

Biology senior named 'Scholar of the College'



ABOVE: Logan Wepler, biology senior, is to receive the Scholar of the College award for his outstanding academic achievements. He loves to walk his dog, Roscoe, around campus in his free time and the two can be seen playing ultimate frisbee on Thursdays on the Sutton lawn. (Lauren Sieh/Staff photographer)

By Lauren Sieh
Staff reporter

Logan Wepler, biology senior, was announced to be the Scholar of the College at Opening Convocation earlier this year.

Wepler is involved in many extracurricular activities around campus. He is president of Ultimate Frisbee Organization and treasurer of Beta Beta Beta. He is also a member of the Leadership team.

Wepler has maintained his 4.0 status since high school.

"Grades have always been important to me," said Wepler.

Before coming to Southwestern, Wepler did not know what Scholar of the College was or what it meant. "I was just making sure I got good grades," said Wepler.

Wepler is a transfer from Hutchinson Community College.

"When I took my first visit here, it was a really homey vibe," said Wepler. "They took enough time to know your name when you showed up. Also, you have a personal tour, and it was an experience I didn't get at any of the

other colleges that I visited."

Wepler said the most difficult course he has taken while at SC was ecology, because it is taught by Dr. Pat Ross. Wepler took ecology at the same time he was taking Ross' genetics class, so Wepler would find himself taking two tests in one day.

Rick Cowlshaw, professor in biology, is Wepler's advisor. Cowlshaw said, "Transfer students from community colleges often have a rough first semester at SC as they are trying to adapt to the increased rigor of our science program. Logan took two of our most challenging biology courses, genetics and ecology, in his first semester. He worked very hard to step to the challenge and ended the semester with As in both courses."

In advice for other students, Wepler said, "Don't procrastinate, because it's not good. If the teacher asks you to do something, do it, because it's there for a reason," said Wepler.

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Alum returns, commits to serve students as first year advisor

By Jordan Strane & Drake Vittitow
Staff reporters

Alissa Sheppard, first year advisor, was born and raised in Wichita. Even though it is her first year holding a faculty position, Sheppard is no stranger to Southwestern College.

Sheppard discovered SC in 2006 as a junior in high school, and by fall 2007, she was a student.

She graduated with a bachelor's degree in communication in 2012 and earned her master's degree in leadership in 2014.

"I cheered all through college and enjoyed it so much that I coached for two years while working on my MSL," said



Alissa Sheppard

Sheppard. "My love for SC was so strong that I knew I had to come back and help students here at Southwestern."

After graduating, Sheppard became assistant general manager at Best Western Hotel. After four years at the hotel, Sheppard

finally made her way back to Southwestern College.

"I began my new journey in April and I have loved every minute of it," said Sheppard.

Sheppard works with all first year students, helping them adjust to college and the culture of Southwestern. She is passionate about her students and she enjoys helping mold them for their future.

Sheppard is not only a degree holder, but a fighter as well. While attending Southwestern, Sheppard lost her brother and had to take care of her child.

"I had a couple of curveballs thrown at me during college," Sheppard said. "The way the college helped me grow up, they taught me how to become the

adult that I needed to be. I have felt that I have always owed Southwestern for the hospitality they showed me, so that is why I have always wanted to work here."

Sheppard is loved by students and faculty alike, and many see Sheppard as an open book.

"I love the energy that Alissa brings to the college," Steve Kramer, assistant director for advising and student success, said. "Her background as an SC student graduate gives her the advantage to relate to the students."

"Mrs. Sheppard just has a welcoming presence when you meet her," said Payton Bayless, undecided freshman. "She can make anyone's bad day turn into

a good one."

When she is not at Southwestern, Sheppard can be found at the closest shopping center or cheering on her two daughters while they do their dance routines for competition.

Sheppard does her best to represent the values Southwestern has taught her on and off campus.

"Every time I step out of my house, I rep Southwestern," said Sheppard. "Everywhere I go, people will know the Southwestern College name."

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