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6 June, 2019

SWOSU Welcomes Bob Mills Back to the Hilltop



Robert

"Bob" Mills (right) of Oklahoma City, 1969 graduate and 2001 Distinguished Alumnus of Southwestern Oklahoma State University, was guest lecturer recently on the Weatherford campus. Mills is pictured with SWOSU President Randy Beutler.

Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) with locations in Weatherford and Sayre recently welcomed back 1969 graduate and 2001 Distinguished Alumnus Robert "Bob" Mills of Oklahoma City as a guest lecturer.

After graduation from Putnam City High School in Oklahoma City, Mills studied business and music at SWOSU until graduation in 1969. Struggling to find a job post-graduation, he received help from an old high school friend who placed him in a secretarial pool with five young ladies typing late payment notices at an insurance company. One of the insurance salespeople talked him into borrowing \$25,000 from his mother to convert an old Safeway grocery into a furniture store. A year later, the partner left and since then Mills has grown the, once struggling, single-location furniture company into nine stores across Oklahoma and West Texas (including San Antonio).

Bob Mills Furniture currently employs nearly 500 people across Texas and Oklahoma. The company prides itself in allowing customers to shop and never be hounded by "shopper stalkers" just trying to sell something as their sales hosts work in a "commission free environment."

During his visit to SWOSU, Mills shared his real-world expertise and facilitated an informative exchange with students who are currently studying in the Everett Dobson School of Business & Technology.

"I am delighted to return to my alma mater and spend time with the Bulldogs," Mills said. "I learned so much on this Hilltop. My years at SWOSU laid the foundation for my future success."

A committed civic and philanthropic leader, Mills and his wife, Margaret, are proud of their three children: Bryan, Tuesday, and Chris.

"SWOSU is honored to welcome back Bob Mills and to provide our students exposure to his tremendous business acumen and wisdom," said SWOSU President Dr. Randy Beutler. "We are so proud to claim Bob and all of our Distinguished Alumni as part of the SWOSU family."

For more information on SWOSU's Distinguished Alumni and their continued involvement with the university, please contact the SWOSU Office of Institutional Advancement at 580-774-3267 or visit www.swosu.edu.

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