

SWOSU Supporters Give to Students in Crisis

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Alumni, emeriti and friends of Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford gathered recently in Oklahoma City to donate private resources in support of the Bulldog Angels Fund, a lifeline established at SWOSU in 2014 to provide emergency financial assistance to students facing times of crisis and hardship.

A dinner, hosted by the SWOSU Foundation, Inc., and SWOSU President Dr. Randy L. Beutler, was held in the Devon Room of the Oklahoma City Petroleum Club. The event featured testimonials from students who have benefitted from the Bulldog Angels Fund and encouraged attendees to give. A selection of unique items and experiences was auctioned off to raise support for the fund.

The first person who ever contributed to the fund, Bill Howell (SWOSU Class of 1975) of Topanga, California, was present and delivered a poem he authored specifically for the event:

“What if all you have ever seen, is all you will ever see?

What if all you have ever done, is all you will ever do?

What if what you are now, is all you will ever be?

So, why wait? Come, be a Bulldog Angel with me.”

The Bulldog Angels Fund has received over \$275,000 in contributions from current and former SWOSU students, faculty, staff and from loyal SWOSU supporters from around the world. The fund has provided critical support to dozens of SWOSU students and, as a SWOSU Foundation Endowed Fund, will do so in perpetuity, according to SWOSU Foundation Executive Director Garrett King.

Founders of the Bulldog Angels Fund (those who have made an at-or-above major gift level contribution or pledge) include:

- Bill, Deborah, & Blake Howell of Topanga, CA
- L. R. & Judy Sights of Clinton
- Evans & Davis Attorneys of Edmond
- Okie Express Auto Wash
- Great Plains Bank
- Harvey & Jean Minton of Weatherford
- Bruce & Terry Magill of Weatherford
- Dennis Green & Mundy Berrong Green of Weatherford
- Mike Muncy & Elizabeth Ryan of Oklahoma City
- Blake & Janie Sonobe of Weatherford
- Corky & Missy Heard of Clinton
- Rick Skinner of Weatherford
- Kelley Jewelers of Weatherford

Table Sponsors who made the event possible, along with those noted above, include the SWOSU Pharmacy Alumni Foundation; Jones Public Relations; FKG Consulting; Waypoint Investment Group; BancFirst; Dr. Carl and Sandra Hook; and SWOSU President Dr. Randy L. Beutler.

Darrel and Debbie Shepherd of Weatherford graciously donated photography services for the event.

Since its founding, the Bulldog Angels Fund has steadily made grants enabling struggling SWOSU students to move forward. Student organizations and groups on the SWOSU campus have enthusiastically made the Bulldog Angels Fund a priority for fundraising and advocacy.

The Bulldog Angels Fund is stewarded by the SWOSU Foundation, Inc. The Foundation was established in 1977 to promote philanthropy and distribute funds to support the activities and programs of SWOSU. Located on the Weatherford campus in the historic Burton House, the Foundation currently stewards over \$20 million in assets for the benefit of SWOSU. For information on how to give to the Bulldog Angels Fund, please contact the SWOSU Foundation at 580-774-3267 or visit www.SWOSUFoundation.com.