



News



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2018

SWOSU Honors Homer Ryan and Don Weeks

The Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU) Foundation, Inc. Board of Trustees met recently on the Weatherford campus and one of the items on the agenda was to commend Trustees Homer Ryan (SWOSU Class of 1963) of Frederick and Don Weeks (SWOSU Classes of 1978 and 1980) of Palm City (FL) for each completing 25 years of service.

Ryan and Weeks were named the 33rd and 34th members, respectively, of the SWOSU Presidential Order of Merit by President Randy Beutler.

The SWOSU 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, the professions, sports, social service or public service. The prestigious award represents recognition of significant distinction that a member of the SWOSU family has attained. SWOSU President Dr. John Hays introduced the award in 2004. The SWOSU Presidential Order of Merit is the highest honor in the personal gift of SWOSU's chief executive.

Ryan and Weeks acceded to the Foundation Board of Trustees on April 16, 1993. Since that time, Ryan served as chair of the Scholarships & Grants Committee, and Weeks served as chair of the Board.

Ryan played football at SWOSU and studied accounting and business administration. For over three decades, he and his late wife, Sharon, owned John Deere implement and equipment dealerships in Frederick and Wichita Falls (TX). In addition to currently managing significant farming and ranching operations, Ryan serves or has served on the governing boards of the Frederick Country Club and the Great Plains Technology Center in Lawton. Active in the First United Methodist Church in Frederick and the Frederick Rotary Club, Ryan enjoys spending time with his children and grandchildren and volunteering with the Tillman County Junior Livestock Show.

Ryan has generously endowed the Homer Ryan Lectureship in Accounting at SWOSU.

Weeks played golf at SWOSU and earned a Bachelor of Science in Management and Master's of Business Administration. He was a partner with Arthur Andersen for two decades before being named partner at Grant Thornton. Weeks is serving or has served on the governing boards of the Oklahoma Arthritis Foundation, Oklahoma City Beautiful, Oklahoma City Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and the Oklahoma Golf Association. Weeks is past president of the SWOSU Alumni Association and, in 1999, he was inducted into the SWOSU Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame.

Weeks has generously endowed the Don Weeks Professorship in Accounting at SWOSU.

"Our university is stronger because of the thoughtful investment of people like Homer Ryan and Don Weeks," said SWOSU President Dr. Randy L. Beutler. "Homer and Don have brought tremendous dignity and sense of purpose to the Board and committee leadership roles they have so ably fulfilled. We are deeply grateful to both of them and proud to recognize them for a quarter-century of service as Foundation Trustees."

The SWOSU 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 \$24 million in assets for the benefit of SWOSU. For more information, please visit www.SWOSUFoundation.com or call 580-774-3267.

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