

\$2.6 Million Gift from H.F. Timmons Estate Given to SWOSU College of Pharmacy

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Most people who knew the late Homer F. Timmons were aware that he was very loyal to Southwestern Oklahoma State University, and now university officials are finding out even more about the former professor's dedication.

Timmons, who passed away on February 11, 2013, bequeathed over \$2.6 million to the SWOSU College of Pharmacy (COP) Alumni Foundation in Weatherford.

"This is an unbelievable gift from Dr. Timmons," said Dr. David Ralph, financial administrator for the SWOSU COP Alumni Foundation and associate dean of the COP. "When you realize that he was not a SWOSU graduate and not a pharmacist, you begin to understand the depth of his feelings for SWOSU, the College of Pharmacy and his mission of the Pharmacy Foundation."

The gift is unrestricted, which means the Foundation Board of Trustees can decide where best to spend the money.

"Most donations of this magnitude are designated for a very specific use," Ralph said. "In donating the funds as he did, he was simply saying, 'do with it what is best for the pharmacy program, students and faculty.'"

Several options are currently being evaluated. Patti Harper, alumni and development director for the Foundation, said plans are to enhance the minimum level of all scholarship awards. Secondly, the college is considering the establishment of a H.F. Timmons Scholars program in each academic level of the College of Pharmacy. And, thirdly, a garden structure will be constructed in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the College of Pharmacy that takes place in April, 2014.

"Dr. Timmons was a dedicated professor during his career at SWOSU and an active supporter in retirement," SWOSU President Randy Beutler said. "He worked hard until his passing to build the Pharmacy Foundation. He leaves a tremendous personal and financial legacy that will long benefit SWOSU and the College of Pharmacy."

Timmons started teaching at SWOSU in 1956 and retired in 1994 as dean of the School of Health Sciences.

Timmons, a native of Mangum and graduate of Centralvue High School in Greer County, worked under four presidents at SWOSU. He was hired by Dr. R. Harold Burton and taught under the administrations of Dr. Al Harris, Dr. Leonard Campbell and Dr. Joe Anna Hibler. Timmons was teaching at Central High School in Oklahoma City when he decided to accept the position at SWOSU where he taught half-time in biology and half-time in chemistry.

He served the university in a number of capacities – including acting dean of the School of Pharmacy twice – and served as dean of the School of Health Sciences from

1981-1994. He served as president of the Faculty Senate and Faculty Association, sponsor of the student senate for seven years, faculty sponsor for Rho Chi honorary pharmacy fraternity and sponsor for Tau Kappa Epsilon social fraternity. Before retiring from SWOSU, he served as chairman of the university segment of the SWOSU Foundation's "Building on Our Heritage" capital campaign drive.

Dr. Timmons also made previously-announced donations to the SWOSU Foundation. He gave \$200,000 in unrestricted gifts for the College of Pharmacy and he established a professorship with a \$125,000 gift that was matched by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education's Endowed Professorship program to provide \$250,000 in funds to supplement research, scholarly activity and other efforts of the College of Pharmacy. He also gave \$30,000 previously to the COP Alumni Foundation. In total, Timmons' gifts to SWOSU have amounted to over \$3 million.