



News

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Dr. Wade T McCoy to Speak at SWOSU Sayre Commencement

Southwestern Oklahoma State University-Sayre will have its commencement on Thursday, May 3, and speaker for the evening will be Wade T McCoy MD, a family practice physician at the Gilbert Medical Center in Bethany for the past 20 years.

The ceremony will be held at 7 p.m. in the Sayre Public Schools Auditorium.

McCoy is a 1988 SWOSU Summa Cum Laude graduate in psychology and biology. Born in Cheyenne and raised in Reydon, he has a great appreciation for rural Oklahoma.

Psychology was McCoy's focus with aspirations of becoming either a clinical psychologist or minister. He served the Gotebo Community Church for five years as part time pastor during his college years. His plans were abruptly changed upon meeting a SWOSU biology professor, Dr. Henry Kirkland Jr.

One afternoon, Kirkland invited him to his office for a discussion about McCoy's future. During that short exchange, Kirkland instilled in him the possibility and confidence of pursuing medicine as a career. McCoy credits Kirkland as his inspiration in becoming a physician.

McCoy later researched Kirkland that led to the award-winning book of Kirkland's life, *A Rainbow in the Dark*, authored by McCoy and Patrick Chalfant (a SWOSU graduate). McCoy and his wife, Sarah, established the Carney-Kirkland Scholarship through the SWOSU Foundation.

McCoy completed medical school in 1994 at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, graduating with honors, and completed his residency in family practice in Waco (TX), at the McLennan County Family Practice Residency, the oldest educational institution in family practice in Texas.

He returned to Oklahoma in 1997 assuming the medical practice of Dr. Leon Nelson Gilbert, an honored veteran of World War II, who founded the Gilbert Medical Center in the early 1950s. Dr. McCoy is also a clinical associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Oklahoma.

Dr. McCoy has been married to Sarah (Hulet) McCoy, a SWOSU graduate in mathematics, for 30 years. They have two daughters. Jenna (McCoy) Graham is a professional dancer with Alabama Ballet in Birmingham and a registered pilates instructor. Their youngest daughter, Anna is pursuing her degree in biomedical engineering.

He is the son of Barbara McCoy and the late Jimmy Dean McCoy, lifelong residents of Reydon.

- [Academics](#) ▷
- [Administration](#) ▷
- [Alumni and Foundation](#) ▷
- [Community](#) ▷
- [Events](#) ▷
- [Faculty and Staff](#) ▷
- [Miscellaneous](#) ▷
- [Sayre](#) ▷
- [Students](#) ▷

Archive Links

- [2018](#) ▷
 - [2019](#) ▷
 - [2020](#) ▷
 - [Archive](#) ▷
-



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