
Winter 2024

Winter 2024

Southwestern Oklahoma State University Office of Institutional Advancement and Alumni

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ECHOES

FROM THE HILL

SWOSU™ STRENGTH

From the SWOSU Basketball Court to the NBA, Zac Howe '11 & '12 is at the top of his game

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DANISH AMBASSADOR
VISITS SWOSU™

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PROFESSIONAL BULL RIDERS
TRAINER JIM BUI '14

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TRAILBLAZER
DR. "PEEWEE" ANDREWS '60

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*Front cover image courtesy of the Sacramento Kings



From the President

Dear Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) alumni, emeriti, & friends –

I hope that this issue of *Echoes From The Hill* finds you and yours well. Here on the SWOSU Hilltop we are beginning the Spring 2024 semester with focus and excitement!

This latest edition of *Echoes* highlights a few of the many exciting things that have happened here on the Hilltop this academic year. We hosted a wonderful SWOSU Homecoming in October here in Weatherford, and throughout the Fall, we also gathered with alumni and friends at reunion events in Oklahoma City and elsewhere. Generous supporters like you helped make our 17th annual SWOSU Athletic Auction and our 4th annual SWOSU Charitable Hunt very successful; the resources raised at these fun gatherings will provide valuable financial support to our students, faculty, and programs. And, in a first for our institution, this Fall saw SWOSU play host to a seated foreign diplomat: the Kingdom of Denmark’s Ambassador to the United States!

You will also read about the newest recipients of the prestigious SWOSU Emeriti Honors, our latest inductees into the SWOSU Athletic Hall of Fame, and the newest additions to the SWOSU Presidential Order of Merit as well as updates on the many exciting things our graduates are doing in the workplace and in their communities. Truly, it is always a great day to be a SWOSU Bulldog!

For your investment, your involvement, and your input, we thank you. Keep close, keep in touch, and GO DAWGS!

In SWOSU,

Diana R. “Diane” Lovell, PhD
President, Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU™)

Echoes from the Hill is produced by the staff of Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU™) Office of Institutional Advancement (OIA).

Home of the:
SWOSU Foundation, Inc.
SWOSU Alumni Association
SWOSU Athletic Association

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Weatherford, OK 73096

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foundation@SWOSU.edu
www.SWOSUAlumni.com



FOUNDATION, ALUMNI &
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

2023 SPRING CALENDAR OF EVENTS



JAN
18

SWOSU Music Alumni Mixer
Tulsa

FEB
15

February 15-16
SWOSU Jazz Festival
www.SWOSUJazz.com

MAR
10

March 10-15
SWOSU Giving Week
www.SWOSUGivingWeek.com

MAR
18

March 18-22
Spring Break

APR
05

Friends of Crowder Lake Dinner &
North Family Endowed Lecture

APR
06

Crowder Lake Opening Day
www.FriendsofSWOSUCrowderLake.com

APR
07

April 7-8 SWOSU Football Alumni
Reunion and Legacy Golf Tournament
www.SWOSUFootballLegacyGolf.com

APR
11

April 11-13
SWOSU College Rodeo

APR
15

Dobson Bulldog Golf Classic
Oak Tree National
www.SWOSUDobsonClassic.com

MAY
11

SWOSU Convocation and
Distinguished Alumni Induction



For more information about any of our events, follow us on social media or visit SWOSUFoundation.com.

SWOSU
Southwestern Oklahoma State University

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY



SWOSU™ Music

PURCHASES STEINWAY

SWOSU music professor Sophie Shuo-Hui Hung, PhD and SWOSU piano students Mollie Mefferd and Collin Ford traveled to New York to visit the Steinway piano factory over fall break. They toured the Steinway factory, tested pianos, and selected a Steinway Model D piano. The piano is the first purchase made possible by donors to the SWOSU Piano Campaign. The Piano Campaign began in January 2023 and continues with the goal of adding several additional new instruments to the SWOSU Music Department. Learn more about the SWOSU Piano Campaign at www.swosupianos.com. 🐾



SWOSU music professor Sophie Shuo-Hui Hung (center), PhD and SWOSU piano students Mollie Mefferd and Collin Ford

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MUSIC



1980



Stewart Hall 1960



Old Library 1973

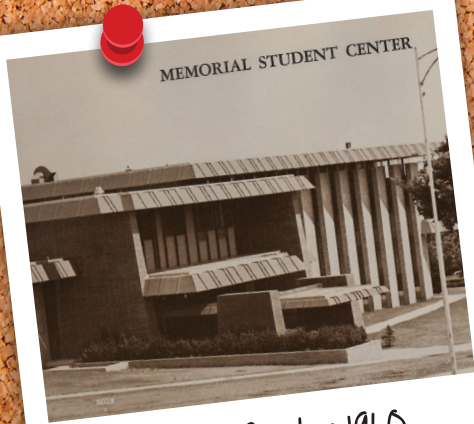
CAMPUS Flashback

Our campus has changed over the years.

Can you remember any of these scenes?



Rodeo 1975



Student Center 1960



1960



Y Chapel 1964

THE SUCCESS OF PSYCHOLOGY:

Dr. Randy Barnett

By: Landry Brewer
Originally Published: September 22, 2023
Parapagon Communications

One man teaching one subject radically changed Randy Barnett's life.

The 1992 Merritt High School graduate thought that he'd begin an oilfield career after completing an associate degree at Southwestern Oklahoma State University-Sayre.

Working for Triple L Rental and then for Dowell-Schlumberger as its truck washer in the evenings allowed Barnett to live at home in Elk City and commute to Sayre for college classes beginning that fall.

For two years he carpooled with high-school buddy David Pruitt, and he got to know Elk City High School graduates Taylor Cameron and Scott Merrifield there. In fact, Barnett and Cameron became best friends and even entered fishing tournaments together.

Though he didn't arrive at SWOSU-Sayre eager for more school, he liked the college culture that was very different from high school.

Barnett was drawn to the different learning environments that college offered. "There was a sense of freedom and flexibility in our learning that was very different from what I had experienced in high school," Barnett said.

As a result, he began enjoying learning in a way he hadn't before.

The professors were approachable eager and responsive to students. One SWOSU-Sayre faculty member stands out.

.....
"I was lucky to have Scott Froneberger as my first psychology professor," Barnett said. "He was excited and passionate about the material, and that enthusiasm sparked a strong interest in the subject and made the class a great experience for me."
.....

So great, in fact, that after earning an associate degree at SWOSU-Sayre, Barnett transferred to SWOSU in Weatherford and pursued a bachelor's degree in psychology.

He was confident in his preparation at the Sayre campus for the rigors of upper-level psychology courses at Weatherford, and he enjoyed meeting new people among his 5,000 fellow students.

He met one very important person named Amy in one of his psychology classes. So important that she became his wife. "Maybe that's another reason that I became so interested in taking more psychology courses," Barnett said.

After completing his bachelor's degree, he enrolled in SWOSU's graduate psychology program.

Then, with a master's degree in hand, Barnett went to work for SWOSU's Juvenile Delinquent Group Home at Foss Lake, and he later worked for the university's Juvenile Group Home near Weatherford.

While working in those homes for 11 years, he began teaching some courses for SWOSU's counseling program.



Dr. Randy Barnett

With a view toward advancing in their SWOSU careers, both Barnetts began work on doctorate degrees at Oklahoma State University, and Randy earned his in Educational Psychology.

In 2008, Dr. Gary Gilliland, SWOSU's Educational Psychologist, retired. Barnett was a natural choice and a great fit for the position, and he assumed that faculty role.

As a full-time Professor of Educational Psychology within the Department of Education, he teaches all the psychology courses required for education majors. And he loves it. "I have thoroughly enjoyed my career with SWOSU," he said.

Barnett has always wanted to stay in western Oklahoma so that he could help with his family's farm. "A full-time faculty position at SWOSU was absolutely the best position that I could have ever hoped for," he said.

Though Barnett has served in various administrative roles for SWOSU since 2012, he stepped away from those additional responsibilities beginning this semester to focus on teaching, which creates more scheduling flexibility.

Barnett lost his father in January of this year to cancer, and he needed to be able to spend more time on the farm.

“This is my first year to try and farm without Dad, and while I often feel lost without his guidance and sad that I can’t call and ask him what he thinks about each decision I’ve made, I feel very close to my Dad and my Grandpa whenever I’m out there working on the farm,” Barnett said. “Every minute spent out there is worth it.”

Scott Froneberger’s SWOSU-

Sayre General Psychology class sparked an interest that ultimately led Randy Barnett to meet his future wife, earn undergraduate and graduate degrees in the discipline, and embark on a SWOSU career teaching psychology that he’s loved and has given him the chance to work with his family.

For Dr. Randy Barnett, that’s the success of psychology. 🐾



An exclusive evening with Dr. Bob Blackburn ‘73

Philip ‘04 and Heather Busey ‘07 hosted an event benefiting the SWOSU Foundation, Inc., on November 1st at the Metro Wine Bar in Oklahoma City. The event featured a presentation by renowned Oklahoma historian and Distinguished SWOSU alumnus, Bob Blackburn, PhD. Pictured are Bob Blackburn, PhD, SWOSU President Diana Lovell, PhD, Heather Busey and Philip Busey, Jr. 🐾

SWOSU™ Charitable Hunt

RAISES \$57,000 FOR PARKS & RECREATION

The 4th annual SWOSU Charitable Hunt was held on September 15th in Devol, Oklahoma, and raised over \$57,000 for Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU). The popular philanthropic event benefits the SWOSU Department of Parks & Recreation Management.

.....

“This unique event allows alumni and friends to gather for a worthy cause—our Parks & Recreation Management program,” said SWOSU President Dr. Diana Lovell.

.....

“We are so grateful to everyone who participated in the hunt, dinner, and auction to support one of our stand-out programs here at SWOSU.”

Proceeds from the Hunt are allocated to the Dr. Ken Rose Memorial Fund, which exists to help SWOSU produce the next generation of conservationists, wildlife law enforcement officials, park rangers, and other outdoor and wildlife career professionals.

MA+ Architecture of Weatherford and Oklahoma City provided the presenting sponsorship for the event. Gifts for hunters were provided thanks to sponsorships by Flex-Chem and United Country Auction & Real Estate.





HUNT HOSTS INCLUDED:

- Great Plains Bank
- High Water Strategies/Colby Hale
- Michael and Morgan Hart
- Dr. Carl Hook
- Magill Insurance & Real Estate/Wes Magill
- Thomas and Trisch Mapel
- SportChassis, LLC
- Gary VanDuyne
- Dr. Fred Winters

The Hunt was facilitated by Black Oak Farms, a full-service hunting operation that is integrated with traditional agriculture practices of farming and ranching. The event kicked off with a skeet shooting competition sponsored by Mike North and Regeneration Ranch Resort. The competition was followed by a late afternoon dove hunt.

After hunting, participants and guests were treated to cocktails and a dinner sponsored by Blue Sky Bank. Dinner was followed by a fundraising auction facilitated by SWOSU alumnus Corky Heard of United Country Heard Auction & Real Estate.

The 2024 Charitable Hunt will be held on September 13. For more information visit www.HuntwithSWOSU.com. 🐾

Trevin Smith and father Gary Smith enjoy the SWOSU Charitable Hunt on September 15, 2023.



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MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024

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Anthony Moore

PRESIDENTIAL ORDER OF MERIT

SWOSU President Diana Lovell, PhD, presented Oklahoma State Representative Anthony Moore of Clinton the Presidential Order of Merit during SWOSU Homecoming in October. Moore, a Custer County native, represents District 57 in the Oklahoma House of Representatives. He serves as Chairman of the Oklahoma House of Representatives Committee for Higher Education and Career Tech. Moore is also an attorney practicing with Christensen Law Group.

The Presidential Order of Merit is an honor bestowed upon an individual who has shown outstanding achievement on the state, national, or international level, in the arts, sciences, business, industry, professions, sports, social service, or public service. The late SWOSU President John Hays introduced the award in 2004. The SWOSU Presidential Order of Merit is the highest honor and personal gift of SWOSU's chief executive. 🐾



President Lovell with Representative Moore on October 7, 2023.

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The Friends of Crowder Lake banner features a sunset background with a kayaker. It includes a QR code, the website URL, and a call to action. Below the main image is a collage of outdoor activities: a person climbing a rope, a person hiking on a trail, and a close-up of hands holding a blue paddle.

Ambassador Visits SWOSU™

DENMARK'S AMBASSADOR JESPER MØLLER SØRENSEN MAKES A HISTORIC VISIT



On September 27, 2023, Denmark's Ambassador to the United States, Jesper Møller Sørensen spent the afternoon visiting the SWOSU Weatherford Campus and touring several facilities. Sørensen's visit marked the first time a seated foreign ambassador has visited SWOSU's campus.

The Ambassador and his delegation from Denmark were particularly interested in renewable energy in Oklahoma and the state's large wind farms. While at SWOSU, Ambassador Sørensen spoke to a group of SWOSU international students, including SWOSU golfer Anders Strand who hails from Denmark. The Ambassador also toured the General Thomas P. Stafford Archives and the Engineering and Technology lab. 🐾



Ambassador Sørensen listens to President Lovell explain one of the engineering projects SWOSU students are working on during his campus visit in September.

SWOSU™ Emeriti Honored

The SWOSU Alumni Association honored three distinguished former faculty members in November 2023 with Emeritus Awards.

The 2023 Honorees were:

- Dr. W. Edward Rollison
- Dr. David Ralph
- Dr. Cynthia Foust

In 2015, the SWOSU Alumni Association voted to begin recognizing former SWOSU employees. Emeriti status at SWOSU is an honor, designating a retired faculty member. 🐾



Alumni Association President Julie Stalder, Dr. W. Edward Rolison, Dr. David Ralph, SWOSU President Dr. Diana Lovell at the 2023 Emeriti Awards.



SWOSU
DAWGS



Bui poses for a photo with José Vitor Leme. Leme is a bull rider with the Austin Gamblers and is the 2023 Season MVP.

PBR Athletic Trainer – Jim Bui ‘14

Professional Bull Riding (PBR) fans may have already caught the first season of “The Ride” that premiered on Amazon Prime in 2023. The eight-episode docuseries produced by Kinetic Content, examines the world of Professional Bull Riders, and offers a behind-the-scenes look at the daily lives of some of its biggest stars. Rodeo superstar and

television celebrity Cord McCoy ‘03 can be seen on series as a PBR team coach. McCoy, a SWOSU alumnus, starred on three seasons of the CBS reality show, “The Amazing Race.”

McCoy is not the only SWOSU graduate featured on “The Ride.” Jim Bui, an athletic trainers included on the series is a fellow Bulldog. Bui works as an athletic trainer with the

Austin Gamblers and other PBR teams.

Bui majored in Athletic Training and minored in Allied Health while at SWOSU. After graduating in 2014, he became a certified athletic trainer, moved to Texas, and began working for Fit-N-Wise in Decatur. “When I was working at Fit-N-Wise I was introduced to a big population of rodeo athletes,” explained Bui.

.....

“I was exposed to all different rodeo athletes but worked predominantly bull riders. I spent a lot of time learning the sport and evening getting on a bull to know what they experience along with roping and tying! I was able to build great relationships with some of the best bull riders during my time there and helped three of them become world champions.”

.....

Once the team series began two years ago, Bui was asked to be a part of the Austin Gamblers team due to experience with the bull riders from therapy to performance training.

Ironically, Bui never worked with the SWOSU rodeo team while in college. “Never in a million years did I think I would be where I am today!”

Recently Bui left Fit-N-Wise and has partnered with other physical performance and therapy professionals to open Top Tier Performance. When asked about being on Amazon’s “The Ride” Bui said, “It was a super cool experience! I wouldn’t have ever thought I would be a part of something so special! Although I took a public speaking class at SWOSU nothing really prepares you for questions they ask on the spot!”

Bui and his wife Darby live in Decatur, Texas. They welcomed their first child, a son, Ky Robert in July 2023. 🐾



Jim Bui with his wife Darby and son, Ky in the fall of 2023.

SWOSU™ Rodeo Event



The Live the Legacy Rodeo event was held on November 11 at JC Cowboys in Weatherford. Guests enjoyed steak dinner, live music, and a live auction. The evening raised over \$19,000 for the SWOSU Rodeo Team.

SWOSU™ Baseball Alumni Reunite



A large gathering of former SWOSU Baseball players got together over the summer to watch an OKC Dodgers game. The event celebrated the new SWOSU Baseball Endowment fund. To learn more about the SWOSU Baseball Endowment, visit www.GivetoSWOSUBaseball.com. 🐾

Athletic Association Feeds Football

The SWOSU Athletic Association jumped in to help feed the SWOSU football team this summer. Football athletes returned to campus before campus food services were open for weekend hours. The Athletic Association members helped cook and feed the football players. 🐾





The Last Huddle

SWOSU Football alumni from across the country returned to the Hilltop for Homecoming 2023 for what they called, “The Last Huddle.” The group played football for the Bulldogs in the 1960s. Pictured at Flex-Chem field on October 7th are Gary Abercrombie, Jim Mitschke, Bob Hunnicutt, Kenn Bibb, John Taylor, Jack Harrel, Dr. Fred Winters, Ron Polston, John Kendall, and Gaylan Adams. 🐾

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AUGUST 10, 2024

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17th Annual Athletic Auction

RAISES OVER \$165,000

The 17th Annual SWOSU Athletic Live Auction & Dinner held August 19 in the Pioneer Cellular Event Center raised over \$165,000 in support of the university's student-athlete scholarships and athletic recruiting. The spirited event, hosted by the SWOSU Athletic Association on August 19, 2023, treated over 225 guests to a cocktail hour, dinner, super silent auction, and live auction. Longtime SWOSU benefactor Pioneer served as underwriting sponsor for the gathering which is SWOSU's largest on-campus fundraising event each year. SWOSU alumnus Corky Heard of United Country Heard Auction & Real Estate and Hailey Tucker, a record-setting SWOSU basketball alumna, served as emcee for the auction.



Hailey Tucker, a 2019 SWOSU graduate served as emcee for the 2023 Athletic Auction. Tucker is a news anchor at KWCH in Wichita, Kansas. She was recently nominated for a NCAA Division II 50th Anniversary Gold Award for her performance on the SWOSU Lady Bulldogs Basketball Team.



SWOSU alumni, emeriti, and friends generously donated dozens of auction items for the fundraiser. Some of these items were auctioned prior to the August 19 event via an online auction. The online auction has gained in popularity in recent years as it allows donors, regardless of location, to bid and support SWOSU athletes.

“The SWOSU Athletic Auction is a great example of the charitable community that surrounds our university,” said SWOSU President Dr. Diana Lovell. “We are truly grateful to all those who donated items, who placed bids, and who attended the event. Your support is so important to the success of our student-athletes and programs.

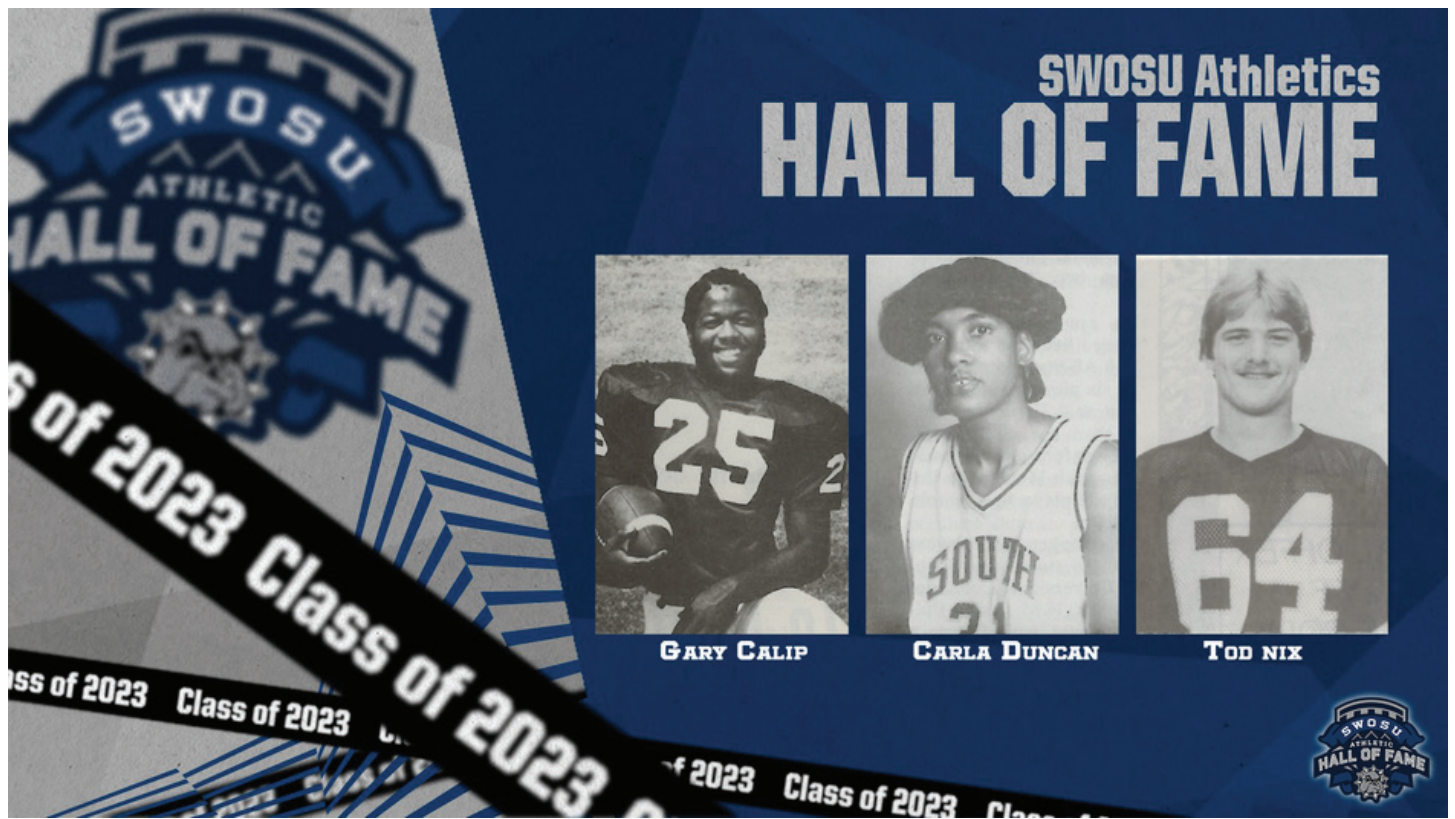
The 18th Annual SWOSU Athletic Auction & Dinner is planned for August 10, 2024. For more information visit www.SWOSUAthleticAuction.com. 🐾



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SWOSU™ Athletic Hall of Fame

Gary Calip, Carla Duncan, and Gregory Tod Nix were formally inducted into the SWOSU Athletics Hall of Fame on August 18, 2023. The event, sponsored by Pioneer, took place in the Skyview Suite of the Pioneer Event Center.

Calip (1974-78) and Nix (1979-82) became the 45th and 46th representatives from the football program in the SWOSU Athletics Hall of Fame, while Duncan (1988-90) became the ninth from women's basketball. Calip, a two-sport athlete in college, also adds to the baseball list as the 17th name to be inducted. 114 total athletes and contributors have now been inducted into the SWOSU Athletics Hall of Fame.

2023 marks the 32nd time friends, family, and supporters have gathered to induct Bulldogs into the school's athletic hall of fame, dating back to 1963 when the first such event took place. Annual inductions began occurring in 2003 with two exceptions – in 2018, and again in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic. 🐾



Calip, Duncan, and Nix receive their Athletic Hall of Fame awards at the Banquet held in their honor on August 18, 2023.

FORMER NFL PLAYER RETURNS TO THE HILLTOP:

Johnathan Haggerty inspires SWOSU™ Bulldog Team

Johnathan Haggerty of Dallas, TX, took some time to visit with the SWOSU Bulldog Football team as the pre-season began this summer. Haggerty was a stand-out wide receiver during his time at SWOSU in the 2000s. He was named the 2009-2010 SWOSU Male Athlete of the Year. Since his college days, Haggerty has played for several professional football teams including the Chicago Bears, and the Cleveland Browns. 🐾



SWOSU alumnus John Haggerty gives an inspiring speech to the SWOSU Bulldog football team during his July 2023 visit.



BACK THE BULLDOGS!

BY JOINING THE SWOSU ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION





2023-2024 Athletic Association Members

To learn more about the SWOSU Athletic Association visit www.SWOSUAthleticAssociation.com.

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CONTENDER

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- Weatherford Chamber of Commerce
- Corn Heritage Village of Weatherford

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- Les & Laurie Crall
- Nick Davis & Milan Davis with Davis Properties
- Pat Davis
- Levi Finley
- Capt. Ronnie Fleming & Angela Fleming
- Todd & Kennedie Helton
- Dr. Joe Anna Hibler
- Scott Hoffman & Amy Hoffman with Hoffman Pools & Spas
- Jason & Micah Hughs
- Jerry & Kathy Jones
- Kelli Litsch
- Bruce & Terry Magill
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SCAN TO JOIN
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ASSOCIATION



Kelley

JEWELERS



DILAMANI.



SWOSU™
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



SWOSU
ALUMNI

SWOSU™ Strength:

ZAC HOWE '11 & '12 USED GRIT AND DETERMINATION TO MAKE IT TO THE NBA

With a population of less than 900, Dibble, Oklahoma is the kind of place where everybody knows everybody and where high school sports reign supreme. It was here in the early 2000s that Zac Howe and his older brother Kyle grew up spending their days in the basketball gym.

Howe's family moved around quite a bit when the boys were young. Zac and Kyle lived primarily with their father, Mark Howe, a high school basketball coach. "Dad said he never wanted to coach against us, so it was best that we played on his team," recalled Howe.

All through junior high and high school, basketball was a way of life for Howe. After graduating from Dibble High School in 2007, it came as no surprise when he took his career to the next level. Howe spent his first two years elevating his game in Enid playing for Northern Oklahoma College (NOC), before transferring to SWOSU to finish his education and eligibility. Doing so he followed in the footsteps of his father, Mark Howe, a 1984 graduate of SWOSU.

While playing the remainder of his college basketball career with the Bulldogs, Howe was able to complete a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and earned a Master of Education in Sports Management from SWOSU. Howe also discovered his inspiration and passion for the weight room with the help of strength and conditioning coach, Kevin Hyde. It was then he began to



Image courtesy of the Sacramento Kings.

understand the benefits of focused-strength training for athletes at that point. "I majored in business administration. At that point, I wasn't exactly sure what I wanted to do for a career, but I knew I wanted to be involved in sports in some way," said Howe.



Howe poses with family and friends at SWOSU Basketball Senior night in 2012.

After graduation in 2012, Howe visited a SWOSU classmate at the University of Texas where he was completing a strength and conditioning internship. At Texas, Howe experienced sport-specific strength training.

.....

“I got to see basketball-specific strength training for the first time,” he said. “I knew Northern Oklahoma College did not have a strength coach, so I came home and immediately called my first college basketball coach and asked for a job.”

.....

Thanks to his assertiveness, Howe was indeed hired as an assistant basketball coach at NOC. There, he got his feet wet doing some strength training as well as coaching on the court and recruiting. During this time in Enid, Howe also married his high school sweetheart, Allison Lohman. After two years at NOC, they both knew it was time to move on to the next challenge.

Over the next few years, Howe used his ever-expanding professional network to land athletic performance internships with basketball teams at Texas A&M and the University of Maryland. “While at Maryland, I made some connections with the Washington Mystics WNBA team. I knew the Mystics did not have a dedicated strength coach, so I gave them my sales pitch. The Mystics were receptive, and I was able to parlay my internship with U of M into a performance coaching internship position with the WNBA.”

Howe had made it to professional athletics. The Mystics shared a training facility with the NBA’s Washington Wizards. Howe recalled, “Every time a Wizards player was around, I was there. I wanted to



“I majored in business administration. At that point, I wasn’t exactly sure what I wanted to do for a career, but I knew I wanted to be involved in sports in some way,” said Howe.

Image courtesy of the Sacramento Kings

gain as much knowledge and experience as much as possible.” He simply could not get enough.

By the fall of 2016, Howe was ready to put an end to internship work and long days of personal fitness training on the side. At that precise moment, a call came from the Oklahoma City Thunder. “Just when I thought I was done with intern work, a door opened for the biggest possible internship in my field. I was offered a sports science position with the Thunder.” Howe accepted this one last internship, and he and Allison headed home to Oklahoma for the 2016-17 NBA season.

Howe had the opportunity to work with several elite physical therapists throughout his first season with the Thunder. He was also able to work alongside his former SWOSU strength coach Kevin Hyde, who was now also with the Thunder franchise.

.....

“I loved being a strength coach, but I also saw the benefits that elite athletes received from having a physical therapist’s expertise,” he said.

.....

Howe realized that the next step he needed to take to advance his expertise in the area was to become a Doctor of Physical Therapy.



Howe played basketball for the SWOSU Bulldogs from 2009-2012.



Howe with father and coach, Mark at the Oklahoma All State game in 2007.

Returning to school while working full-time for the Thunder was no easy undertaking. To be accepted into a physical therapy program, Howe needed to first earn twenty-four credit hours of science classes in the shortest amount of time possible.

He recalled, “I had to get creative. I took classes from five different universities at one time, including SWOSU.” His ingenuity and hard work paid off – completing his prerequisites in just six months. He was then accepted into a hybrid physical therapy program at Baylor University.

Howe continued to gain more experience working with athletes while doing clinic rotations in physical therapy school training with UFC fighters and other athletic professionals. After graduating from Baylor with a Doctorate in Physical Therapy, Howe made his way to California to work for the Sacramento Kings in 2021. He was promoted to Head Strength and Conditioning Coach for the team the following year. “For professional athletes, it’s more than just a game, it’s their identity,” he shared.

.....

“Being a part of getting an injured athlete back on the court is incredibly rewarding. It’s the best part of my job.”

.....

Zac and Allison Howe reside with their children in Fair Oaks, California, where Allison works as a dental hygienist. The two recently welcomed their second son, Beckham, in October 2023. Their oldest son, Hucksley, is three years old.

Howe shared these final words of advice: “There’s a lot of great things about being from a small town. I would never want to trade where I grew up, but small-town life does not afford you a large network. I had to make up for my lack of connections with hard work. Anyone from anywhere can get to where I am. Just keep grinding.” 🐾



Zac Howe with wife Allison and sons Hucksley and Beckham.

SWOSU™ Foundation Names Three New Trustees

Last summer, the SWOSU Foundation, Inc., announced the ascension of three SWOSU alumni to the Board of Trustees.

Sue Cornell of Clinton (SWOSU Classes of 1975 & 1977) is retired after a career spent as a Special Education Consultant at the Heartland Area Education Agency based in Johnston, Iowa. Previously she was an Adjunct Instructor at Morningside College. Cornell has consulted for a wide variety of public school districts including the Des Moines Public School District. She has expertise in the area of Instructional Coaching and participated in Jim Knight's training. In addition, she has provided professional development to assist staff, teachers, and parents in ensuring improved post-secondary transition results. She is a certified Trainer of

Teachers of Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS). Cornell and her husband, Pat, reside in Clinton where she is an active civic volunteer involved in a number of philanthropies.

Cornell has been assigned to the Property and Development Committees.

Kirti Vaidya Reddy of Jersey City, New Jersey (SWOSU Class of 1993) is a partner in the Washington, D.C. Office of Quarles & Brady LLP where she practices as a litigator who focuses on government investigations and litigation. Prior to joining private practice, Reddy served for the United States Department of Justice for most of her career. Immediately before joining private practice, Reddy was an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, which is one



New SWOSU Foundation Trustees Kirti Vaidya Reddy, Jerry Richards and Sue Cornell.

of the nation’s premier legal institutions and known for prosecuting and litigating complex and significant cases. As an attorney in the Office’s Civil Division, she was lead counsel on a number of affirmative civil fraud cases, leading investigations, and negotiating settlements involving millions of dollars. Reddy investigated a variety of matters across different industries, including a ground-breaking civil prosecution involving false claims and kickbacks relating to a substance abuse provider and several precedential customs fraud cases. Reddy holds a Juris Doctor from the University of Oklahoma College of Law. In May of 2023, Reddy was named to the SWOSU Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame.

Reddy has been assigned to the Governance Committee.

Jerrad Richards of Edmond (SWOSU Class of 2014) is an Investor Relations Professional at Devon Energy. He is the primary architect of Devon’s investor communications and engagement approach. Richards sits on the Advisory Board for SWOSU’s Everett Dobson College of Business & Technology. Richards and his wife, Michelle (a SWOSU alumnae), are proud parents of two.

Richards has been assigned to the Investment Committee.

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“I could not be more pleased with the addition of these three Trustees to our governing board,” said Bryan Evans of Edmond (SWOSU Class of 1998), Past Chairman of the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees. “The diverse experiences and skill sets of Sue Cornell, Kirti Reddy, and Jerrad Richards will undoubtedly be an asset as the Foundation continues its work to strengthen SWOSU.”

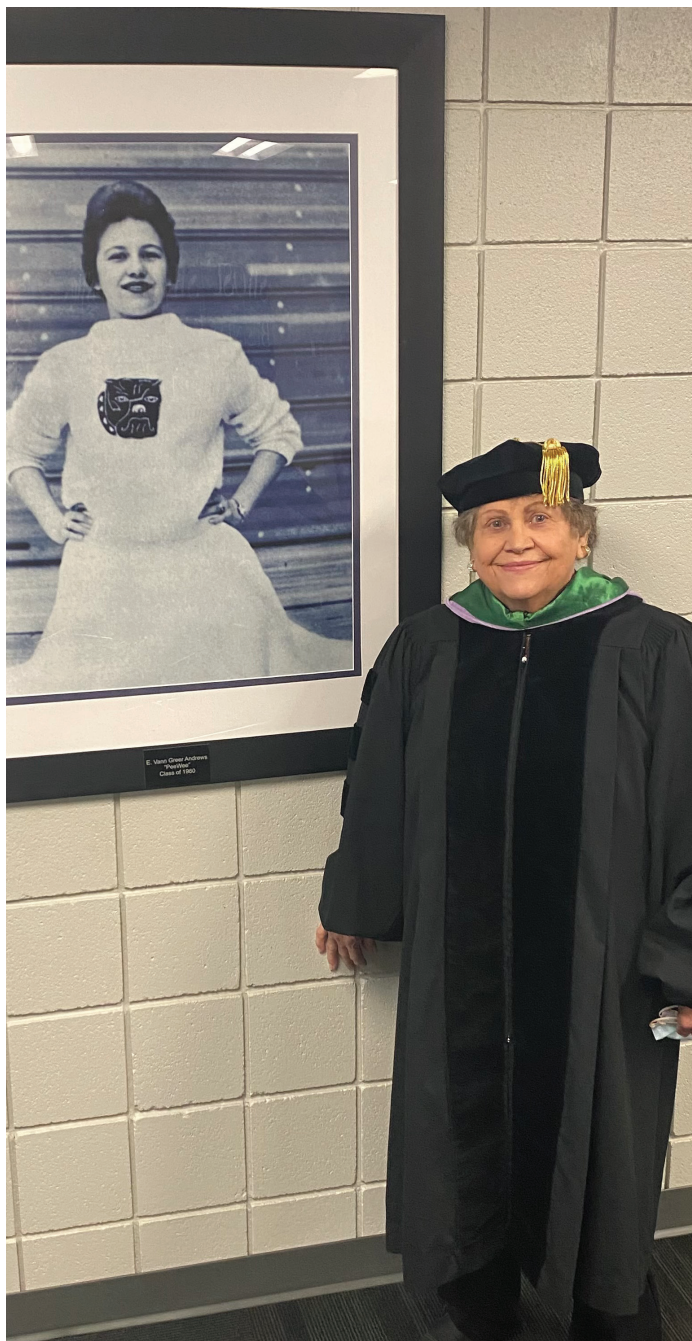
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Cornell, Reddy, and Richards will each serve a four-year term from June 2023 to June 2027.

The SWOSU Foundation, Inc. was founded in 1977 to promote philanthropy, award scholarships, and distribute funds to support the activities and programs of SWOSU. For more information visit www.SWOSUFoundation.com. 🐾



Trailblazer Dr. “PeeWee” Andrews ‘60



PeeWee Andrews, DDS MS poses with her portrait in the SWOSU Pioneer Center in 2021 before the Distinguished Alumni induction ceremony.

Evangeline Vann Greer Andrews, DDS MS, known by family and friends as “PeeWee,” was raised on a farm near Waukomis, Oklahoma. She attended SWOSU, graduating in 1960. Andrews was then accepted into dental college at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. She graduated cum laude in June 1963 and was selected for membership in Omicron Kappa Upsilon. As a senior dental student, she applied and was accepted at Washington University as their first female orthodontic student. Her formal orthodontic education was completed in the spring of 1965.

After a short stint in Texas, Andrews opened her practice in Oklahoma City in the summer of 1966. That same year, she joined the staff of the Dental Department at Children’s Memorial Hospital and Saint Anthony Hospital.

Andrews was the only female dental specialist in Oklahoma for the first 16 years of her practice. Andrews saw patients in northwest Oklahoma City, Edmond, and Kingfisher. Andrews has been involved in the state orthodontic and local dental society, various councils and committees, and held officer positions. She received her American Board of Orthodontics certification in 1975, was inducted as a Fellow in the American College in 1979, and the International College of Dentists in 1996. She continues to own and operate a private orthodontic practice in Oklahoma City.

Over the years, Andrews and her husband Jim have continued to give back to SWOSU. She served as a member of the SWOSU Foundation Board of Trustees, and as the Alumni Association Board President. The Andrews’ have contributed to numerous charitable funds stewarded by the SWOSU Foundation, Inc., including the Randy Beutler History Scholarship Fund, the Bulldog Excellence Fund, and numerous athletic causes. In 2021, PeeWee Andrews was inducted into the SWOSU Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. 🐾

Artist Provides Wall Mural

IN THE SWOSU™ WELLNESS CENTER

The SWOSU Wellness Center got a major aesthetic upgrade over the summer thanks to SWOSU alumna, Summer Scott. Scott painted an enormous, school-spirited, athletic mural inside the Wellness Center.

A 2013 SWOSU graduate, Scott is from Kingfisher, Oklahoma. She owns and operates, “Art by Summer,” and specializes in wall murals and window paintings. “I had so much fun coming back to SWOSU to paint a mural for the Wellness Center,” said Scott. “I have

so many great memories on campus. It was like a walk down memory lane everywhere I went!”

The 72,000-square-foot Wellness Center opened in August 2005 and boasts a 30-foot, free-standing rock wall, three basketball courts, an indoor running/walking track, a free-weight room, cardio equipment, and other strength training equipment. The Wellness Center membership is free for SWOSU students and employees. 🐾



Scott poses this summer with the mural she completed in the SWOSU Wellness Center. Additional murals are planned across the Weatherford campus for 2024.



Bryce Conway Honored

SWOSU Foundation Trustee Bryce Conway was presented with a framed copy of his cover story in Echoes from the Hill. Conway was featured in the Winter 2022 issue of Echoes. He owns Flex-Chem corporation and plays keyboards in the band, The Great Divide. 🐾

50-Year Alumni Medallions Awarded

SWOSU alumni from the class of 1973 were invited to receive a 50-year medallion commemorating the anniversary of their graduation during the Homecoming Hair of the Bulldog Brunch. 50-year medallions are presented each year by the SWOSU Alumni Association as a part of the Homecoming festivities. 🐾



SWOSU President Diana Lovell, PhD bestows a 50-year medal on Rick Allen of Yukon, OK, on October 7th during the Hair of the Bulldog Brunch at the SWOSU Timothy T. Day Business Enterprise Center.

A Piece of History Returns to the Hilltop:

THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF MARJOIRE BRANNON SKEEN

A priceless piece of SWOSU memorabilia, belonging to a remarkable SWOSU alumna, made its way back to the Weatherford campus this year. A collegiate bulldog sweater, nearly ninety years old, was donated to the university by Connie Johnson. The sweater belonged to Johnson's mother, Marjorie Brannon Skeen. Skeen was a student at SWOSU (known at that time as Southwestern State College) from 1936-1939 where she studied creative writing and art.

Her talent for poetry gained national attention in the 1930s. The Oklahoman had a section titled "Today's Best Poem." Marjorie's poems were chosen five out of six times.

In 1939 she married J.B. Skeen, and the two settled in their hometown of Carnegie. In the throes of the Great



Marjorie Brannon Skeen

Depression, the couple set forth to live on his one-dollar-a-day salary as a skilled mechanic. Employment for women outside the home at this time was mostly nonexistent, but Skeen was eager to contribute to the household, and she began teaching art lessons. Eventually, students from as far away as Ardmore and more than a dozen other towns came to Carnegie for her expert instruction. Here classes grew to as many as twenty-four students at a time.

Over the years, while raising a family, Skeen continued to write poetry, teach art, and pursue her passion for reviving antique furniture. In 1981, she helped organize the first annual Carnegie Arts and Crafts Show. She continued to win national poetry contests as well. Skeen was a charter member of the Oklahoma Museum of Art, which was organized in 1957 in Oklahoma City and helped take the arts out into a broader area of the state. She was also a member of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society and the Oklahoma Portrait Society.

Skeen died in 2007 at the age of 91. Her collegiate sweater will now be on display at the SWOSU Museum located on Main Street in Weatherford.



Poem by Skeen:

INVENTORY

In my search

For talents and careers I've tried a great number:

Poet, artist Antique lady,

Museum curator Teacher,

Lover, wife Mother, and Grandmother;

Now here I sit With my magnifying Glass,

No longer trying

To find myself,

But wondering

Where I went. 🐾

Supporting material for this article:
Phillips, Mary Elaine (1987) "An Inspired Lady,"
Westview: Vol. 7: Iss. 2, Article 11.

Alumni Spotlights



Juan Garcia '02, owns and operates Garcia Law Firm in his hometown of Clinton, Oklahoma. Garcia also serves as Associate Judge for the Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes and is a trustee for the SWOSU Foundation, Inc.



Meghan Browning Harms, PA '09, works for Mercy Orthopedic Associates in Weatherford, Oklahoma. She serves as the sports medicine physician assistant for the SWOSU Bulldogs as well as providing sideline coverage for area high schools.



AJ Stegall '07, is a portrait and commercial photographer based in Oklahoma City. He taught band for ten years and in 2019 he left the classroom and took his photography business full time. Stegall specializes in portraits and creating space for people to be authentic to themselves.



Jared Deck '08, is a musician and singer songwriter. He can be seen performing his Americana style music at live shows across the country. Deck is also an elected member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives for the 44th District in Norman, Oklahoma and a member of the SWOSU Alumni Association Board of Directors. (Photo credit: Kyle Wright)



Andrea Oldham '08, is the Community Development Director for the City of Eufaula, Oklahoma. Oldham, as SWOSU basketball alumna, now oversees economic and tourism expansion for Eufaula.



Keturah Adams, PhD '09, is the co-founder and president of Haurtek Global, an Oklahoma City based company that provides specialized training and career development education and tools. Dr. Adams is also an Assistant Professor of Biochemistry at SWOSU.



Todd Nix, PharmD '15, is a clinical pharmacist in Nixa, Missouri for a Long Term Acute Care (LTAC) hospital. He also works as a product formulation specialist and researcher for a sports nutrition supplement manufacturer. In 2022 he launched a consulting company, SuppDoc, specializing in integrative wellness, nutrition and dietary supplement education and sports performance training.



Shaylon Bishop '15, is a CRNA (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist.) Bishop received a Doctorate of Nurse Anesthesia Practice at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth. She is now a practicing nurse anesthetist in Tulsa, Oklahoma providing anesthesia for adults, children, and expectant mothers.



Stefan Idstam '16, is a professional golfer from Sweden. After playing golf for SWOSU, Idstam stepped into professional golf in 2018, and his sights are now set on the PGA Tour. He currently plays on The Mexican Professional Tour and the Nordic Golf League. He continues to climb in the ranks.



Cassidy Moore '22, is an Associate Business Management Analyst with Northrop Grumman Corporation in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Northrop Grumman is a prominent multinational aerospace and defense technology company.

Would you like to be featured as an Alumni Spotlight in a future issue? Tell us about your career moves. Contact Dani Ledonne, Dani.LeDonne@swosu.edu.

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Cammi Valdez



Bryan Evans of Edmond, '98, concluded his term as the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. Chairman of the Board during the Board of Trustees Fall meeting held November 3, 2023 on the Weatherford campus. Evans was the Foundation's 9th Chairman of the Board since the organization was incorporated in 1977. Evans is pictured accepting and award for his service from his successor, Philip Busey, Jr. of Oklahoma City, '04.

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Class of 2002

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- Christopher Bryan Bordelon ('79)
- Jerry J. Bowser ('59)
- Stacey Eugene Burchett ('90)
- Betty Joan Campbell
- Ronald Dee Colvin ('69)
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- Burl Alan Davis ('92)
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- Mark Ray Devers ('76)
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- Elmer Allen French ('70)
- Joe Garrison ('72)
- Charles Emet Graft
- Donna Sue Green
- Teresa Green
- Kendra R. Griffin ('11)
- Charles 'Wayne' Hall
- Myrtha Gayle Harris ('61)
- Patricia Ann Haussler ('74)
- Mary Ann Hoeltzel
- Steven John Hughes
- Joella Hundley
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- Samuel Ralph Kidd ('73)
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- Bobby Joel Klaassen
- Malvin O'Neal Koch
- William Mitchell "Mitch" Mahoney ('91)
- Chancey Rae Miller Maldonado
- Betty Arlene Martin
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