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News

14 March, 2019

Cohlmia Family Endowed Fund Established at SWOSU



George and

Karla Cohlmia (third and fourth from left) of Edmond has established the Cohlmia Family Endowed Fund with Southwestern Oklahoma State University. Other members of the family are (from left) daughter Kasey Cohlmia; grandson Charlie Cohlmia; granddaughter Sophie Cohlmia; daughter-in-law Alexandra Cohlmia; and son Dr. Adam Cohlmia.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) with locations in Weatherford and Sayre has announced the creation of the Cohlmia Family Endowed Fund.

The fund is generously endowed by George and Karla Cohlmia of Edmond. George and Karla have two adult children, Adam (and his wife Alexandra) and Kasey, and two grandchildren. Their entire family is active at St. Elijah Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church in Oklahoma City.

George is a 1974 alumnus of SWOSU where he studied chemistry and was named Outstanding Senior Male. He is currently an investment adviser with Full Sail Capital. Prior to joining Full Sail, George was fully licensed and registered as a managing director for Waypoint Investment Group of Wells Fargo Advisors. His tenure at Wells Fargo was marked with numerous accomplishments and firm accolades including being named as a Premier Advisor for over 20 years and serving as a member of the Director's Council of Wells Fargo Advisors.

George was also named as one of Oklahoma Magazine's Top Financial Advisors in 2008. George has served in the investment management and advisory industry since 1983. George has remained involved in his community throughout his career. Currently, he serves on the Board of Directors of the YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City. He has previously served in a host of other roles including president of the Edmond Public Schools Board of Education, Board of Directors for the Port Authority of the Greater Oklahoma City Area, president of Quail Creek Golf & Country Club, and Board of Trustees for St. Elijah Orthodox Christian Church.

He currently serves as 1st vice-chair and chair-presumptive of the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees, where he also serves as chair of the Investments Committee.

Karla is a lifetime member of St. Elijah Church, being a great-granddaughter of the church's first priest. She has especially enjoyed singing in the choir for many years, joining the Antiochian Women's Group and serving on numerous other St. Elijah philanthropic committees. Over the years, she has remained involved with St. Elijah's youth, and many other community outreach programs.

Karla is a graduate of John Marshall High School in Oklahoma City and earned her undergraduate degree in finance from the University of Oklahoma (OU). After leaving OU, Karla was employed with Continental Plastics Manufacturing, but at an early age retired to care for her children and devote time as a civic volunteer with the Junior League of Oklahoma City. In addition to over a decade of service to the Junior League, Karla has been a steadfast volunteer with Edmond Public Schools.

Karla and George are enthusiastic patrons of The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, Edmond Public Schools, YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City, Suited for Success, and The Education & Employment Ministry (TEEM).

The Cohlmlia Family Endowed Fund is dedicated to providing long-term, ongoing support to the President's Leadership Class (PLC) at SWOSU.

"We are truly honored by this visionary investment in our prestigious President's Leadership Class on the part of George and Karla Cohlmlia," said SWOSU President Dr. Randy L. Beutler. "The charitable support of the Cohlmlias and others like them allows us to perpetuate and enhance the SWOSU legacy of producing quality graduates who are leading and serving across diverse professional fields and walks of life. SWOSU is deeply grateful to George and Karla for their generosity and commitment to our institution."

The SWOSU PLC is a four-year leadership program for top SWOSU students. The program was founded in 2006. Each year approximately 15 of SWOSU's top entering freshmen are selected to be PLC Scholars. Each scholar is awarded a scholarship and receives four years of leadership training that fosters both intellectual and personal growth. PLC develops SWOSU students into mature individuals who will have a profound understanding of leadership and its responsible application within organizations, communities and society. The PLC's curriculum allows scholars to develop leadership skills through weekly lectures given by staff, business and community leaders, discussion groups, group projects, community service, and internships.

The Cohlmlia Family Endowed Fund is stewarded by the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. The Foundation was established in 1977 to promote philanthropy and distribute funds to support the activities and programs of SWOSU. Located on the Weatherford campus in the historic Burton House, the Foundation currently stewards over \$25 million in assets for the benefit of SWOSU. For information on how to give to the Cohlmlia Family Endowed Fund, please contact the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. at 580-774-3267 or visit www.SWOSUFoundation.com.

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