

SWOSU Receives \$500,000 Gift from Fuller Estate

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The estate of Sayre native Bill W. Fuller has left Southwestern Oklahoma State University with a planned gift of \$501,755 that will be used for scholarships to benefit the Sayre campus of SWOSU.

The gift was made to the SWOSU Foundation.

“We are very grateful,” said Sherron Manning, dean of the SWOSU campus in Sayre. “We appreciate the Fuller family for making these scholarships available to deserving students.”

Manning said Fuller never attended SWOSU but was born in 1926 in Sayre and was a 1944 graduate of Sayre High School.

Fuller was the son of W.W. “Punny” Fuller and Greta Giffin Fuller. He graduated in 1949 from Spartan College of Aeronautical Engineering in Tulsa and Archer’s Flying School in Sayre. He served in the U.S. Navy as an aviation ordinance man 3/C on active duty from 1944-46 and inactive reserves from 1946-1950. He retired from Panhandle Eastern Pipeline Company in Liberal (KS) in 1984 as superintendent of well-testing. Fuller passed away May 31, 2012, in Dardanelle (AR).

Since this is a permanently endowed fund, the scholarships will be awarded in perpetuity to SWOSU students in the name of Bill W. and Beatrice F. Fuller. Lynne Thurman, executive director of the SWOSU Foundation, said the fund is similar to other endowment provisions which specify scholarship funds to be drawn from the interest earnings of the principal while the principal is held intact.

Thurman said the SWOSU Foundation works with donors to establish donation plans which will allow them to “leave a legacy” in their own name or the names of their loved one for future SWOSU students.

“In this way they and/or their loved ones will be helping people forever, just like the Fullers,” Thurman said.