

Builder love lingers as alumni director retires

By **Kylie Stamper**
Staff reporter

The definition of a Moundbuilder is not one written on paper, but one that is found in the people who call themselves a Builder. The people who create the definition of a Moundbuilder are the ones who shine with the qualities of a Builder as they walk across campus, or the ones who illustrate the concept of the Builder Family even by sitting at a desk in an office, or the ones who portray every aspect of being a Moundbuilder and they share that with those around them.

One person who captures the definition of a Moundbuilder is Susan Lowe, director of alumni programs. Lowe has always had Moundbuilder blood, and that shows in the way she carries her person. Lowe is in charge of connecting Builder alumni with each other and keeping their Southwestern roots intact.

This year's homecoming festivities will be Lowe's 17th and final homecoming as alumni director. She will be retiring from her position on Dec. 31.

As Lowe put it, she is the daughter of a Moundbuilder, the wife of a Moundbuilder, the mother of Moundbuilders, the alumni director of Moundbuilders, and a Moundbuilder herself. To say that she might know a little bit about Southwestern would be an understatement.

Lowe's mother attended Southwestern, and then in 1972 Lowe became a student at Southwestern herself. She completed her first three years here, then married her now-husband, George Lowe, '74, and started her family. Lowe returned to finish her schooling several years later and graduated in 1995. Her history with Southwestern includes working as the administrative assistant for Institutional Advancement, serving as the assistant to Bishop Richard Wilke, volunteering in the greenhouse with Max Thompson, green-

house supervisor, taking charge of alumni programs, and of course being a student. Lowe said, "Being a Moundbuilder is something that I wear with pride. What it means to be a Moundbuilder, it means the world to me."



DeAnn Dockery, vice president for Institutional Advancement, has worked with Lowe in Institutional Advancement for almost three years. Dockery said, "She's amazing to work with. Susan is a Builder through and through, she loves Southwestern, she loves our alumni, and she has built so many relationships in the time that she's been here. It's been really fun."

Lowe will say goodbye to her role as the alumni director in December but she will never say goodbye to Southwestern.

After retiring, Lowe says she will spend more time with her seven grandchildren. Three of her grandkids live in Wichita, and the other four live in the outskirts of Winfield. She plans to attend more ball games, 4-H activities, concerts, plays, and

church programs.

Anyone who knows Lowe will also know that, in addition to spending time with her family, she finds great enjoyment in flowers. She even majored in floriculture while she was a student at SC. She

has 14 gardens at her house full of flowers ranging from perennials, wildflowers, annuals, and selections of other genres of flowers. Lowe said, "I think of my house as being the McDonald's fast food stop for butterflies and hummingbirds. I want them to stop by and get a bite to eat as they continue on their migration journey." She will also spend some time volunteering in the campus greenhouse again.

As if flowers, grandkids, the greenhouse, and Southwestern connections weren't enough, Lowe also plans to use her time to write more poetry.

Lowe says leaving her job will be hard, but she's ready for the next step in her life. She said, "It will be very bittersweet. I've been getting a lot of phone calls and

I'm starting to have people stop by the office. It's going to be hard, it really is. I've been blessed to have this job for so many years and to make all these connections and now to be saying goodbye, [it's like] I'm graduating from my job to retirement."

With the daunting task of trying to find a person to fill Lowe's shoes as the next director of alumni programs, Dockery says they will be looking for a person who is outgoing and comfortable with people, organized, interested in making connections with alumni, and someone who has a heart for Southwestern College. She said, "It's an interesting position because you have to be able to connect with people of all different ages because we have people who are celebrating their 60th reunion, and then the people who graduated two, five, and 10 years ago. You have to be able to equally relate and talk to people of all ages."

For the next three months, Lowe will continue creating new relationships with new and old alums alike until she hands the responsibility to her successor.

According to her colleagues, although she is leaving the Institutional Advancement office, she won't be leaving their thoughts any time soon. Charles McKinzie, advancement officer, said, "She is just one of the nicest people to work with. She has been such a valuable resource to me as a coworker but also as an amazing friend. She is easily one of the most well-loved people in all of Southwestern. She is one of those people who you only get to meet once in a lifetime. Susan is very special and everyone cares about her a great deal."

There will be a come-and-go farewell reception for Lowe from 3:30-5:00 pm on Oct. 7 in Deets Library.

Kylie Stamper is a senior majoring in communication. You may email her at kylie.stamper@sckans.edu.

Baseball returns after 60+ years

By **Turki Alturki**
Staff reporter

On August 29, Brad Andrews, president, and Matt Shelton, athletic director, announced that the board of trustees had voted to approve the addition of baseball as a varsity sport at Southwestern College.

Scott Nuss, sports information director, said that the last time that Southwestern had a baseball team was more than 60 years ago. Baseball will add at least 25-30

students to the campus.

Ryan Stumbough, senior at Bonner Springs High School, is thinking about coming to Southwestern next year to be on the start-up team.

"I was extremely excited to hear that the school would be starting a baseball team," said Stumbough.

There were over 100 applications for head coach position.

"We are looking for a coach right now, we are doing interviews right now, and

hopefully we have somebody hired by the end of October," said Shelton.

The team will start practicing in the fall and begin its season in the spring of 2018. The Southwestern baseball team will join 11 teams in the KCAC.

In response to the baseball team addition, Southwestern will also be adding another varsity women's sport in 2019.

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