

Pillars scholarship awardee stays busy

Tanner Carlson
Staff Reporter

Caitlin Koch, athletic training sophomore, was awarded the Pillars Scholarship before coming to SC last year.

The scholarship will pay for her tuition for four years. The scholarship requires her to uphold some responsibilities for the scholarship to continue to pay for her tuition.

Koch entered a scholarship competition to be eligible to win. Once she was accepted, Koch had to write an essay and be interviewed by various professors on campus.

They then went into the selection process, where they chose Koch along with another student.

“I think people think that I am a very busy person, but very good at time management,” Koch said. “I’ve heard from people that, for as busy as I am, it’s surprising I don’t screw up more.”

Koch is in athletic training, which requires her to gain hands-on experience by working in the training room, as well as in team practices and games.

She is a student ambassador and has office hours each week where she works in the admissions office. Koch is also part of the Southwestern women’s tennis team, along with various other organization.

“I’ve always wanted to do physical therapy, ever since I was little,” Koch said. “I figured it out around middle school, so I am probably one of the rare people that knew what they wanted to do when they were super young.”

Sports have always been a part of Koch’s life. Growing up in the Houston area, her dad would take her to Houston

Texans games.

She is a fan of all things Houston, especially the 2017 World Series Champions, the Houston Astros.

“Right now I’m the trainer for LBB (women’s basketball), and I love it,” Koch said. “But I just love basketball in general I just enjoy every single second. When I’m working a game, I don’t feel like I’m working. I’m just really enjoying myself.”

One of Caitlin’s many aspirations in life is to work at the professional level, and being home with her favorite basketball team, the Houston Rockets, is at the top of the list.

However, working with the right people is most important for Koch.

“I think an athlete that is driven, someone who still enjoys their sport,” Koch said. “I think that’s my biggest thing. I wouldn’t mind working for a college where students are still trying to make it, and still have that drive to be better.”

Koch does have a full year finished in the athletic training department, but she is still learning the trade. However, she is already making a name for herself with her fellow trainers.

“Caitlin does a good job for us,” Nathan Morrison, assistant athletic trainer, said. “She really buckles down, and will even go above and beyond what is asked of her.”

Koch enjoys the hands-on approach of athletic training, because the best

way to learn it isn’t necessarily in the classroom, but on the field or court.

“She’s more of a laidback, visual learner,” Morrison said. “She kind of wants to watch everything before, and she’s one to ask questions.”

“I met her when she was here on her campus visit,” Lisa Braun, director of athletic training education program, said. “She was very pleasant then, as she is now. I don’t know if I’ve ever been around Caitlin where she doesn’t appear to be in a really good mood.”

Along with helping others rehab their injuries, Koch is recovering from an injury of her own.

With the amount of time she spends with others, she must counterbalance her own time to heal herself.

“It’s very difficult. There is a lot of time that goes into all of that,” Braun said. “There are a lot of emotions that you have to go through, and she’s doing a good job of that.”

Koch’s positive outlook has really stood out with her peers and professors, which is a crucial attribute to have going into the medical field.

She will have to encourage athletes up who have endured a serious injury, and it seems as if it just comes naturally to her.

“Go for it, just go for it,” Koch said. “If you have an opportunity, take it.”

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Education major joins variety of organizations

By Katherine Cox
Staff reporter

Women’s soccer, Ed Builders, Leadership SC and A Capella Choir all have something in common: education senior, Karrie McNutt.

“Starting my junior year at Southwestern College after transferring from Hutchinson Community College, I immediately got involved with as many campus organizations and teams as I could,” said McNutt.

Unlike most students, McNutt is a Winfield native.

“Some like to get away from home, and others never leave home. For me, I chose to leave for two years and had a great experience at community college, but knew my heart was drawing me back home towards my family, friends, and community,” McNutt said.

McNutt’s heart wasn’t the only thing

calling her back home. Her grandparents and her parents have a special spot in her reason for returning.

“They have supported me since the age of four in the game of soccer that I have grown to love so much. For me to play somewhere close to where they could still get the chance to watch me play meant

the world to me,” McNutt said, “It’s those moments of getting to see little siblings grow up, play sports, and break out of their shells that makes staying in your hometown all worth it.”

McNutt’s favorite part about South-

western is the campus.

“My favorite part about SC is the landscape and history. It is such a beautiful campus, and can brighten anyone’s day if we just stop and take the time to look around us.”

McNutt doesn’t dislike anything about SC, but she does have a word of advice for current and future students.

“I hope others realize the importance of getting involved, because it truly makes a difference in how you value Southwestern College and all that it has to offer.”

Katherine Cox is a freshman early childhood education major. You may contact her at katherine.cox2@sckans.edu.



ON THE Cover

Pictured: Caitlin Koch, Valerie Stuerman, Karrie McNutt and Kaela Massey were chosen to be featured in this issue of the Collegian for all of their hard work and involvement at SC. You can find their stories on pages 3 through 5.

Tanner Carlson/Staff photographer