

THE COLLEGIAN

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Sports editor continues reporting after graduation

By Garrett Chapman
Staff reporter



If someone were to tell me four years ago that I would become a sports journalist, I probably wouldn't have believed them.

My siblings are big when it comes to following in the footsteps of our parents. Dad was a welder and mom was a nurse assistant, neither of which grabbed my attention. I am the first in my family to do something different.

Coming to Southwestern College, my goal was to graduate with a degree in communication with an emphasis in radio and television, and end up working in a radio station. Although I never changed majors, my final goal altered slightly. I will

be graduating with a degree in communication, but I will not be involved with a radio station. Instead, I will be working in a newsroom in Enid, Okla as a sports reporter for the Enid News and Eagle.

I have been a part of the Collegian staff for three semesters during my four years on campus. I quickly realized during my first semester on staff that covering sporting events was my cup of tea.

It was March of 2014 that I had the opportunity to follow the women's basketball team to the National Tournament in Sioux City, Iowa. Being court side at a major event made me realize that sports reporting actually wouldn't be that bad to get into.

I have always been a sports fanatic, which makes covering sporting events an easy task for me to do. I'm sure you've all heard the cliché saying, "You're not working if you're doing something you love."

In my last semester here I was lucky enough to be selected as the sports editor for the Collegian and Updatesc. As the sports editor, I was given the opportunity to engage myself deeper in covering Builder sports. At first, I thought it was going to be a heavy work load, but I quickly realized that I wasn't even working. Writing a review over the game is something that I love doing.

I found that covering games wasn't actually work for me because I enjoyed it so much. I appreciated all of what was involved, from attending the game, to coming up with post-game interview questions, to the interviews themselves, to gathering stats and writing the article.

I would like to give a special thank you to the newspaper staff, past and present, for all the constructive criticism they provided me along my journey. Without them, I would not be the reporter

I am today. The staff made the newsroom a friendly environment, one that never failed to make me feel welcomed and at home.

Also, thank you to my advisor, Stacy Sparks, who pushed me to do better every day, I never realized what I was capable of until I met her. She kept me on track and always pointed me in the right direction. Stacy may not know, but she was my mom away from home. Without her, I wouldn't be the reporter I am today and I wouldn't have a job lined up in Enid.

When my first article was published, I remember the excitement and feeling I had when I read, "By Garrett Chapman, Staff reporter," at the top of the article. As a sports reporter, I believe I will never work a day in my life.

Garrett Chapman is a senior majoring in communication. You may email him at garrett.chapman@sckans.edu.

Senior will cherish three years of memories

By Taylor Forrest
Staff reporter



There are many things I will be leaving behind.

The familiarity of this campus. Friends who have listened to me complain, laugh and cry. Professors who inspired me to persevere. My grandparents who I have lived with for the past year, and who I love so very much.

But, there is one thing that I will not be leaving behind after I walk across that stage wearing my cap and gown—the memories. As corny and cheesy as it sounds, I will carry the memories that I have created here at Southwestern with me for the

rest of my life.

While I purposefully took an accelerated approach to my undergrad degree, the past three years have flown by, and yet so much has happened since I first rode on a crowded bus to Builder Camp as a freshman. I spent countless sleepless nights writing papers, stories and cramming for tests. I traveled across the nation each year for journalism conferences. I faced and conquered adversity in my personal life. All while at Southwestern, I earned my dream internship (which led me to live in Washington D.C. for a summer), adopted my first dog and got engaged to the love of my life.

Looking back retrospectively, I have not only expanded my academic growth, but I have learned so much about myself throughout this journey. While I was never one that bought much into the "Builder Family"

mantra or was ever sentimental or attached to this college, as graduation rapidly approaches I have found myself not wanting to leave.

That's not to say that Southwestern doesn't have its downsides. The Christy basement, which is where I have spent 90 percent of my academic career, is dilapidated, primitive and can best be described as seedy. I mean, the light fixture in Christy 13 is literally taped together. The internet is splotchy and due to the size of our campus, groups are cliquy and campus can sometimes have a high school feel.

With that being said, I wouldn't have wanted to get my education anywhere else. Southwestern's strength lies in its caring professors and in the numerous leadership opportunities that are spread across campus. Therefore, do not take the one-

on-one time with your professor or advisor for granted. They are there to enrich your experience and academic exploration. You would also be best advised to take full advantage of all of the leadership roles on campus. Do not sit back and let somebody else lead while you simply just get by. If there is a conference or an extra practice or session, go because you can also learn so much outside of the classroom.

College is what you make it, and you know what they say, "You miss 100 percent of the shots that you don't take." So as I wrap up this column and say goodbye to my time at Southwestern, there is one piece of advice that I will leave behind. Take a shot.

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