

McCoys Finalize Carney and Kirkland Scholarship Endowment at SWOSU

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Dr. Wade McCoy of Oklahoma City (from left), Dr. Henry Kirkland Jr., and Lynne Thurman of the SWOSU Foundation recently met to celebrate a scholarship endowment named in honor of Kirkland and his mentor F.K. Carney. McCoy started the endowment, which recently met a goal of \$10,000 to fully endow the scholarship fund.

Dr. Wade and Sarah McCoy of Oklahoma City have finalized a goal of \$10,000 to the Southwestern Oklahoma State University Foundation in Weatherford to benefit a scholarship endowment named in honor of two men who had a major influence in their lives.

Dr. McCoy, a 1988 graduate of SWOSU and doctor at Gilbert Medical Center in Bethany, and wife Sarah started the F.K. "Skeet" Carney and Dr. Henry Kirkland Jr. SWOSU Biological Sciences Scholarship to honor Kirkland's involvement in the McCoys' lives as a professor and mentor.

Carney is mentioned in the official name because he was a pharmacist who took a chance and employed Kirkland when he was a child. Kirkland was deeply affected by the generosity shown to him as a young man by Carney and used that to inspire others as a noted educator. Many of Kirkland's students became the indirect recipients of Carney's influence.

The McCoys established the endowment in 2010 and, according to Lynne Thurman of the SWOSU Foundation, the endowment is fully-endowed thanks to the generosity of the McCoys.

"Since Sarah and I are both alumni of SWOSU, we have fond memories and a sense of gratitude toward the university," McCoy said when establishing the scholarship endowment. "Though many professors had a strong influence on us, Dr Henry Kirkland impacted our lives in a way that changed our futures forever. The story of Skeet Carney and Dr Kirkland is too important to let it be forgotten. This scholarship is one way to insure the story of giving will live on."

The scholarship will be awarded to a biological sciences or pre-health student at SWOSU.

Dr. Kirkland taught at SWOSU from 1972-1996. Dr. McCoy, who grew up in Reydon, and another SWOSU alumnus, Patrick Chalfant, wrote a fictional novel, "A Rainbow in the Dark," based on Dr. Kirkland's inspirational real-life story. The book is available for purchase through the SWOSU Foundation office.

Additional information about the scholarship or other projects at the SWOSU Foundation is available by calling 580.774.3267.