



# Echoes from the Hill

Southwestern Oklahoma State University Office of Institutional Advancement and Alumni

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# Echoes

From The Hill



a look back at 2012



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# Echoes

from the hill

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SWOSU 2012



# Bonny's Gift

## Skyview Room renamed

A generous gift of \$50,000 from the Jack and Janet Bonny family of Elk City has enabled Southwestern Oklahoma State University to renovate a popular meeting room in the Memorial Student Center on the Weatherford campus.

The Skyview Room has been completely remodeled and is now known as the Bonny Family Board room.

The Bonny family recently made the gift to the SWOSU Foundation. Among the new furnishings in the room are quartz countertops, projection system with a retractable screen, window shutters, new chairs and lighting. Paintings by the late Ken Watson grace the room.

"We want to thank Jack and Janet Bonny and the Bonny family for their leadership, generosity, positive perspective, and persistent endorsement of Southwestern Oklahoma State University," said SWOSU President Randy Beutler. "Their contributions have made a real difference on our campus, in our community, and most importantly, to the students who attend SWOSU."

Jack Bonny has been engaged in farming since 1950 and served in the Oklahoma Legislature as a state representative for 12 years. He is also former mayor of Burns Flat. Both he and Janet worked in the field of education for 21 and 14 years, respectively. They have two children—Jackie Bonny and Christy Bonny Browning—and four grandchildren—Eric and Lynsey Browning and Brittany and Brooke Bonny.

The Bonny family is full of SWOSU graduates. Jack graduated in 1962 and earned his master's degree in 1966. His brother, the late Jim Bonny, graduated from SWOSU in 1965 and received his master's degree in 1969. Son Jackie is a 1987 graduate, daughter Christy is a 1985 graduate and daughter-in-law Vicki Glass Bonny is a 1989 graduate of SWOSU.



*Above: Jack and Janet Bonny (front) (back from left): granddaughter Brooke Bonny; daughter Christy Bonny Browning; and son Jackie Bonny and his wife Vicki Bonny.*

*Below: left to right-Jack and Janet Bonny, artist CH Wyett, and SWOSU President Randy Beutler.*



# Thank You for Your Generosity!

*These donors generously made donations in 2012 to support Southwestern Oklahoma State University through the SWOSU Foundation. Because of their kindness, the Foundation can continue to support the students, programs and services of SWOSU.*

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# Distinguished Alumni

## Mike Anshansley & Russel Rother



*President Randy Beutler and Mike Aneshansley*



*President Randy Beutler and Dr. Russell Rother*

Mike Aneshansley of Tulsa and Dr. Russell Rother of Oklahoma City were inducted into Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame during 2012 graduation ceremonies on the Weatherford campus.

**Mike Aneshansley** graduated from SWOSU in 1969 with degrees in physics and mathematics after graduating from Clinton High School in 1965. He joined the U.S. Navy to attend the Naval Nuclear Power School, which he completed in 1970. He became operations manager in 1979 of Entergy, Inc. after being hired in 1977.

In 1981, he joined Quadrex, a management consulting firm that provided services to nuclear power plants across the United States. In 1983 he co-founded ENERCON to provide consulting services for the startup and operation of commercial nuclear power plants.

From three people and four clients, the company grew to a diversified, multi-disciplined company with many clients.

Aneshansley is married to Vicki (Roniger) Aneshansley, a 1969 SWOSU graduate. They have two children and three grandchildren.

**Dr. Russell Rother** is a 1986 biology graduate of SWOSU who has been with Selexys Pharmaceuticals since 2010 where he manages the clinical trials for a therapeutic designed to treat sickle cell disease. He is also the liaison with the Food and Drug Administration and oversees research activities at the company.

Before joining Selexys, Rother was senior vice president and chief scientific officer at Alexion Pharmaceuticals in Cheshire (CT) from 1992-2010 where he was one of the original scientists at the company.

Rother was instrumental in strategic decisions for Alexion to initiate the paroxysmal nocturnal hemoglobinuria (PNH) program, playing a major role in the development of Soliris (eculizumab), the first therapy approved for the treatment of PNH. This drug alone has provided Alexion with an \$800 million revenue stream and \$15 billion market cap to date.

Rother, who is a graduate of Watonga High School, earned his doctorate in 1991 from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. He was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Yale School of Medicine in 1991-92. Rother serves as a board member for Variety Care Foundation and Docvia. He holds 32 issued patents/patent applications and has had numerous articles in a variety of publications.



# Provost moves to Regents Office

## Dr. Sonobe named Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

SWOSU Provost Dr. Blake Sonobe has been named Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

Dr. Sonobe has served as senior vice president and provost for academic and student affairs on the Weatherford campus since February 2005. He came to SWOSU in 1990 and taught in the Department of Chemistry, serving as chair of the Chemistry Department (1997-99) and interim chair/chair of the Department of Chemistry and Physics from 1999 until 2005.

At SWOSU, Sonobe has been instrumental in many accomplishments at SWOSU including the reaccreditation process with North Central Association, sponsored program initiatives that have seen increased grants and contracts, the

rise in undergraduate research projects, and spearheading efforts to improve student retention and the focus on academic quality.

While at SWOSU, Sonobe served on numerous committees and been active in civic activities. He has been in the Weatherford Rotary Club, serving as president in 2000-01. Sonobe has been a member of the General Thomas P. Stafford Air and Space Museum Board of Directors since 2006 and served as president in 2011. Sonobe was a member of the Vision 2020 strategic planning committee for Weatherford and has been active in the Weatherford Area Chamber of Commerce. He has also been involved at Christ Community Church where he served as Sunday School teacher and elder.

He and his wife, Janie, have four children—Abbey, Bethany,



Rebecca and Nathan.

SWOSU President Randy Beutler will appoint a search committee to seek the best candidates for the position of SWOSU Provost. He will name an interim provost to serve until a permanent provost is selected.

# Dr. South Named Dean of Arts & Sciences



Dr. James South has been named Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at SWOSU in Weatherford. He has been serving as the interim dean since January and previously served as the chair of the Department of Music.

South began his higher education career as a visiting lecturer at the University of Illinois at Champaign from 1988-1990 and then joined the faculty at Emporia State University as the assistant director of bands and assistant professor prior to coming to SWOSU.

He received a Bachelor of Music in Education from Northwestern

University in Evanston, IL and a Master of Music and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of North Texas. Dr. South has been an invited guest conductor for over 40 state and regional honor and symphonic bands and has been an invited adjudicator at countless band competitions. He has numerous publications and presentations and is a member of several music education associations. From 2005-2007, he served as the president of the Oklahoma Music Educators Association.

Dr. South's wife, Janis, is a member of the SWOSU Music Department.

# Rhodes Scholar

## Oklahoma's First Rhodes Scholar from SWOSU

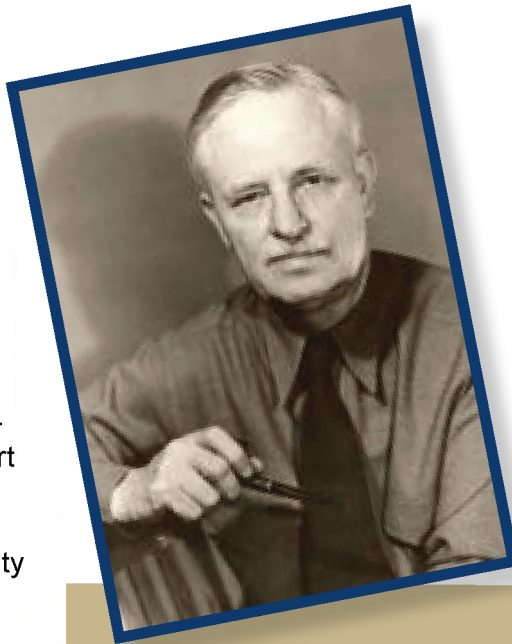
SWOSU has had many noteworthy events during its 110 years of existence but one little known fact is that a member of the school's first graduating class was also Oklahoma's first Rhodes Scholar.

Walter Stanley Campbell, also known as author Stanley Vestal, was a member of Southwestern Normal's first graduating class. He was the stepson of the university's first president, James Robert Campbell.

Due to political issues, Southwestern's degree granting authority was suspended for a short time in 1908. Thus, Campbell never received an actual degree from the institution. Current SWOSU President Randy Beutler wanted to correct this and he, along with Provost Blake Sonobe and Vice President Tom Fagan, initiated the process of awarding Campbell his degree posthumously.

Campbell was born in 1887. His father, Walter Mallory Vestal, died while Stanley was a young boy. His mother, Isabella Wood Vestal, later married James Robert Campbell, who eventually became president at Southwestern. Vestal's legal name became Walter Stanley Campbell. Years later, however, when he began to write, Walter Campbell needed a pen name and he adopted his original name, Stanley Vestal.

While at Southwestern, Vestal played football and taught literature courses when the head of the English Department was on leave. In 1908, he sailed to England as the first Rhodes Scholar from Oklahoma. He entered Merton College, Oxford University, to read in the



**Walter Stanley Campbell**  
(pen name Stanley Vestal)

Honours School of English Language and Literature. After three years at Oxford, he received a bachelor's degree and completed the basic requirements for the master's, which was awarded in absentia in 1915.

In 1911, Campbell returned to the United States where he became an English teacher in Kentucky. That lasted one year because he wanted to be free to write.

Campbell returned to Oklahoma and began a serious study of the Plains Indians, whom he

loved and admired. In 1915, he sought and received an appointment as an instructor in English at the University of Oklahoma where he stayed until his death in 1957. During this time, he authored many books on the Southern Cheyennes and Arapahoes, Kit Carson, Sitting Bull, other Indian tribes and the West. Today, historians generally turn to Campbell's works not as sources in Western history but for apt characterizations and incidents in Western history.

SWOSU recently received a donation of 25 books from Campbell's personal library. The gift came from his son-in-law—Dr. Enoch Callaway.

"This was an unexpected and much appreciated donation," President Beutler said. "Being a history teacher, I have always known of and enjoyed Stanley Vestal's writing. It is a great honor to have a collection of his books on campus."



*Holding the diploma (L to R) Social Science Professor John Hayden, President Randy Beutler, Library Director Jon Sparks and Provost Blake Sonobe.*

# Event-ful

## Plans for Event Center Expand to meet needs



The new events center at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford will have multiple uses to accommodate the functions and expectations of the University, its students and area residents.

Construction managers for the 90,000 plus square feet center are Joe D. Hall and Jim Loomis, both long-time western Oklahomans with many years of construction experience. Hall and Loomis will oversee the approximate \$19 million in construction costs.

Bids have been awarded to various contractors. Expected completion date for the center is late 2013.

When the idea for the events center started during the City of Weatherford's "Vision 2020" strategic planning process, the proposed center was expected to be around 72,000 square feet. A design team—comprised of university, city and community representatives—started work on the concept/design and developed the larger building that is expected to meet the needs of SWOSU students and western Oklahoma residents for many years.

"It simply came down to this issue," SWOSU President Randy Beutler said. "Do we build the

72,000 square feet center and leave out several key components or do we build a center that is functional for all types of events and that our students and residents will be proud to use for many years to come? We didn't want to be looking back in years to come saying we wished we would have built the larger facility."

As promised in the Yes! Weatherford campaign, the facility will be a site for conferences, trade shows, concerts/entertainment, athletic events, tournaments and more. The center will also serve as home for the SWOSU men's and women's basketball teams and women's volleyball squad.

Funding for the events center is made possible by the Yes! Weatherford sales tax campaign (\$7 million), SWOSU students (\$7 million) and the balance from various resources of the University.

Weatherford voters approved in April 2010 a penny sales tax extension to finance various projects as part of the Yes! Weatherford campaign, and one of the projects receiving support was the events center, which is being built just south of Milam Stadium on the SWOSU campus.



# Alumni Notes

**We've got spirit, yes we do, we've got spirit how 'bout you?!**

State Assistant Attorney General **Mykel Fry** was named to lead Oklahoma's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit. Fry has worked with the Multicounty Grand Jury Division since joining the Attorney General's Office in 2009. She previously served as an assistant Oklahoma County district attorney, primarily prosecuting cases involving drugs, gangs and murder. Fry holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Southwestern Oklahoma State University and a law degree from Oklahoma City University.

Services ClearRidge Advisors, an Oklahoma professional services firm, expanded its team with the addition of **Jill Cowan**. She will manage the business valuations practice and also be involved in receivership and restructuring engagements and financial analysis.

**Jim Holman** of Oklahoma City was appointed by Gov. Mary Fallin to the Used Motor Vehicle and Parts Commission. Holman of Oklahoma City owns The Car Store, a used-vehicle dealership in Oklahoma City. He is a graduate of Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Holman will serve on an interim basis pending Senate confirmation.

**Nick Risley** has been hired for the Texas AgriLife Extension Service agricultural and natural resources agent position in Roberts County. Risley started in his new position on Jan. 27. A native of Boise City, Okla., Risley earned his bachelor's degree from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford and his master's from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater. He has worked the past year as the Oklahoma State University Cimarron County Extension Service agent in Boise City, Okla. Prior to joining the Oklahoma Extension Service, he worked for several years as a ranch manager near Putnam, Okla. While Risley earned his master's degree in natural resources management and ecology, his bachelor's degree was in recreation leadership, which has provided him a path to some unique training and certificates that he hopes to utilize in his new position. He is certified as an outdoor education

specialist and aquatics specialist. He also has instruction abilities in community CPR, first aid, emergency response, lifeguard, sailing, small craft, high angle rescue, as a wilderness first responder, as well as being scuba certified.

LifePoint in Nashville, Tenn., recently announced the promotion of **Leigh Ann Braswell** to the position of senior director, Health Information Management (HIM) Services. Braswell has a diverse background in health information management, including experience in HIM operations, coding, ICD-10 implementation and training, HIPAA privacy, corporate compliance, education and project management. She holds a bachelor's degree in HIM from Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

**Jane Bowen** has been named the new superintendent of Moore Norman Technology Center. She is the former superintendent of Northwest Technology Center in Alva and Fairview. "I trust that my experience within the CareerTech System has prepared me for taking Moore Norman to the next level, and I am looking forward to it," Bowen said. Bowen said her challenge will be "to sustain the success Moore Norman has experienced under the leadership of its previous superintendents and continue to grow the district to meet its ever-growing potential for meeting community needs." The new superintendent will report to a locally elected five-member board and be responsible for overseeing fiscal management of the center's \$30 million operating budget. Bowen will guide the technology center's education and business services, which range from college and career training for high school and adult students to training, consulting and conferencing services offered to business and industry. A graduate of Hobart High School, Bowen holds bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Her husband, James, serves as dean of professional studies at Northwestern Oklahoma State University. He will retire in June.

# How many titles...

## Dawgs take top honors in 2012

By Jim O'Brien

The 2011-12 season was a successful year for Southwestern's athletic teams. It was also the University's first year in a new conference -- the Great American Conference. The NCAA Division II conference is made up of teams from Oklahoma and Arkansas.

Southwestern made an immediate impact in the newly-formed conference. **SWOSU womens soccer** won the GAC tournament championship. Jessica Carbonara was named the Tournament MVP while leading five Bulldogs on the All-Tournament Team. Josie Price, who was the regular-season Offensive Player of the Year and Kira Bertrand, the Defensive Player of the Year in addition to Visor and Natalie Crosslin joined Carbonara on the team. Leading the Bulldogs was senior captain, Josie Price, who captured the GAC Offensive Player of the Year award. Price led the conference in scoring and ranked fourth in the nation in assist. Junior, Kira Bertand, claimed her second straight GAC Defender of the Year award. The GAC Freshman of the year award went to midfielder, Ashlee Beitinger,

who finished the regular season second on the league in assist. Corey LaMoureux placed seventh in Division II in goals-against average, as she won the Goalkeeper of the Year honor. Cori Jelly and Ashlee Beitinger received Second-Team All Conference honors.

Coach Persson received GAC Coach of the Year.

The **women's basketball** team had an amazing year. The team won 20 games -- the first 20-win season in 14 years -- and won the inaugural GAC tournament. Darcie Dick, a senior from Cordell, won both conference Player of the Year and tournament Most Valuable Player honors. Third-year coach Kelsi Musick was named conference Coach of the Year. Sumiya Darden, from Fresno, Calif., was also named to the GAC first team.

The **SWOSU men's golf** team under first-year Coach Marc Chandonnet fashioned a five-stroke victory over Arkansas Tech to collect the Great American Conference Championship. Jordan Huson, Luka Karaula and Taylor Howie led the team and were named to the all-conference squad.

The **rodeo team** returned to national prominence under coach Mike Visnieski. The women's team ran away with the Central Plains Regional championship and won multiple rodeos. The men had several individual stars, including Brodie Poppino, Braden Buckley, and Cody Quaney. The team sent five athletes to the Collegiate National Finals Rodeo -- Quaney, Tyrel Larsen, Kelsi Chance, Ceri McCaffery, and Caila Parker. Larsen made the most of it, winning the saddle bronc competition and becoming the first SWOSU athlete in more than 12 years to capture a CNFR individual title.



# ...can we win?!





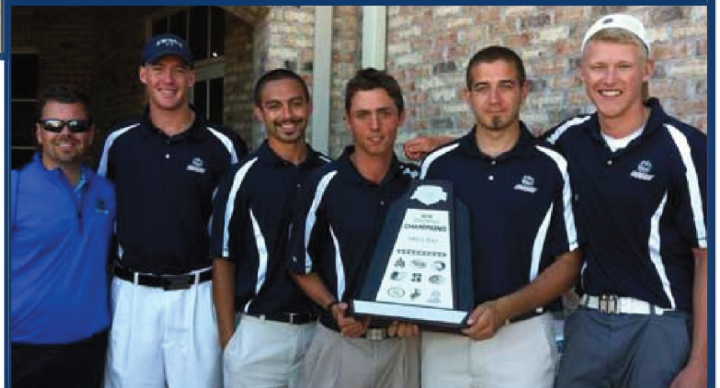
*SWOSU Women's Soccer Team*



*SWOSU Women's Basketball Team*



*SWOSU Men's Golf Team*



**SWOSU  
Champs**

*SWOSU Women's & Men's Rodeo Team*





# SWOSU<sup>TM</sup>

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# Miss SWOSU 2013

## Sauer & Shryock win titles

For the first time since 1991, a Weatherford High School graduate has won the crown of Miss SWOSU.

Tia Sauer of Weatherford won the Miss SWOSU 2013 title at the Miss SWOSU Pageant, and Ashlee Shryock of Shattuck won the title of Miss SWOSU's Outstanding Teen before a large and enthusiastic crowd on the Southwestern Oklahoma State University campus.

Sauer will represent SWOSU at next summer's Miss Oklahoma Pageant, while Shryock advances to the Miss Oklahoma's Outstanding Teen Pageant, which is held the same week at the Miss Oklahoma Pageant in Tulsa.

Sauer won the title and a \$2,500 scholarship. She is a junior majoring in elementary education. Her platform issue is "Instilling Pride in One's Community." Sauer also won the Peer Respect/Leadership Award, which was the second year in a row for Sauer to win the award.

The last Weatherford High School graduate to win the title was Jennifer Chapman in 1991.

Laura Burleigh of Poteau finished as first runnerup. The freshman won a \$1,500 scholarship, and Burleigh also won the Talent Award. Mikah Pendleton of Yukon was second runnerup and winner of a \$1,000 scholarship. She also won the Swimsuit, Crowd Pleaser and Most Tickets Sold Awards.

Jessica Heiser of Altus finished as third runnerup, and Bailey Bell of Weatherford won fourth runnerup and also the Most Scholarship Patrons Sold Award. All non-finalists each won \$500 SWOSU scholarships.

For winning the Miss SWOSU's Outstanding Teen title, Shryock won a \$500 scholarship to SWOSU and various gifts and certificates from area businesses.

Kaely Bond of Oklahoma City (Mount St. Mary) finished as first runnerup. She won a \$300 scholarship to SWOSU and various gifts and certificates. Andrae' Cook



*Tia Sauer (left) of Weatherford and Ashlee Shryock of Shattuck won the titles of Miss SWOSU and Miss SWOSU's Outstanding Teen, respectively, at the annual pageant held on the campus in Weatherford.*

of Weatherford finished as second runnerup and won a \$200 scholarship to SWOSU. Cook and Madison Moore of Sayre tied for the Most Scholarship Patrons Sold Award. Moore also won the Most Tickets Sold Award.

Aalyiah Gilbert of Oklahoma City (Southmoore) won the Talent Award, and Jahven Tanner of Weatherford won the Crowd Pleaser Award.

All non-finalists in the teen pageant each won \$100 SWOSU scholarships.

# In the Hall of Fame

Rex & Rob Ryan



New York Jets head coach Rex Ryan (top) poses for a picture with SWOSU alumni and former basketball players (left) Clarke Hale and Jordan Frosch at a reception prior to the banquet.

Dallas Cowboys former defensive coordinator Rob Ryan (right) speaks at a press conference prior to the 2012 Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

Both Rob Ryan and Rex Ryan were inducted into the SWOSU Athletic Hall of Fame. The Ryan boys came to SWOSU in 1981 and both played football at SWOSU before completing their bachelor's degrees in 1986.





# Come home



# to SWOSU