 years

PHYSICS
Dr. Benny Hill – 26 years

SOCIAL SCIENCES
Mrs. Ruth Atterberry – 12 years
Dr. Kay Branson – 25 years
Mrs. Sara Chapman – 18 years
Mr. Jim Crabb – 9 years
Dr. Melvin Fiegel – 29 years
Dr. Robin Montgomery – 28 years
Dr. Gary Tompkins – 25 years

TECHNOLOGY
Dr. Roy Gillaspy – 10 years
Dr. James Griffin – 28 years
Dr. Don Mitchell – 32 years

1990-1999: The End of a Century
Mood of the 1990s

Chris Wiser improvises a solo as the jazz band entertains the Homecoming crowd in 1990.

Brandy the Bulldog applies a bear hug to athletic director Cecil Perkins.

The Pharmacy marker stands guard outside one of the best pharmaceutical degree institutions in the nation.

Many students find the deck outside the Student Union as a great place for a rest.

Football player Jake Jensen helps a child from the Child Development Lab try on the football equipment.

Oklahoma-Native America Kiowa Tribal Princess Amber Toppah.

The year 2000 began normally on the Southwestern campus with no evidence of the dreaded Y2K bug. The computer system did not crash. Water still flowed from the fountains and showers. Class enrollment sheets were correct. The first semester of the twenty-first century brought no trauma to the Southwestern campus.

As the year 2000 went on, however, major developments began to occur on the Southwestern campus. On July 21, President Joe Anna Hibler announced her retirement effective June 30, 2001, after eleven years as president. Her retirement marks the completion of a 41 year career in education with 37 of those years on the Southwestern campus. Her last year as president was highlighted by the Centennial Celebration on March 8, 2001, marking the 100 year anniversary of the founding of Southwestern.

President Hibler leaves a lasting legacy at Southwestern. In her eleven years as president, Dr. Hibler has led the effort to develop an outstanding faculty and staff. When she became president in 1990, sixty per cent of the faculty were eligible to retire in the next five years. As those outstanding faculty members retired, they were replaced by excellent faculty who will carry on the Southwestern tradition. Physical facilities have improved with new offices for faculty and improved classroom space. Computer upgrading for faculty and students has allowed greater access to the internet and campus information. Southwestern has set a standard in distance learning through the interactive system. The approval of the Doctor of Pharmacy degree sets Southwestern apart from the other senior regional
universities in Oklahoma.

President Hibler can be proud of the financial gains that have come under her administration. The Southwestern Foundation has grown from $800,000 when she became president to nearly $7,000,000 today. The establishment of a formal sponsored programs office has increased grants and contracts from less than $300,000 per year to over $3,000,000 per year. The Business Development Center is recognized and applauded by legislators and business leaders in Oklahoma. The strong relationship that has been established with alumni and the Weatherford business community will continue to bring benefits to Southwestern. When President Hibler retires on June 30, 2001, she can look back on a distinguished career that began when she enrolled as a freshman at Southwestern in 1957 and ends with the title of President Emeritus.

President Hibler appointed a Centennial Planning Committee in the spring of 2000 to begin work on the Centennial Celebration. The committee chose a Centennial logo to be displayed on Southwestern stationery, publications, banners, and athletic uniforms. The committee viewed an artist’s drawing of the Centennial Plaza to be constructed during the Centennial year. Mr. Brent Gibson, a graduate of Southwestern and a renowned designer and artist, designed the Centennial Plaza, which will feature a clock tower with a surrounding plaza. The committee heard a report from Dr. Jerry Nye on the progress of the publication *Southwestern Oklahoma State University: The First One Hundred Years*, the official history of Southwestern. Dr. Michael Kerley presented his plans for a traveling exhibit of the pictorial history of Southwestern and displayed a number of photographs to be included in the exhibit. The committee assisted with the planning of the events for March 8, 2001, the one hundred year anniversary of the founding of Southwestern.

The Centennial Celebration officially began on March 8, 2001, with a ceremony marking the 100 year anniversary of the founding of Southwestern. A ground breaking ceremony was held for the Centennial Plaza. A photography exhibit was displayed which will become a traveling exhibit, stopping at towns and libraries in Western Oklahoma throughout the
centennial year. *Southwestern Oklahoma State University: The First 100 Years* was released on the Centennial Celebration day.

Improvements and additions to both Southwestern campuses are currently in progress. Rogers Hall, a dormitory for women, is currently being renovated with new lighting, repainted walls, new floor and ceiling tiles, new sinks, and refinished woodwork and furniture. New air conditioners will provide more flexibility in room temperature. Renovation of the Science Building is nearly complete with the remodeling of labs and classrooms on the third floor. Building projects on the Sayre campus will include the renovation of an area in the field house for a wellness facility, a science laboratory addition, and an addition to the Alexander Building.

The Southwestern academic program added two new programs. An Athletic Training program was added in the fall of 2000. Students completing the program can be certified by the National Athletic Trainers Association. An Athletic Training degree program will be offered in 2004. Mr. Ron Walker was employed to direct the new program. An Occupational Therapy major was added to provide training for students in the health care field who are interested in providing rehabilitation services for the disabled.

Homecoming 2000 was celebrated on October 6-7 with the theme of “Can’t Cage the Rage.” On a crisp, windy Saturday morning, the parade downtown drew a large crowd. Several floats, a large number of high school bands, political candidates, university officials, and other dignitaries appeared in the parade. Before the kick-off of the homecoming football game between the Bulldogs and traditional rival the University of Central Oklahoma, Angela Murphy was crowned Homecoming Queen and Ryan Aldrich was crowned Homecoming King. In a ceremony at halftime of the football game, L. David Sparks, Kay Sparks, and Everett Dobson were inducted into the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. These three outstanding graduates of Southwestern were honored for their notable accomplishments in their professional careers as well as their personal and financial
support of Southwestern. In another homecoming activity, the Music Department presented Service Awards to Mr. Vernice Kaiser, Dr. Charles Chapman, and Dr. Al Harris for their outstanding service and dedication to the Music Department. The crowning touch to the Homecoming 2000 celebration was the Bulldog’s 27-21 come-from-behind victory over the Bronchos.

On February 11-12, the Southwestern Music Department presented the 30th Annual Jazz Festival. Featured artist was trumpet player Clark Terry, who also performed at the first Jazz Festival thirty years ago. The festival also featured other well-known performers from the jazz world including Kevin Mahogany, Bob Bowman, Dave Hanson, and Todd Strait. Southwestern’s Jazz Ensemble “A” performed as well as alumni groups from the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. An added attraction for this year’s Jazz Festival was the appearance of radio personality Roy D. Mercer, a Southwestern graduate. Dr. Terry Segress, the founder of the Jazz Festival, led the Jazz Ensemble and hosted the event.

The Southwestern Theatre Department received several major awards for two shows entered in the American College Theatre Festival. In February, 2000, The Cover of Life, directed by Steve Strickler, was chosen to advance to regional competition, the first Southwestern production ever to receive that honor. The Cover of Life, written by R.T. Robinson, takes place in northern Louisiana during World War II. The story is about the wives of three brothers who enlist together in the Army. A reporter from Life magazine covers their story and relates the women’s feelings about their role in society and their own personal lives. The show received the Respondents’ Choice Award and the Directors’ Choice Award at the state level. Cast members Natalie Coe and Kelli Prescott received Irene Ryan Excellence in Acting Awards. In October, 2000, the Southwestern production of A Question of Mercy won the Respondents’ Choice Award at the American College Theatre Festival as well as awards for Excellence in Scenic Design, Excellence in Lighting Design, and Excellence in Graphic Design. Cast members Chantry
Kellie Prescott, Hollie Borror and Natalie Coe envision themselves on the cover of Life Magazine in *The Cover of Life*, a theatre production that won the state competition and advanced to the national regional finals.

Banks, Natalie Coe, and Kyle Davis received Irene Ryan Excellence in Acting Awards. The show is being considered for regional competition.

The *Southwestern* received the first place award for Newspaper General Excellence at the Oklahoma Collegiate Press Association meeting in April. Three staff members of *The Southwestern* won individual first place awards: Patricia Cook, Feature Writing; Steve Lounsbury, Feature Photography; and Steve McLemore, News Photography. Mr. Joel Kendall, publications director and instructor of journalism, is faculty advisor for *The Southwestern*.

The major sports story of the year was the departure of veteran Lady Bulldog basketball coach John Loftin. In late February, Coach Loftin was notified that his contract would not be renewed for the 2000-2001 school year. In his 19 years as head coach of the Lady Bulldogs, Loftin posted a record of 499-99, led the Lady Bulldogs to five NAIA national championships, made fourteen appearances in the national tournament, and had nine seasons with 30 or more wins. Coach Loftin ended his coaching career at Southwestern with a 66-56 victory over Harding University, receiving a standing ovation from the crowd as he left the court for the last time as coach of the Lady Bulldogs.

In June, Shelly Mooter Pond was named as coach of the Lady Bulldogs. Pond was a member of the Lady Bulldogs team from 1988-92, earning honorable-mention all-conference honors and being named an All-American Scholar Athlete. Before becoming head coach...
of the Lady Bulldogs, Pond had served as assistant women's basketball coach and tennis coach for two years at Southwestern and two years as Weatherford High School coach.

The Southwestern men's basketball team recorded a 15-12 season and qualified for the Lone Star Conference playoffs. The Bulldogs were led by Corey Johnson and Anthony Lumpkin.

Coach Don Mitchell's Southwestern rodeo teams both finished second in the college national finals rodeo in Casper, Wyoming. Jennifer Heisman won the individual championship in goat tying. The men's team narrowly missed repeating as national champions, coming in second to Panhandle State University.

As the year 2000 drew to a close and the Centennial Anniversary year of 2001 approached, Southwestern faced major changes. Dr. John Hays, executive vice president and vice president of administrative services, announced his retirement effective on February 1, 2001. Dr. Hays, who has been with the university since 1972, has initiated numerous cost-saving procedures, prepared budget plans, designed employee benefit programs, and provided leadership in renovation and construction of university facilities. Mr. Don Roberts retired as dean of the Sayre Campus. He had served as executive vice president of Sayre Junior College since 1984, becoming dean of the Sayre Campus in 1987 when Sayre Junior College merged with Southwestern. Dean Roberts was replaced by Dr. Forrest Redding in July, 2000. Dr. Redding resigned in Octo-
ber to accept a position with the State Department of Education. Dr. Bettie Becker, director of assessment, was appointed interim dean of the Sayre Campus while the process of selecting a new dean was completed.

Three long-time Southwestern faculty members retired in 2000. Dr. Stuart Burchett retired after 34 years on the chemistry faculty. In addition to serving as chair of the Chemistry Department, Dr. Burchett was a leader in implementing the computer instructional program in the School of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Dennis Messmer retired after 32 years of teaching in Allied Health Sciences. Dr. Robert Morris retired from the Mathematics Department after 32 years of teaching. Dr. Lu Reichmann was a member of the Nursing faculty for 24 years before her retirement in May, 2000.

As the year 2000 ended, Southwestern was prepared to enter the Centennial year with a spirit of optimism. The satisfaction of looking backward to 100 years of progress and success was accompanied by the anticipation of the next 100 years, which will bring even more remarkable events. From the barren hilltop in 1901 to a modern university in 2001, Southwestern has established a rich history of achievement in education. The Centennial Celebration honors the accomplishments of the past century and ushers in a new century of success for Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

HOMECOMING QUEEN
2000 Angela Murphy

HOMECOMING KING
2000 Ryan Aldrich

SOUTHWESTERN DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HALL OF FAME
2000 L. David Sparks
Kay Sparks
C. Everett Dobson

2000 Homecoming King Ryan Aldrich escorts Queen Angela Murphy
The former Miss Southwestern crowns the 1999-2000 Miss Southwestern. The two women not only share the title Miss Southwestern, they also share the same name, Kara King, and the same major, vocal music. The unusual story caught the attention of some news outlets and even Paul Harvey, who mentioned it on his show.

MISS SOUTHWESTERN
2000  Kara King
2001  Amy Kilhoffer

BERNHARDT ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD
2000  Dr. James Breckenridge

RETIREES IN 2000

ADMINISTRATION
Mr. Don Roberts – 13 years

ALLIED HEALTH
Dr. Dennis Messmer – 32 years

CHEMISTRY
Dr. Stuart Burchett – 34 years

EDUCATION
Dr. Glenda Creach – 13 years
Dr. Jack Smith – 10 years

HPER
Mr. John Loftin – 19 years

LIBRARY
Mr. Jim Wilkerson – 13 years

MATHEMATICS
Dr. Robert Morris – 32 years

NURSING
Dr. Lu Reichmann – 24 years

PHYSICS
Dr. Garo Armoudian – 32 years

2001 Miss Southwestern Amy Kilhoffer

SWOSU: A History
Mood of 2000

The widening of Davis Road to four lanes took four years to complete, but it was finished before the fall 2000 semester.

Fences all over Weatherford crumpled during strong winds on March 7, 2000. A week later, a study by the University of Tulsa concluded that Weatherford was the windiest city in Oklahoma.

Some people took the Y2K scare to humorous levels, such as this license plate on a VW Beetle.

Foss Lake provided some fun in the sun for students. It also housed the Foss Lake Adventure Program, a juvenile activity program run by SWOSU.

Body ink and body piercing
The Centennial Plaza.
Southwestern Oklahoma State University has developed a master plan for future growth and development. "The Agenda for Excellence: A Vision for Southwestern" is the result of careful planning and creative vision for the University in the coming years. In the summer of 1998, a Planning and Resource Council was established to initiate the process to develop a comprehensive plan for the future of the University. The Planning and Resource Council was composed of sixty-five individuals from the University and the community who developed a strategic visioning scenario from data gathered by a number of scan teams. The Planning and Resource Council established five goals to achieve the vision for the future. The goals were ranked in the order of priority.

**Strategic Goal 1:** By 2003, Southwestern will be serving 5,500 students and will have advanced its position as one of the premier universities in Oklahoma with an emphasis on quality education.

To achieve this goal, the University will concentrate on providing quality programs in areas of high interest and demand. Emphasis will be placed on recruiting a greater diversity of students and faculty and improving the retention rate of students through small classes and improved advisement services. Student internships and cooperative programs with government and business will prepare students to enter the job market.

**Strategic Goal 2:** By 2001, the University will have an aggressive marketing plan that will promote greater exposure of its departments and programs.

To achieve this goal, the University will employ a professional firm to formulate a marketing strategy. The University web site will be improved and developed to make it more appealing to potential students. The number of scholarships will be increased, and job placement services will be expanded.

**Strategic Goal 3:** By 2001, the University will have enhanced the effective and efficient management of its resources.

To achieve this goal, the University will review all divisions, departments, and programs for reorganization, deletion, retention, or expansion. The results of these evaluations
will allow the University to allocate resources more effectively and to focus efforts on the interests and needs of students.

Strategic Goal 4: By 2003, the University will have established cooperative arrangements to enhance its mission of teaching, scholarly activity, and service.

To achieve this goal, the University will develop cooperative arrangements with other educational institutions, government, businesses, and industry. The role of distance learning will be assessed to determine how students can utilize the program more effectively.

Strategic Goal 5: By 2005, the assets of the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Foundation will have increased to ten million dollars.

To achieve this goal, the University will seek to improve alumni relations, develop an alumni monitoring and tracking system, and develop alumni support within each school, division, and department.

In addition to the strategic plans for the future of the University included in “The Agenda for Excellence,” future plans have been developed by the University administration as well as individual academic units. These future plans provide an exciting glimpse of the Southwestern Oklahoma State University of the next century.

Academic programs will be expanded to meet the needs of undergraduate students as well as graduate students. The Athletic Training degree will be offered in 2004. Southwestern will become the only regional University in Oklahoma with a nationally accredited degree program in Athletic Training. The School of Education plans to reinstate the M.Ed. in School Library/Media and establish a new M.Ed. in Instructional Technology. The School of Business will provide a specialized MBA degree with an emphasis in accounting. The School of Business plans to apply for a Management Information Systems degree in the near future. The implementation of the new Doctor of Pharmacy degree will continue with the addition of new faculty, facilities, and equipment. All of these degree programs are being developed as a result of student interests and job market opportunities.

Technology will be expanded in the future to meet student needs. The University will provide direct internet access in each room in the residence halls. More courses will be offered through the World Wide Web and by interactive video. Most courses will be supported through the World Wide Web using Blackboard. Complete master’s degree programs
may someday be available through the use of the World Wide Web and interactive video. Students will develop and present their professional portfolios using technology such as personal web pages and compact disks. Many job interviews will be conducted using video conferencing. Computer-assisted instruction in the classroom will become more prevalent in the future.

A campus master plan has been prepared and presented on a large scale map. The master plan map includes proposed new buildings, building renovations and expansions, athletic fields, parking, and campus landscaping. These projects have been ranked in the order of importance and anticipated completion dates. Some of the projects such as the Centennial Plaza will be initiated in 2001. Others may be delayed several years until funds become available.

The Centennial Plaza construction will begin with a ground-breaking ceremony on March 8, 2001, as part of the Centennial Celebration day. The architectural design has been approved. Alumni bricks, which will pave the plaza, are currently being sold. The Centennial Plaza will be constructed between the Student Union and the Al Harris Library. The campus master plan calls for a mall to be constructed north of the Administration Building to tie the campus together around a central plaza running the length of the campus with the Administration Building in the center.

The Student Union will be renovated and expanded to the west and south. The expansion and renovation will be coordinated with the design of the Centennial Plaza and the Library to create a unified effect. The Southwestern Foundation will help to finance the Student Union expansion.

The Chemistry-Pharmacy-Physics building will be renovated in the near future. The renovation will feature extensive remodeling such as the recent renovation of the Science Building. The Art Building is scheduled for renovation in the near future as well. These two projects will complete the renovation of every instructional building on the University campus.

A Wellness Center will be constructed when funds become available. The building will include exercise facilities and areas for intramural athletics. The Southwestern Foundation will assist with raising funds for the facility, which will probably be constructed on the present site of the baseball field. Future plans also include a new classroom building to be located south of the Al Harris Library.
 Plans for an athletic complex north of the campus include baseball and softball fields.

The University has purchased fifty acres north of the campus to be developed as a new intramural and varsity athletic complex. Plans call for the construction of a men’s baseball field, a women’s softball field, and intramural softball fields. In the distant future, a basketball arena and football stadium may be constructed on the athletic complex site.

The campus master plan presents an exciting picture of the Southwestern Oklahoma State University of the future. The master plan map shows new buildings, new athletic facilities, new plazas, and new landscaping. The master plan illustrates a clear vision for the University in the coming years.

The Centennial Celebration will mark the end of a century of progress and will usher in the second century in the history of Southwestern. The first 100 years began with the Oklahoma Territorial Legislature voting to establish a Normal School in Southwestern Oklahoma. After the question of the location of the school was settled, the Normal was first housed in former saloons and churches until the first building was completed. As the Normal grew, buildings were added, and the curriculum and enrollment expanded. Through the years of economic hardships, political turmoil, and world strife, Southwestern endured and prospered. From a Normal School when classes began in 1903, Southwestern grew to a col-

SWOSU: A History
lege in 1920 and to a University in 1974. From the charter faculty of twelve in 1903, the present faculty numbers 198 full time faculty members on the Weatherford campus and an additional 15 on the Sayre campus. From the granting of the Normal certificate in 1903 to the approval of the Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 1996, Southwestern has expanded the academic program to meet the needs of the students. From a single building sitting atop a lonely hill, Southwestern has grown to a large number of modern classroom buildings and dormitories covering the hilltop. From the first enrollment of 193 in the fall of 1903 to an enrollment of 4,915 in the fall of 2000, Southwestern has become the leading University in western Oklahoma. As the first century of Southwestern ends and the second century dawns, Southwestern Oklahoma State University stands firmly on the hilltop, proudly celebrating the tradition of the past and eagerly awaiting the challenges of the future.
Rankin Williams baseball field
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CHAPTER SEVEN
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CHAPTER EIGHT
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CHAPTER NINE
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SWOSU: A History
Alma Mater

Standing firmly on the hill top,
Clearly outlined 'neath the blue,
Emblem of the best and noblest,
Alma Mater true.

Hail, all hail to thee, Southwestern,
Alma Mater true.
We will ever sing our praises to the
White and Blue.

Foster mother, friend so loyal,
Honor, love, and faith we bring,
With thy spirit ever near us,
This our song shall ring.

Hail, all hail to thee, Southwestern,
Alma Mater true.
We will ever sing our praises to the
White and Blue.

Southwestern
1901
SWOSU
2001
100 Years of Excellence
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