

SWOSU Alums Establish Scholarship in Honor of Retired Professor Henry Kirkland

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Dr. Henry Kirkland (second from right), a biology professor from 1972-1996 at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, was recently honored by Dr. Wade and Sarah McCoy (right) of Oklahoma City with a scholarship endowment in Kirkland's name with the SWOSU Foundation in Weatherford. A reception was held for former students and colleagues at the Greens Country Club in Oklahoma City and among those attending was (left) SWOSU President Randy Beutler.

Dr. Henry Kirkland, a retired biology professor at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, was recently honored by Dr. Wade and Sarah McCoy of Oklahoma City who established a scholarship endowment in Kirkland's name with the SWOSU Foundation in Weatherford.

A reception was held at the Greens Country Club in Oklahoma City where more than 100 of Kirkland's former students and colleagues gathered to hear the inspiring story of Dr. Kirkland, who taught at SWOSU from 1972-1996. Former students from Booker T. Washington High School of El Reno, El Reno High School and SWOSU were in attendance.

Wade McCoy, who is a doctor at Gilbert Medical Center in Bethany, and Sarah started the F.K. "Skeet" Carney and Dr. Henry Kirkland Jr. SWOSU Biological Sciences Scholarship to honor Kirkland's involvement in the McCoy's lives as a professor and mentor. Carney is mentioned in the official name because he was a pharmacist who took a chance and employed Kirkland when he was a child. Kirkland was deeply affected by the generosity shown to him as a young man by Carney and used that to inspire others as a noted educator. Many of Kirkland's students became the indirect recipients of Carney's influence.

"Since Sarah and I are both alumni of Southwestern, we have fond memories and a sense of gratitude toward the university," McCoy said. "Though many professors had a strong influence on us, Dr Henry Kirkland impacted our lives in a way that changed our futures forever. The story of Skeet Carney and Dr Kirkland is too important to let it be forgotten. This scholarship is one way to insure the story of giving will live on."

The scholarship will be awarded to a biological sciences or pre-health student at SWOSU.

To contribute to this endowment or for additional information about the scholarship, contact Nicole Boyles, director of planned giving at SWOSU, at 580.774.3267.