Echoes from the Hill

Southwestern Oklahoma State University Office of Institutional Advancement and Alumni

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ALWAYS A BULLDOG
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Echoes from the Hill is a joint publication of the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. and the SWOSU Alumni Association, Inc. No copies of this publication were printed at taxpayer expense.
Greetings from the leading regional university in the nation!

Good things are happening here on the Hilltop. SWOSU’s enrollment for the 2017 fall semester is the highest since 1993. This is thanks to the tireless effort of our faculty and staff who are working each day to provide the Bulldogs with an affordable, quality educational experience that will equip them to stand firmly wherever life may lead. SWOSU is known and becoming better known still as an institution that places value on each student’s unique background and “SWOSU story.” We will continue to invest time and resources in our mission of public instruction for all knowing that it makes for a better world.

There is no more exciting, energizing place to be than a college campus in the Fall. Please come visit ours and see for yourself.

In SWOSU,

Randy L. Beutler
SWOSU Ranked in Nation’s Top 25 Universities

Southwestern Oklahoma State University with campus locations in Weatherford and Sayre has made a top 25 list for the best universities in the nation.

MSN—a world-wide network operated by Microsoft—ranked more than 1,600 schools across the country based on affordability, flexibility and other quantitative factors and came up with the top 25 list. SWOSU is #18.

SWOSU is the second smallest university to make the rankings.

SWOSU President Randy Beutler said there are all sorts of rankings by various groups but MSN is a well-known, world-wide operation by a prestigious company and SWOSU is pleased to be included.

“SWOSU has enjoyed six straight fall and spring semester enrollment increases, which is unheard of right now in Oklahoma,” Beutler said. “Southwestern Oklahoma State University has an impressive academic reputation for its many quality programs, and people are understanding the value of an education at SWOSU.”

In order to get a good picture of the best four-year colleges in the U.S., MSN gathered substantial data from the U.S. Department of Education and analyzed it through a rigorous 13-point system.

“These type of achievements is not possible without quality students, faculty and staff,” Beutler said.

Oklahoma had three of the top 25 universities with the University of Oklahoma at #8 and Oklahoma State
Hello, Bulldogs!

SWOSU and longtime rivals Northwestern Oklahoma State University (NWOSU) are battling in a #GivingTuesday Scholarships Showdown competition to see which university can raise the most money for student scholarships—please be sure to visit www.GiveToSWOSU.com today (or before Nov. 28th, which is #GivingTuesday this year) and make your donation to help the Bulldogs beat the Rangers and show Alva who the “Best in the West” really is! #GivingTuesday is an international day of charity and giving back and SWOSU is excited to participate for the third year running. You can also make a gift with your VISA or MasterCard by calling the SWOSU Foundation at 580-774-3267 or by mailing a check payable to “SWOSU Foundation” to 100 Campus Drive, Weatherford OK 73096 and marking “Giving Tuesday” in the memorandum line. You can visit www.SWOSUGivingTuesday.com to view a video message from President Beutler about this exciting competition where our students are the winner.

As we celebrate the SWOSU Foundation’s 40th Anniversary this year I hope all of our alumni, emeriti, donors, and friends around the globe will remember why they love SWOSU and why now, more than ever, private investment in Southwestern’s educational mission is vital to keeping us “standing firmly on the Hilltop.” You all are appreciated more than you know.

In SWOSU,
SWOSU™ Inducts 2017 Distinguished Alumni

Five graduates were inducted into the SWOSU Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame during SWOSU’s 113th Convocation.

Jack Bonny
Jack Bonny, Classes of 1962 and 1966. Bonny is a retired public school teacher who served 12 years in the Oklahoma House of Representatives.

Lori (Baker) Boyd
Lori (Baker) Boyd, Class of 1997. Boyd serves as chief operating officer of the Children’s Center Rehabilitation Hospital in Bethany.

Patrick Riley Griffin
Patrick Riley Griffin, Class of 1962 and 1968. The late Griffin was a public school teacher, counselor and administrator in Clinton, Altus and Oklahoma City. He was the first African American to play on the SWOSU football team and run for the SWOSU track & field team. Accepting for Griffin was his wife, Gloria Griffin.
“SWOSU has produced many individuals of distinction and accomplishment. We are delighted and so proud to be honoring five of SWOSU’s finest graduates and representatives of the values for which our institution has come to stand. This year’s inductees have made great strides in their respective vocations and are contributing positively to their communities. We heartily congratulate them and their families on this much-deserved recognition.”

-Dr. Randy Beutler
SWOSU President

Lori (Wallace) Harper


Joey Martin

Joey Martin, Classes of 1988 and 1991. Martin serves as Associate Dean for the College of Fine Arts & Communication, Director of Choral Activities and Professor of Music at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas.
Dr. Trisha Wald Wins 2017 Bernhardt Award

Dr. Trisha Wald, Chair of the Department of Business and Computer Science in the Everett Dobson School of Business and Technology, is the winner of the Bernhardt Academic Excellence Award for 2017 at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford.

Wald was presented the prestigious award at the annual Bernhardt banquet held on the SWOSU campus. Wald received a $5,000 cash award, clock, pen and medallion.

SWOSU alumni Dr. William and Theta Juan Bernhardt of Midwest City are sponsors of the annual award that goes to an outstanding faculty member who exhibits exceptional achievement in teaching, scholarship and service.

Trisha (Parker) Wald grew up in Thomas (OK). After graduating from Thomas High School as Valedictorian in 1999, Wald entered Southwestern Oklahoma State University. She received her Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Accounting and Finance from SWOSU in 2003, graduating summa cum laude and named the Outstanding Senior in Finance.

In the summer of 2003, she married her husband, Nick, and they moved to Oklahoma City, where she began studies at the University of Oklahoma School of Law. Wald earned American Jurisprudence (AmJur) awards in Legal Research and Writing, Criminal Law, European Union Law, Insurance Law, Agency and Partnership, Mergers and Acquisitions and Estate Planning—signifying she had received the best grade in the course as chosen by the professor. She earned her Juris Doctorate with Honors from OU Law in May of 2006.
Wald began working as an attorney at the law firm of DeBee Gilchrist, P.C., where her work centered on business formation, taxation, mergers and acquisitions. While she loved practicing law, she felt called to teach and in the fall of 2008, she was offered a position at SWOSU in the School of Business and Technology.

While at SWOSU, Wald has taught classes in business law, tax law and accounting. In addition to teaching, she has been active in scholarly activity through research and presentations with both the Academy of Legal Studies in Business (ALSB), a national group, and its regional affiliate, the Southern Academy of Legal Studies in Business (SALSB).

Wald is involved in campus activities and committees. She served as faculty senator from 2013-16 and was Secretary/treasurer for the Faculty Senate in 2015-16. She and Dr. Patsy Parker implemented a faculty mentoring program for the SWOSU School of Business and Technology, designed to help new instructors segue into their teaching experiences at SWOSU. As to community involvement, she is a member of Kiwanis, a graduate of Leadership Weatherford Class 14 and a member of the Finance Committee at St. Eugene’s Catholic Church in Weatherford. In addition, she is a member of both the Custer County Bar Association and the Oklahoma Bar Association. In 2014, she received the Outstanding Accounting Educator Award from the Oklahoma Society of Certified Public Accountants.

She and her husband, Nick, an Oklahoma City Police Officer, live in Weatherford. They have three children—Noah, Eli and Jacob.
Wendy Borlabi, Class of 1993

Dr. Wendy Borlabi (SWOSU Class of 1993, B. S., Psychology) recently took time out of her busy—okay, insanely busy—schedule to sit down with SWOSU Alumni Association Executive Director Garrett King for a brief catch-up on where life has taken her since she left “the Hilltop.”

Borlabi currently serves as High Performance Coach for the Chicago Bulls. She is also an independent consultant with the National Basketball Association (NBA). She is the Founder of Borlabi Consulting, a performance psychology firm. Borlabi holds a Master’s Degree in Kinesiology from Georgia Southern University and a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Argosy University. Borlabi served with the United States Olympic Committee at the Olympic Training Center in San Diego during two Winter Olympic Games and one Summer Olympic Games. Born in Ghana and raised in Midwest City, Oklahoma, Borlabi currently resides in Chicago with her children.

GK: If you had two minutes with someone and they asked you what do you do, how would you respond?

WB: I would say that I watch sports for a living. In addition to that, I would add—I get the honor of helping athletes achieve their goals or what they are looking for on the field or on the court or what they are looking for off the field or off the court…I get to be alongside them as they accomplish all of that… and I get to watch sports. It’s a pretty good gig.

GK: How would you approach an Olympian or a Chicago Bull differently than you might a SWOSU Bulldog or Lady Bulldog?

WB: Actually I wouldn’t approach any athlete any differently. I think the thing that you have to remember is that you have to be yourself so however you approach them it should be in the same way….and not to mention elite athletes get special treatment a lot! So it’s better if you treat them as a regular person. They usually respond better to that rather than treat them in a different way. So the answer to that is simple -I wouldn’t treat an elite athlete any different than a college athlete, or someone from junior high, or a weekend warrior. I treat everybody the same.

GK: What is the most interesting thing that you
have learned thus far about sport psychology?

WB: So the most interesting thing I have learned about sport psychology is that the techniques that I teach athletes are very simple. There are actually things we should do every day in life; we just don’t do it. We know what should do; we just don’t apply it. We know we should communicate better. We should set goals to achieve them. That we should do a routine before we go to bed. We know that in order to go to the next level we have got to push ourselves, we got to strive, we have to compete, and we have to find different ways challenges us. So the most interesting thing that we know these things as people we just don’t do it. We just don’t do it. So you need someone like me to come into your life and reinforce it and remind you and bring your life as an everyday event and then just stick with it.

GK: What type of person should see a sport psychologist?

WB: A sport psychologist actually would be useful for anybody. It’s not just about athletics. Performance is performance; and what I mean by that is performance in athletics, performance in business, performance in ballet or music; anything you need to actually perform to get to the next level—is what is sport psychology is all about. You practice ballet, your dance, and your routine but you also need to practice the mental pieces so that you can perform at the highest level when you are on stage. You do the same thing with athletics. The mental pieces help you get to the next level or maintain where you are. Again I think everyone could use sport psychology because it’s not just about sports. It’s about everyday life and things that can help you achieve the next level.

GK: Talk a little about Wisdom Knot.

WB: Okay, this is good stuff. Wisdom Knot is a nonprofit organization with a mission to help youth discover their greatness by exploring a variety of careers in sport beyond the court or field. Through inspiring community-based programs, participants discover new interests and talents and develop skills in all aspects of life. It began as a dinner conversation and to see this vision become reality has been wonderful. I’m trying to convey to the participants that a missed goal or pass is not a missed opportunity—we can learn from successes and from failures. We launched our first full weekend camp this year and it was amazing!

GK: Any advice for today’s SWOSU students?

WB: Balance. Balance, balance, balance. I once compared being out of balance to body odor—if you’re “green” you smell good to you and to other people. If you’re “yellow” other people can smell you, even if you can’t. And if you’re “red,” well, man, you stink and you need to stop. Slow down. Gain perspective, reflect, and prioritize. College is a growing time but growth is painful—take good care of yourself physically and mentally and know that the habits of time and resource management you begin as an undergraduate will follow you throughout your life. And, like I told our Wisdom Knot kids this year: keep focused!

GK: Thanks, Wendy.

WB: You bet.
SWOSU’s Student Government Association (SGA) has recently opened a new attraction on the Weatherford campus—the SWOSU Hammock Lounge.

The Hammock Lounge is located southwest of the Burton House and east of Neff Hall. The lounge features eight positions for hammocks, which can be checked out with a SWOSU ID from the Wellness Center.

“It’s yet another location to HANG out on campus,” SGA President Tanner Boyd said.

The Hammock Lounge was a project from the Campus Improvements Committee of SGA, headed by Peyton Isbell of Waukomis. The project was funded through the Student Government Association annual budget.
Travelling Bulldogs: Canadian Rockies

Young Alumni Happy Hour in OKC
In February of 1971, 280 students stepped into the Southwestern cafeteria. They got their platters of food, sat down to eat . . . and then got up again. And walked out. And left all that food there to waste. These students had just staged a walkout, to protest a singular point: the cafeteria food was gross.

Fast-forward. In 1990, the food situation at Southwestern was primed to evolve. Duncan Taylor (now newly rehired head of food services at Southwestern with 20 years of experience) described the scene when he was originally appointed to the position, stating that there were two cafeterias, each featuring a mere two entrees, and a snack bar that sold tobacco products alongside hotdogs and hamburgers.

“That’s just how it was back then,” he said with a smile. Students today would be shocked to hear that their smoke-free campus would have ever featured anything of the sort, or that their options would have been so few just 25 years ago. Times have changed.

“In college food services,” Taylor said, “we’re trying to provide as much variety as possible.”

This resulted in substantial, but gradual, changes. The cafeteria located in Rogers and Jefferson was transformed into a bookstore and a C-store known as the University Market. This shop provides a variety of non-perishable and ready-to-eat meals from Red Baron to Chef Boyardee, remaining open later than any of the other food services as to provide for those students who enjoy late-night snacks while finishing their English papers.

Cafeteria options have quadrupled since the 90s, with several rotating entrees, salads, desserts, chocolate milk (if you know where to find the chocolate syrup), soft drinks, and periodic ethnic foods like gyros and falafel. Then, on holidays and special occasions, the cafeteria goes all out to provide truly home-quality food, like
Turkey dinners and The President’s Pancake Breakfast (a finals week favorite). Where students once were repulsed by the food, there they now flock.

Ten years ago, an on campus coffee shop was added, “proudly serving Starbucks Coffee,” called The Bulldog Beanery. This name was selected by the student body by popular vote, though there is still a notable portion of the population who call it “Starbarks.” Taylor proudly stated that SWOSU was one of the first regional universities in Oklahoma to feature an on-campus coffee shop.

The biggest change, however, was the addition of the food court. The Student Union, home to 20 or more pool tables and the aforementioned snack bar, provided the perfect location for Taylor to see its development. Piece by piece, element by element, a five concept court came into being. Firstly, there is the Italian front, which features pasta, pizza, and calzones. The Chick Strip Joint specializes in various delectable preparations of America’s favorite bird, as a dippable strip or a convenient wrap. The Grill provides breakfast, burgers, and a great many sandwiches (as well as suspiciously McDonalds-like French Fries). Then there is the Mexican front, providing for all the students’ taco consumption needs, followed finally by the Bakery, which, most importantly, sells cookies.

Ryan Louks is a freshman employee of the food court, and began working there just this semester. He spoke to me of what it is like behind-the-scenes, saying that it’s very “Learn as you go,” after SWOSU provides basic first aid and food handling training.

“Cooking’s my favorite; it’s easy.”

The food court makes between 1,200 and 1,400 meals per day. He said that there were not really steps to making the food, just ingredients and a basic system. He also said that students often ask the workers for some strange food items.

“If you can think it, we can do it. We’ll be confused at first, but in the end we’ll always do it,” even when asked for something as peculiar as upside-down nachos. “Like, what do we do?”

Payment methods have changed with the times as well. Nowadays, students pay for meals using their student IDs. Meal plans apply not just to the cafeteria, but to every food service on campus, from the coffee shop to the C-store, so their IDs are the key to the kingdom. However, visitors also have access to the on campus food as well, to partake in between tours and Southwestern’s many events.

The future of SWOSU food is expansion and polishing. Taylor hopes to add new ethnic food to the menus.

“It’s funny,” he said, “We originally brought in ethnic food for the international students, so that they feel more like home. But when I go down to the cafeteria, the American students are eating the ethnic food, and the international students are eating the hamburgers!”

The success with ethnic food goes back to the principle of giving students more variety, and it’s a value Taylor intends to continue.

Taylor also wants to add new concepts to the food court, citing ideas such as a gourmet grilled cheese and a Mac and Cheese front. Finding more specific ideas for concepts is a priority, and he wants to nearly double the number that the food court is offering. In response to current trends, Taylor also wants to expand students’ gluten free options. The next big projects, however, are a revamp of the menus at the food court and a renovation of the current cafeteria to prepare it for expansion.

Food is important, especially to college students. Southwestern is committed to ensuring that its people eat well, and eat what they want. The future holds much more food and many more options for students and visitors, continuing to hold true to, “The Focus is You.”
Harold Wright, Class of 1971

The State of Oklahoma’s legislative session is set by law, beginning on the first Monday in February and ending on the last Friday of May. It is a busy time for all 149 members of the Legislature but particularly so for District 57 Representative Harold Wright (SWOSU Class of 1971) who was elected by his peers in the Oklahoma House of Representatives to serve as Speaker Pro Tempore for the 56th Oklahoma Legislature. In this capacity Wright serves as the chief presiding officer of his chamber as the second-ranking legislator after the Speaker of the House.

“I’ll always make time for SWOSU,” Wright quickly replied when called upon to sit down for an interview and update on where life has taken him since his days as an undergraduate on the Hilltop. The SWOSU Alumni Association (of which Wright is Past President) appreciates Wright’s hospitality in opening up his home just north of Weatherford for this interview conducted in early May 2017, right as the legislative session was at its busiest.

GK: “Harold, we appreciate you carving out a few minutes for us to chat and share with your fellow SWOSU alumni some of your memories and thoughts about our alma mater…speaking of which, what is your earliest memory of SWOSU?”

HW: “Of course, good to see you. This is a nice change of pace from the Capitol Building—much more relaxing! My earliest memory is of going to the Homecoming Parades. My dad Glenn Wright (SWOSU Class of 1949) was the Band Director at Erick, Oklahoma, and every year he brought his band students out to participate in the SWOSU Homecoming Parade. Family and friends from other towns and sometimes other states came in for the Homecoming parade. Over the years as I participated in band, I was always marching in the Homecoming Parade and competing in the various costume and riding contests. It was a real spectacle and event. The Homecoming Parade at SWOSU has a rich history as a powerful connecting force across the decades and across different places.”

GK: “Harold, I was fortunate to know your late mother, Ernestine “Ernie” (Holcomb) Wright (SWOSU Class of 1959), who was an emeritus instructor and an active alumnus. Are there other family members of yours that are alumni?”

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HW: “Oh, yes. Remember, I met my wife, the former Carol Roberson (SWOSU Class of 1971), at SWOSU. She’s a proud graduate—lived in Stewart Hall. And my uncle Jake Wright (SWOSU Class of 1951) was a graduate along with my sister Suzan (Wright) Gates (SWOSU Class of 1977). And you know, my grandmother worked in the cafeteria—I used to steal fried chicken out of there as a boy, and I would play pool in the Student Union. Our family is full of Bulldogs!”

GK: “Talk about the faculty and staff that you remember—who invested in you and made a difference in your life?”

HW: “One of the earliest instructors I ever had was Dr. Fred W. Allen—I took a course from him concurrently as a high school student. The Dean of Instruction, during my undergraduate era, was W. D. “Lou” Morris who was a friend and very helpful to me and many others. Of course, many of us from that time remember Dr. Alfred Turney who taught in Social Sciences—so interesting! He had experienced a great deal in life and was a true mentor to his students. Henry Reynolds taught me in American Diplomacy, Joe Hubbell was an outstanding Oklahoma History teacher…I could go on, and on.

Our SWOSU faculty historically and today have just been so very good at making students feel heard, feel understood, feel valued. We’re very lucky. And, of course, none of us who knew him will ever, ever forget the late, great Dr. Al Harris and his historic presidency of the institution.”

GK: “Didn’t you and Carol also work at the same place when you were SWOSU undergraduates together?”

HW: “Yes! We both worked at The Spot. It was a restaurant right across the street from the campus. They sold pizza and beer. I was actually the manager before I went to work at the radio station.”

GK: “I, like many others, first met you through the radio. Talk about the path from the SWOSU classrooms to behind that first microphone and ultimately to the ownership office at Wright Wradio. What lessons from SWOSU did you take with you, what experiences, that have stood the test of time?”

HW: “Well, I started this adventure after college in Anadarko. The station there hadn’t turned a profit for five years when I took charge; and in the first month I was there, I turned it around, and I never had to borrow a dime for operations for the rest of the time I owned...”
that station. Now, let’s be clear—I’m not bragging. Without the critical thinking and knowledge I learned at SWOSU and without the real-life experiences I had while I was studying there—managing The Spot, for example—there’s no way I could’ve made a go of things in Anadarko.”

GK: “You didn’t just ‘make a go of things.’ You were successful, and you served the community there—you were elected Mayor, right?”

HW: “I did. You know, I take public service seriously. Mostly because I had role models like my Dad and my Uncle Jake who took it seriously. It was a heady time, lots going on, I had a young family and my business. But we were able to make some positive contributions in Anadarko—new street projects and infrastructure investments. Three types of partnership made my time as Mayor possible: one was actual business partnership, the other my family partnership with Carol, and the other was the partnership I maintained with so many SWOSU alumni and friends in Weatherford and throughout Oklahoma—that network was helpful then and is helpful now in so many different ways.”

GK: “And Wright Wradio?”

HW: “When the opportunity came to buy the station here in Weatherford in 1991, it really was a dream come true for my family and me. We were able to return to a place we consider our home, host to the university we are proud to call alma mater, and to plant some deep roots. I got to work with one of my life’s great friends and mentors, the legendary Dick Johnson—as professional and classy a gentleman as there ever has been. Our grandchildren are being raised here. Our daughter Angela (Wright) Marsee and her husband Bobby are active in the community and are proud to support SWOSU, as are our son, Heston [Wright] and his wife Claudia (Author’s note: Heston Wright currently sits on the Board of Directors of the SWOSU Athletic Association). Our customers and partners throughout the region have been so supportive and great to work with. Our station has employed so many SWOSU students over the years, and my staff and I have built rich, lasting relationships with those men and women. Many have gone on to do remarkable things and are giving back to their communities. Simply put, it has been a great joy.”

GK: “I’ll break a taboo and ask you to talk politics, just a little.”

HW: “It is the art of making tough decisions, based on what is possible. Sometimes I have to make a call on votes where neither option is a good one. That’s reality and it will not change. I work diligently to confer with my colleagues, with experienced people in state agencies and ‘on the ground’ who legislation impacts, and then I try to make a determination about what is best for the State of Oklahoma. I’ve enjoyed good working relationships with Speakers I voted for and that I
did not. I believe in the value of loyal opposition in the legislative process and in the voice of the political minority because, for most of my life, my political party was the political minority in this state. And, I believe in majority rule once the debate ends. Most of all, I believe that we’ve got to work together and find common ground—again, based on what is possible, not what is desirable or ideal.”

GK: “The Fall 2017 Semester has seen our largest enrollment since 1993. Final thoughts for those Bulldogs walking the Hilltop today?”

HW: “Keep your student debt down where you can. It is very difficult, more so in today’s budgetary environment, and takes a strong will, but you’ll be glad you did. Fortunately, SWOSU is an incredible bargain. Really study and realize that you are there to learn. Not just to ‘check a box’ or ‘go through the motions’ but to learn and grow because you’ll be a whole human being if you do. Strive. Don’t just get by. Pursue your goals methodically and in the right sequence, knowing that each is a stepping stone to the next. Be flexible because life is full of changes and your plans will have to change, too. Dream as big as you can—SWOSU has produced amazing graduates who have changed the world and will continue to do so.”

GK: “Harold, as always, we appreciate you.”

HW: “My pleasure. Go Bulldogs!”

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SWOSU’s 2016-2017 Emeriti Honors

Four Southwestern Oklahoma State University emeriti were honored recently by the SWOSU Alumni Association during a reception held in the Skyview Suite of the Pioneer Cellular Events Center on the Weatherford campus. The Alumni Association Board of Directors voted in 2015 to begin recognizing former SWOSU instructors annually and celebrating their contributions to SWOSU.

The 2016 SWOSU Alumni Association Emeritus Award honorees include:

Dr. Dan Dill – Dill graduated from SWOSU in 1963 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Arkansas. Dill began teaching at SWOSU in 1968 in the chemistry department. He went on to become the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences before being named Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. He retired in 2005 after serving 42 years.

Dr. Joe Anna Hibler – Hibler received a bachelor’s degree from SWOSU in 1960, a master’s degree from Oklahoma State University and her doctorate from Oklahoma University—all in business education. In 1965, she began teaching in the Division of Business at SWOSU. She later chaired the Office Administration/Business Education Department before becoming the Dean of the School of Business. In 1986, Hibler was named Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. Four years later, the Board of Regents of Oklahoma colleges appointed Dr. Hibler President of SWOSU. When she assumed her duties, Hibler became the first woman in 55 years to serve as president of a university in Oklahoma. She
Alumni Association Honors Former Employees

Dr. Bill Seibert – Dr. Seibert graduated from the University of Oklahoma and earned his Ph.D. in botany from North Carolina State University. In 1969, he began teaching in the SWOSU Department of Biological Sciences. He chaired the department from 1989-1992 and was a long-time sponsor of the Biology Club. Seibert retired from SWOSU in 2010 after teaching 41 years in the Department of Biological Science. He is still teaching SWOSU students through his volunteer work in the greenhouse and tending the gardening that helps to make SWOSU such a beautiful campus year round.

Mr. Mark Mouse (posthumous) – Mouse attended SWOSU where he obtained his degree in English and biology in 1952. He received a Master’s degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1958. He began his career at SWOSU as the director of placement and high school/university relations in the summer of 1967, where he remained a loyal and devoted employee for 25 years, retiring in 1992. The thousands of SWOSU students he had recruited from high schools across the state knew him as “Mr. Southwestern.” He was also instrumental in placing many public school teachers in their positions through the state.

The SWOSU Alumni Association is a dynamic group of volunteers from all walks of life who are passionate about giving back to SWOSU. The association offers members a variety of benefits and event opportunities. For more information, contact SWOSU’s Office of Institutional Advancement at 580-774-3289 or visit www.SWOSUAlumni.com.

SWOSU Alumni Association President Philip Busey, Dr. Bill Seibert and SWOSU President Randy Beutler.

Alumni Association President Philip Busey, (representing the late Mark Mouse were his wife, Sheila, and daughter, Melani) and SWOSU President Randy Beutler.


In Memoriam

Southwestern Oklahoma State University considers all alumni, students, emeriti, faculty, and employees as a part of our history and our enduring legacy.

We honor those who have departed from “the Hill” by recognizing them as “Our Forever Bulldogs”.

Please contact Brandi Rizzi at (580) 774-3156 to update our records.

**OUR FOREVER BULLDOGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Class Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Class Year</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>G. Jeanette Atha</td>
<td>Clinton</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jimmie Dean Litsch</td>
<td>Fay</td>
<td>1956</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Atkins</td>
<td>Weatherford</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ron Littau</td>
<td>Woodard</td>
<td>1965</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Ann (Stroud) Avant</td>
<td>Perryton, TX</td>
<td>1972 &amp; 1986</td>
<td>John Homer Michael Mahoney</td>
<td>Watonga</td>
<td>1972</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charlie Bolton</td>
<td>Tuscon, AZ</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>Nadene (Bozarth) Marquis</td>
<td>Weatherford</td>
<td>1945</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackie Bosin</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
<td></td>
<td>Gene McPhail</td>
<td>Crescent</td>
<td>1949</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walter Farrell Butcher</td>
<td>Weatherford</td>
<td></td>
<td>VaNita Morris</td>
<td>Weatherford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Darren Carter</td>
<td>Sayre</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Flossie Edna (Williams) Payne</td>
<td>Weatherford</td>
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<td>Dr. Robert Le Chambers</td>
<td>Weatherford</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Eldon “Dwayne” Perkins</td>
<td>Weatherford</td>
<td>1951</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russell William Coffey</td>
<td>Hinton</td>
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<td>Michael Poelinge</td>
<td>Clinton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Larry Coy</td>
<td>Austin, TX</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>Wendell Dean Powell</td>
<td>Ozark, MO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bobby Craft</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ruby (Hayes) Reuber</td>
<td>Cordell</td>
<td>1956</td>
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<tr>
<td>Idalle Faram</td>
<td>Oklahoma City</td>
<td>1949</td>
<td>James Richardson</td>
<td>Elk City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donna Natalie (McCormick) Farmer</td>
<td>Alma, AR</td>
<td>1953</td>
<td>Howard Richey</td>
<td>Hemet, CA</td>
<td>1950</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Frazier</td>
<td></td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Rita Lee Russell</td>
<td>Hydro</td>
<td>1952</td>
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<td>Walter Ray Grabow</td>
<td>Watonga</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Joi (Dell) Salisbury</td>
<td>Tulsa</td>
<td>1958</td>
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<tr>
<td>O.V. Guthrie</td>
<td>San Antonio, TX</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Gwendolyn Gay (Jones) Sims</td>
<td>Hobart</td>
<td>1957</td>
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<tr>
<td>Susie Halford</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thomas Leonard Stafford</td>
<td>Village Mills, TX</td>
<td>1958</td>
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<td>Linda Gail Hartman</td>
<td>Sayre</td>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Charles Sweeney</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>1984</td>
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<tr>
<td>Morgandy (Miller) Hartman</td>
<td>Weatherford</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Charles Neil Sweeney</td>
<td>Thomas</td>
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<td>Ruby Mildred Hayer Reuber</td>
<td>Cordell</td>
<td>1956</td>
<td>Joyce Ann Terry</td>
<td>Rocky</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ron Hughes</td>
<td>Sentinel</td>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Flora (Libby) Unruh</td>
<td>Elk City</td>
<td>1958</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sharon Day (McCall) Ivester</td>
<td>Sayre</td>
<td></td>
<td>Margaret Wesner</td>
<td>Tulsa</td>
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<td>Zettie Jones</td>
<td>Cordell</td>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Frances Brown Zisman</td>
<td>Oklahoma City</td>
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<td>Maxwell Lloyd Lanier</td>
<td>Weatherford</td>
<td>2001</td>
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</table>
Melissa Valencia, a freshman from Marlow at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, won the crown of Miss SWOSU 2018, and Katelyn Woods, sophomore at Lawton (Eisenhower), won the title of Miss SWOSU’s Outstanding Teen.

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

Melissa Valencia (right) won the crown of Miss SWOSU 2018, and Katelyn Woods won the title of Miss SWOSU’s Outstanding Teen.

Valencia won $2,300 SWOSU and $306 Children’s Miracle Network scholarships; $1,000 cash award; and over $3,000 in gift certificates and various gifts from area businesses. Her platform issue is “Speak for the Silent, Stand for the Broken.”

Ashlin Murray of Weatherford (Clinton) finished as first runner-up and winner of a $1,100 scholarship. She also won the Talent Award.

Makenna Carver of Bartlesville (Dewey) was second runner-up and winner of a $900 scholarship. Shelby Austin of Tulsa (Oklahoma Virtual) finished as third runner-up and winner of a $800 scholarship. Austin also won the Most Tickets Sold Award. Jimmie Dollins of Altus was fourth runner-up and winner of a $700 scholarship. Dollins also won the Lifestyle and Fitness in Swim Suit Award.

Terin Brownen of Weatherford won the Scholarship Patron Sold Award and Peer Respect & Leadership Award. Kendra Place of Washington won the Crowd Pleaser Award. All non-finalist contestants each won $500 scholarships.
EVENTS

December 15
2017 Fall Semester ends

March 15
Bernhardt Award of Excellence Banquet

April 12-14
SWOSU Rodeo

May 5
SWOSU Convocation-Weatherford

June 15
SWOSU Alumni Picnic

For updated information on SWOSU events
www.swosu.edu
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To learn more about Liberty Mutual and our auto and home insurance, please contact us at 800-524-9400, or visit us at libertymutual.com/swosu

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Tell your SWOSU story with a personalized brick paver at the Centennial Clock Tower!

www.swosualumni.com - 580.774.3289