

Brewster and Tautfest Named to SWOSU Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame

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Suzie Brewster Tautfest

Suzie Brewster and David L. Tautfest are being inducted into Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame during the 2009 Convocation on the Weatherford campus.

Brewster is a government relations professional with the Kelley Drye & Warren Government Relations and Public Policy Group in Washington, D.C., and Tautfest is a long-time successful businessman in Weatherford.

Both Brewster and Tautfest will be honored at the May 9 SWOSU Convocation on the Weatherford campus and will be the featured speakers. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m. at Milam Stadium on the SWOSU campus.

Suzie Brewster has been a public policy advocate for over two decades, beginning at the state level in her native Oklahoma. Brewster earned her Bachelor of Science in Education degree from SWOSU in 1965. She is a 1962 graduate of Cordell High School.

For more than 20 years, Brewster worked as a teacher and guidance counselor in Oklahoma public schools. She was named "Teacher of the Year" at Marietta in 1987 and was a finalist for Oklahoma "Teacher of the Year" that same year.

Brewster has had a distinguished career in American politics. She works in several capacities in Washington, D.C. as a public policy advocate. She is known as an aggressive advocate for the Congressional Blue Dog Caucus as well as for her work in the fields of energy, tax, health and education.

For the last eight years, Brewster has headed her own government relations consulting business, Suzie Brewster; Associates. Prior to joining the Kelley Drye & Warren firm, she served as vice president of marketing for The Dittus Group.

Brewster is founder and sponsor of the Brewster Memorial Scholarship Fund at SWOSU's College of Pharmacy. She is also founder and sponsor of the Brewster Memorial Scholarship Fund for college bound high school graduates.

Her husband, former U.S. Congressman Bill Brewster, was inducted into SWOSU's Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame in 1990. They have three children: Karel Brewster who currently resides in Oklahoma, Kecia Brewster (deceased 1990) and Kent Brewster (deceased 1990).

They spend time together on their ranch in Batesville, Texas, their family home in Marietta and Washington, D.C.

David Tautfest has been involved with the family business, Tautfest Inc., since 1946. Tautfest has stores in both Weatherford and Clinton that feature various products

including furniture, appliances, electronics, flooring and service. He served as president of Axiom, Inc., a gas and oil production company, for nearly 25 years and continues to maintain a large rental business in Weatherford, primarily for the college market at SWOSU.

Tautfest graduated from SWOSU in 1955 with a Bachelor of Science in General Business and Accounting degree. He entered SWOSU after graduating from Weatherford High School in 1948. But, during his sophomore year in college, Tautfest had to drop out of college to run his family's business, Tautfest Hardware, because of the passing of his father.

He eventually came back to SWOSU and served as president of the student senate in 1953-54. He lettered in both football and basketball at the university. He eventually served as president of the Former Student Association for SWOSU.

Tautfest had a distinguished career in the military, having served in several capacities in the National Guard. He was awarded the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service while serving in Korea. He served as Battery Commander of Battery "C" from 1954-59. He retired in 1959 at the rank of captain.

Tautfest has also been very active in Weatherford community affairs. He is involved in the Rotary Club of Weatherford and served as president in 1957. He was presented with the first "Paul Harris" service award given by the Weatherford Rotary Club. Tautfest is a former president of the Weatherford Area Chamber of Commerce and a former Weatherford city councilman.

He is an avid quail hunter and member of the First Baptist Church of Weatherford. He and his wife, Kay, have four children: David, Todd, Dana and Clayton. They have five grandchildren.