

New president brings passion, commitment to SC

By Taylor Forrest
Convergent copy editor

Student senator. Student activities chairperson. Resident Assistant. Orientation Leader. Residence Hall Director.

No, you aren't reading an extensive student-driven resume.

It is a list of some of the leadership roles that Brad Andrews, president of Southwestern College, tackled while in college himself.

Andrews attended the University of Missouri with the intention of pursuing a career in journalism because he liked to write and communicate, but after one year realized that he wasn't cut out to be a journalist.

Instead he came to a whole other conclusion: his passion was students and student life. "I realized I love college life," said Andrews. "I love what happens at a university and the transformation that takes place in students. So as early as my sophomore year as an undergraduate I knew that I wanted to work in colleges."

With this career path in mind, Andrews switched majors and pursued a degree in English. It wasn't until he left the University of Missouri that he knew he wanted to be involved in college administration.

"I went to get my masters at Drake University and I knew it had to be in English, political science, history or something like that to become a faculty member," said Andrews. "But I really loved student life so I decided to pursue a masters in administration."

His love for students led him to build a 16-year career at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin, where he held numerous positions. For eight years he was dean of students. But for the following five years he took over as vice president of student affairs, admissions and financial aid. Eventually he oversaw fundraising, alumni relations and communications.

"I kind of did a lot of different things," said Andrews. "But at the end of the day it boiled down to developing relationships between individuals, whether they be prospective students,

currents students or alumni and the college."

Andrews visited Southwestern and said that his initial impression was that it was such a warm, friendly, caring and hardworking college community.

"My wife and I came in thinking, 'well, that warm feeling is nice,' but I'm sure there will be surprises that come up and there will be things that disappoint you, but that hasn't been the case at

all," said Andrews. "Our first impressions have been affirmed on a daily basis at Southwestern."

Andrews accepted the position in May, but his official term didn't begin until July 1. Despite just getting settled into the community and his position at Southwestern, Andrews said he is ready to start building on the strengths that Southwestern already has. He said that his first initial goal is to reach out to people and to learn what

they love about Southwestern.

"As someone relatively new to Southwestern, the one thing that stands out to me is how strongly Builders feel connected to their college," said Andrews. "The commitment to this place by current students, faculty, staff and alumni is unusual."

Becky Mangus, executive assistant to the president, works alongside with Andrews on a daily basis. She said that his

sense of humor is the best thing about him. "Generally, we have a few chuckles throughout the day," said Mangus. "But he's also caring, compassionate and a family-oriented guy."

Other faculty members are excited about the new administration as well. Michelle Boucher, associate professor of English, said that she is pleased Andrews has a bachelor's degree in English. "The great thing about studying English is that it is a study of humanity," said Boucher. "English majors have a powerful sense of people, what it means to be human, diversity and other cultures. These traits are all great things for a president to have, so I feel confident in what he will do for the college."

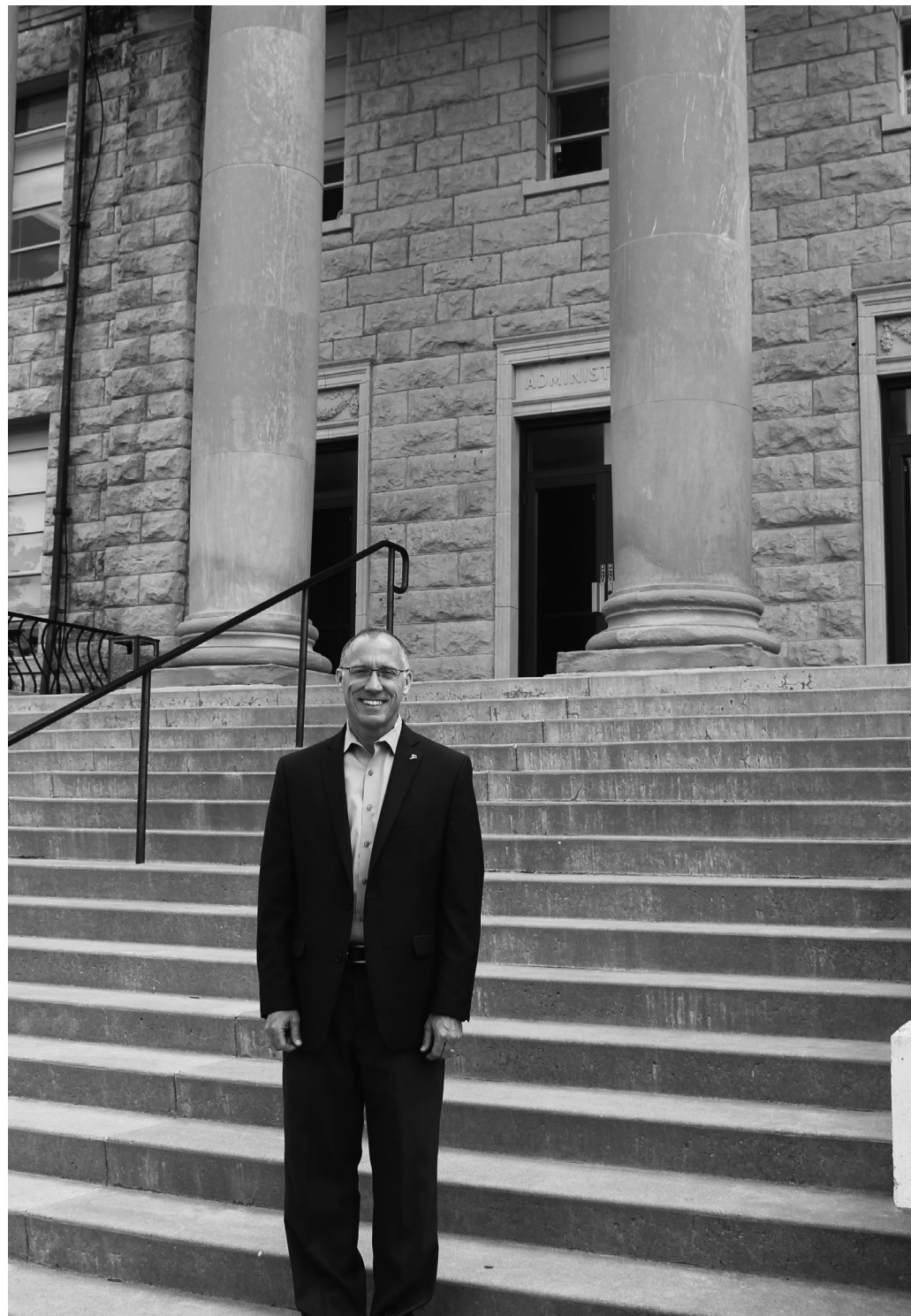
Andrews said that the best way for him to get exposure to students is to be at as many events as possible, but he will also be making scheduled visits and walks across campus as well.

"The school year is getting started so I have in my schedule two days a week to just walk campus," said Andrews. "Walk through classrooms, buildings and the cafeteria. I want to be out and about on campus."

Along with exposure to students, Andrews wants to know what it is about Southwestern that students love. He said that he feels very strongly about the environment and the education that students receive here.

"I know that for all students that realize that Southwestern is the best fit for them that I am confident that you all are receiving the best college education that you can in the entire world," said Andrews. "Better than Harvard and Oxford, better than anywhere because what's most important about high education is full engagement by the student. And Southwestern really allows and encourage that particular engagement. So reach out to me, talk to me and come see me and let me know what it is about Southwestern that fully engages you and what makes you love this college."

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Dr. Brad Andrews, president of Southwestern College, stands in front of the Christy pillars. Andrews' goals as the new president include reaching out to students, connecting with the college community, and attending campus events. (Taylor Forrest/Collegian photographer).