

Jay P. Cannon and Albert Gray to be Inducted into SWOSU Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame

04.20.2015

Dr. Jay P. Cannon and Albert Gray, both of Oklahoma City, are being inducted into Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame during 2015 graduation ceremonies on the Weatherford campus.

Cannon has been a medical doctor for over 40 years and is currently serving as medical director of the Oklahoma Workers' Compensation Commission, while Gray is chief executive officer of the The Children's Center in Bethany.

Both Cannon and Gray will be honored by SWOSU President Randy Beutler at the May 9 SWOSU Convocation on the Weatherford campus. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m. at Milam Stadium on the SWOSU campus.

Jay P. Cannon is a 1966 graduate of Southwestern Oklahoma State University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry. The Ardmore native graduated earlier (1959) from the University of Oklahoma with a B.A. in history and was commissioned in the U.S. Army as a Second Lieutenant, serving from graduation until 1964 with the last two years spent in Vietnam. After finishing at SWOSU, he entered the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine where he completed his M.D. in 1970.

Dr. Cannon served as a Resident in General Surgery at the OU Health Sciences Center from 1970-1975. Cannon was assistant and then associate professor of surgery at the OU Health Sciences Center from 1975-1983. While on the faculty, he served as assistant chief of surgical service at the Oklahoma City Veterans Hospital, interim chief of staff at the VA Hospital, chairman of the board of University Hospital and Clinics, and associate chief of staff and medical director of Oklahoma Memorial Hospital. Cannon is a Diplomat of the American Board of Surgery and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He has been chair of a committee coordinating the "Level 2 Physician and Hospital" back up for the Level 1 Trauma Center at the Health Sciences Center since its inception nine years ago.

After leaving the Department of Surgery at the Health Sciences Center, Cannon practiced general surgery at Presbyterian Hospital for 13 years and then the last 16 years at Deaconess Hospital and Integris Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City. He served as chair of the Department of Surgery at Integris Baptist Medical Center from 2003-2007 and as chief of staff of Integris Baptist Medical Center from 2008-2014.

He has served in numerous leadership roles for various medical societies in the state of Oklahoma. He represented Oklahoma County from 2005-2012 as a trustee of the Oklahoma State Medical Association. Cannon has received numerous honors, including being recognized in 2015 by the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine as recipient of the Deans' Award for Distinguished Physician of the Year.

Albert Gray, a native of Lookeba, is a 1974 graduate of SWOSU where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry with a minor in biology.

Gray has served as chief executive officer of The Children's Center since 1978. Hired originally to close the center due to its poor financial performance, Gray instead turned the private, non-profit pediatric hospital around, leading it to become one of Oklahoma's foremost healthcare providers for children with complex medical and physical disabilities. Ranging in age from birth to 18, patients receive state-of-the-art medical and respiratory care, rehabilitative therapies and education.

Gray received the SWOSU Alumni Association President's Award of Merit in 2006 and was inducted into the Bethany Hall of Fame in 2000. He is a recipient of the prestigious Paul Harris Fellow from the Rotary Club of West Oklahoma City. He serves on the Jasmine Moran Children's Museum Board of Directors and Children's Hospital Foundation Board of Advocates.

Gray started his career as a forensic chemist with the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation and the Oklahoma City Police Department. Gray was the developer and owner of the South Park Health Care Center in south Oklahoma City and owner/administrator of the Sentinel Nursing Home in Sentinel. In addition to his responsibilities at The Children's Center, he is the owner of Industrial Gasket, a 60,000 square-foot manufacturing plant in Mustang and holds oil and ranching interests in western Oklahoma.