sagu Prepares plans for new World Communication Center

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE
Digital Media Arts students begin Mission TEN documentary
Live worship recording in production
Women’s softball added to SAGU Athletics
Join Dr. Larry Hester and Dr. Garland Owensby, March 8-17, as they trace Paul’s journeys through Greece and Italy.

Cost is $3,317 and includes:

- Round trip airfare and deluxe motor coaches
- Expert guides and on-location teaching by SAGU professors
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Hotels, full sightseeing, entrance fees, tips and taxes

To register online, visit www.sagu.edu/paulsjourneys
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Special Content

As you read, watch for the following icons. They indicate special content available only online.

In This Photo: Eleanor & Delmer Guynes

Remembering Eleanor Guynes

COME GROW WITH US.
SAGU is now hiring qualified professors for Fall 2011.
www.sagu.edu/employment

About Southwestern Today SUMMER 2011 • VOL 15 ISSUE 1

Southwestern Today is a publication of Southwestern Assemblies of God University, a non-profit institution of higher learning.

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING, MANAGING EDITOR: Ryan McElhany
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Christina Freeze, Public Relations Coordinator

DIGITAL EDITION: Ryan McElhany
Statement of Purpose: The purpose of Southwestern Assemblies of God University is to prepare undergraduate and graduate students spiritually, academically, professionally and cross-culturally so as to successfully fill evangelistic, missionary and church ministry roles and to provide quality educational and professional Christian service wherever needed throughout the world.
President’s perspective

Kermit S. Bridges, D.Min., President

As we endeavor to keep cool during the summer heat wave, anticipation is building toward the coming year. An increase in on-campus applications and dorm reservations is very encouraging. We have much to be grateful for. Please remain diligent in your prayers on behalf of SAGU—particularly given the sad news of the closing of Bethany University, our sister school, after nearly a century of training Christian leaders. Pray for their faculty, staff, students and alumni. At the request of their administration, we have worked to facilitate the transfer of current Bethany students desiring to finish at SAGU. To date, around 30 students have expressed interest.

World Communication Center
On April 29, our Board of Regents authorized the University to move forward and develop construction plans for the first phase of a new World Communication Center (WCC). This 70,000-square-foot facility will serve all academic programs, but particularly the Communication Arts and Music departments. As you read about student backpack journalists on page 8, you will get a brief glimpse of some of the students this facility will serve. A tentative floor plan and description of the WCC can be viewed on pages 16-17.

Student finances
Despite our efforts to maintain competitive tuition rates, the current economic climate presents families with difficult challenges. Over half of our students will be negatively impacted by the impending decrease in government financial aid, particularly the federally funded Pell Grant and the state funded Texas Equalization Grant (TEG). Early reports indicate the Pell Grant and TEG may decrease as much as 15 percent. Given current budget deficits, it is reasonable to conclude grants of this kind will continue to be reduced in the future, causing many students to come up short as they endeavor to follow their calling to SAGU. Please help us offset these challenges and invest in the lives of deserving young people by supporting SAGU financially through university scholarships and planned giving. Review the related article about the Southwestern Foundation on page 5, and contact the Advancement Office (972-825-4639) for information about how to help.

All-Steinway achievement
The generosity of alumni and friends has helped us become part of an elite group of approximately 130 institutions world-wide with music programs exclusively using Steinway pianos. SAGU is one of five Texas universities and the first Assemblies of God University to achieve All-Steinway status. Read more about this achievement in the article on page 12.

A tribute to Eleanor Guynes
The success SAGU enjoys today is a result of faithful men and women who have given of themselves in selfless service on behalf of the mission of this institution. One of those heroes, Eleanor Guynes, finished her earthly assignment this past April and was welcomed by King Jesus into her heavenly home. I was privileged to participate in Eleanor’s memorial service and did my best to express to Dr. Guynes and the family how much this remarkable woman meant to us all. Eleanor joins the ranks of several key leaders who made a significant imprint on this institution, and all received their heavenly reward in the past year. I trust you will be inspired by the tribute to Eleanor on pages 22-23. Perhaps the next Eleanor Guynes, Klaude Kendrick, Paul Savell or James Bridges will enroll this fall!

Charitable Gift Annuities
In trying to create new avenues for our donors, SAGU offers a Charitable Gift Annuity program. With this new program, you can give and receive! Charitable Gift Annuities have become the most popular gifting vehicles in today’s volatile market. The Charitable Gift Annuity with Southwestern Foundation is fixed for life. Your lifetime payment amount is dependable and unaffected by economic downturns. Establish a CGA for yourself, or anyone you choose, with a charitable donation of $10,000 or more. You may choose either a Single Life or a Joint and Survivor Annuity. You may also choose to defer payment for a higher annuity rate.

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The Southwestern Foundation Turns 25

Irby McKnight
Vice President for University Advancement

The SAGU Foundation has reached a major milestone. It has financially supported the University for 25 years!

At the 2011 Board of Regents and Faculty Banquet, three members of the Foundation’s Board were recognized for their years of service. Sam Monzingo, John Maguire and Carl Alexander have each served since the Foundation’s inception. Mr. Alexander will continue serving as our Chairman of the Board, while Mr. Monzingo and Mr. Maguire are retiring. We are deeply grateful for their dedication and hard work during their tenure.

The stable leadership of the Foundation in the past has increased the trust needed for future growth. It is losing two members, but gaining three very capable and highly respected businessmen. By the Board’s governance, newly appointed members are Joe Spears, John Houston and Dave Marcontell.

The Foundation is a vital part of SAGU’s past and will be increasingly important to its future. Over the past 10 years, the Foundation’s earnings have contributed over $1 million to scholarships for needy and deserving students.

In a time of questionable morality and burgeoning national debt, reliance on government aid and loans is insecure. SAGU needs to raise its scholarship funding to secure SAGU’s mission of training successful Christian leaders.

To increase our endowment fund, we ask alumni and friends to join our efforts in planning gifts for the Foundation. If I or the Senior Director of Development and Gift Planning, Craig Rinas, CFP® can help, please call (972) 825-4639.

Current Planned Giving

Current Estimations: $30 Million
Goal: $100 Million

Leaf Your Mark - 5
In 2010, the SAGU Missions department introduced Mission TEN (To Every Nation), a vision to send students to serve in every nation (192), Chinese province (34) and Indian state (35) over the next 10 years. Mission TEN is an opportunity for SAGU to actively express its core value of mission-mindedness and participate in evangelism throughout the world.

SAGU’s Mission TEN has ministered to 37 of the 261 locations it plans to reach. This summer, 114 students traveled to 20 countries. Students raised $143,500 for their trips, in addition to $53,000 for Backpack Journalism.

- Children’s ministry at schools and giving the Book of Hope
- Working with a church plant coordinating outreaches and ministries
- Working with King’s Castle Ministries
- Children’s camp
- Children’s ministry at schools and giving the Book of Hope
- Relationship evangelism to Muslims
- Children’s ministry at schools and giving the Book of Hope
In 2009-2010, 103 students engaged in a total of 15 trips, traveling to 17 countries. The teams went to Bangladesh, Costa Rica, northern Asia, France, Ghana, northern India (Bihar/Uttarakhand/West Bengal), southern India (Tamil Nadu), Kenya, Moldova, Peru, Rwanda, South Africa, Vietnam, Sweden, Uganda, Oman and Mexico.
SAGU’s Digital Media Arts students join student-led missionary teams to create a groundbreaking, feature-length documentary (currently under the working title “World 101”) of their 2011 journey.

The project gives Digital Media Arts students hands-on training by telling the stories of missionaries worldwide. SAGU Director of World Ministries Chad Germany shares, “This will be a powerful, factual demonstration of the Gospel in word and deed. It can challenge and recruit students and even win people to Christ as it is shown in the United States.”

Nine journalists will divide into 2-person teams to travel on 17 Mission TEN summer trips. Each team will carry a backpack containing a laptop, a high definition camera that shoots video and still photos, a tripod, two external hard drives, a wireless audio kit, and a light and reflector kit.

SAGU student Brianna Woodson communicates the importance of Backpack Journalism, “We are such a visual society now…to portray these stories, to catch people’s attention, we have to move with the culture—in the direction of media.”

The journalism teams will film and report 2-3 personal interviews or ministries while in each country. The documentary will be student-produced with faculty oversight. Students will take particular care to protect missionaries’ identities. “World 101” releases December 21, 2011, and will be available at www.sagu.tv.

Previous SAGU student films have received numerous awards. The team for “Murdoch” received three awards at the WorldFest Film Festival in Houston, TX. The film won a Gold Award (2nd place) for all Short Film Cinematography and two Platinum Awards (1st place) for Short Film Editing and Short Film Screenwriting. Earlier this year “Murdoch” won 3rd place for Student Productions at the National Religious Broadcasters Convention in Nashville, TN. It recently won “Best Short Feature” at Minnesota’s On the Edge Family Film Festival.

Southwestern Cinema’s first film “Breaking News” received Best Cinematography for Short Film at the World Fest Film Festival in 2009. “Breaking News” broadcast nationally on NRB network, TCT network, TBN network and the Australian Christian Channel.

For more information about Backpack Journalism 2011, visit www.sagu.edu/backpack2011.
“...to portray these stories, to catch people’s attention, we have to move with the culture—in the direction of media.”
SAGU offers new degrees

SAGU will offer a Bachelor of Business Management Information Systems (MIS) and a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences (BAAS) in Occupational Leadership for Fall 2011.

The MIS is intended to help business students’ problem-solving skills through effective utilization of Information Technology (IT) and Information Systems (IS). Increasing technological dependence prompted the creation of an MIS specialization for SAGU’s business program. The specialization will cover basic management systems, theories and practices and will also delve into emerging technology and IT security and privacy issues.

Adult learners’ increased interest in returning to college to complete a bachelor’s degree necessitated SAGU to create the BAAS in Occupational Leadership. The degree is a bridge from a technical or vocational degree to a bachelor’s degree. Of the 120 hours required for completion of the degree, 48 hours focus on career studies and 21 hours focus on leadership studies (7 business, management and psychology courses). Up to 61 hours can be transferred from an approved technical or vocational institution.

Students must have at least 18 transferable hours from an approved vocational or technical institution to apply for the program.

Financial Aid offers new scholarship opportunities

SAGU has increased overall scholarships by 115 percent and doubled financial aid distribution since 2000. Vice President of Enrollment and Retention Eddie Davis shares, “In order to make education more affordable, SAGU makes a continued effort to increase scholarships and grants. SAGU students have a 22 percent lower loan debt after graduation than the national average of private, nonprofit, 4-year universities.”

SAGU has created a need-based grant that will be available to students who have reduced Federal Pell Grant funding or cannot receive the Federal Pell Grant. Students may be eligible for $500-$1,000 annually depending on their Expected Family Contribution (EFC) upon the completion of the Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA). “All grants up to this point have been merit-based. This is the first institutional need-based grant in SAGU history,” says Senior Director of Financial Aid Jeff Francis.

Scholarships are now offered for women’s fast-pitch softball, a new varsity sport added for Fall 2011. For more information about tryouts, please contact Coach Tim Grant at tgrant@sagu.edu.

Along with a new athletic scholarship and need-based grant, SAGU has nearly doubled undergraduate academic scholarships. The priority application deadline is July 15, 2011. Eligibility is based upon a quality point scale determined by the student’s GPA and SAT or ACT scores.
Student film “Murdoch” wins 5 awards

The SAGU Communication Arts department received three awards for their most recent student film “Murdoch” at the WorldFest Film Festival in Houston, TX. The film won a Gold Award (second place) for all Short Film Cinematography and two Platinum Awards (first place) for Short Film Editing and Short Film Screenwriting.

Executive Producer of “Murdoch” and SAGU Digital Media Arts Professor Rob Price states, “One award from WorldFest would have been an accomplishment, but to win three is just amazing. ‘Murdoch’ competed against all short films in these categories, not just other collegiate productions.”

This is the third contest where “Murdoch” has won an award. Earlier this year “Murdoch” won 3rd place for Student Productions at the National Religious Broadcasters Convention in Nashville, TN. It also won “Best Short Feature” at Minnesota’s On the Edge Family Film Festival. The short film has been nominated for Best Student Film and Best Costuming at Barebones Film Festival in Muskogee, OK, and nominated for an award at New Hope Film Festival in New Hope, PA.

Early pre-production for “Murdoch” began in December of 2009 with SAGU students Amber Williams and Jesse Dale writing the screenplay. Thirty-two students took part in the 3-month pre-production in Spring 2010, followed by two intensive weeks of filming in May. The film was then edited during the following months before debuting before a full house at the Historic Texas Theater in downtown Waxahachie on November 4, 2010.

Live worship recording in production

The SAGU Media department is producing its first-ever live recording “In All the Earth” to be released at Fall 2011 Campus Days, November 3-4. Recording for the album occurred during Late Night Worship at Campus Days this past March. All songs are original and written by students. Additionally, staff members Meredith (songwriter/vocals) and Nathan Jones (lead electric guitar) and Hilary Goode (songwriter) contributed to the recording.

| Jon Hernandez | songwriter/vocals/keys |
| Binil Chacko | songwriter/vocals |
| Calli Wood | songwriter/vocals |
| Kenny Perry | songwriter/vocals |
| Ben Brewer | drums |
| Devan Guynes | synth |
| Kyle Rockwell | acoustic guitar |
| David Belt | acoustic guitar/vocals |
| Bryce Jennings | keys |
| Steven Petty | rhythm electric guitar |
| James Anderson | bass guitar |
| Ashley Scoggins | vocals |
| Nikki Peters | vocals |
| Devin Ferguson | organ |
Campus Connection

Music department reaches “All-Steinway” status

In April 2009, SAGU began an initiative to become an All-Steinway school. With the help of donors, SAGU raised $335,000 and purchased four Roland digital pianos, 11 Boston upright pianos, three Steinway studio pianos, two Steinway vertical grand pianos and three Steinway grand pianos.

“In keeping with our mission of excellence, SAGU is deeply committed to providing the best academic experience possible for our students,” commented Linda Robins, Music Department Chair. “This is why we need the best possible tools to assist them in achieving their goals. The inclusion of Steinway pianos in the Music Department’s plan for growth and development ensures a standard of artistic excellence at the University for many years to come.”

Christian Fidelity Foundation, among other donors, helped SAGU buy the last grand piano that sits on the Sheaffer Full Life Center Chapel stage. The Model ‘B’ concert grand is 7 feet long with 12,000 individual working parts, weighing 760 pounds. The ebonized birch piano is encased with a hand-rubbed, black lacquer finish.

Each Steinway piano takes more than a year to create and 450 craftsmen to ensure that the 125 patented features and processes work properly. The piano then undergoes hours of voicing—the process of balancing and adjusting keys and shaping, hardening or softening each hammer—to give it the unique Steinway sound.

SMA gives to Ning Bible translation

SAGU students gave to the Bible translation for the Ning people of Tanzania, Africa, for their spring giving project.

On average, SAGU students raise $15,000 in the fall semester and $7,500 in the spring. Southwestern Missions Association (SMA) doubled the spring average raising over $15,000. SMA Executive Treasurer Miguel Guerreiro presented the check to The Seed Company’s OneVerse program, a partner of Wycliffe Bible Translators. The money will fund the completion of the Ning translation of the Book of Acts.

According to OneVerse, The Ning people live between the Selous Game Reserve and the Rufiji River in southeastern Tanzania. Of the 384,000 Ning-speaking people, less than one percent of their population claims Christianity.

The Ning Language Project is one of OneVerse’s 17 projects and is currently 39 percent funded. For more information about OneVerse, please visit www.oneverse.org.

$145,500 of Donor Scholarships awarded during 2011 luncheon

SAGU’s Advancement department hosted its annual donor scholarship luncheon April 8, 2011. A total of $145,500 was distributed through 58 endowed scholarships and awarded to 76 students. Fifty-four donors attended the event to meet student recipients.

Newly awarded scholarships

James K. Bridges Scholarship
Luther and Betty Foster Scholarship
Earl Ayres Memorial Scholarship
Dr. J. Paul & Mary Savell Scholarship

Newly created scholarships

H.C. and Dorothy Noah Scholarship
James K. and Joyce Bridges Scholarship
Vada Swick Hagee Scholarship
SAGU celebrates 99th commencement ceremony

SAGU held its 99th commencement ceremony Friday, April 29, 2011, at 6 p.m. in the Sheaffer Full Life Center. SAGU Senior English Major Wendy Byh from Lincoln, NE, was selected as student speaker by the University’s faculty. Byh has served as the Southwestern Missions Association (SMA) President and Vice President and participated in SMA trips to Mexico, Argentina, India and Haiti where she was a team leader. She played varsity soccer for two years and served as a Resident Assistant of Kendrick dorm for one year. Byh’s future plans are to teach English on the mission field in North Africa or the Middle East.

G. Robert (Bob) Cook, Jr. was the commencement speaker for the evening. He serves as the Executive Vice President of The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education and an adjunct professor for SAGU’s Harrison School of Graduate Studies. Cook has been affiliated with the Assemblies of God since 1975 serving as church pastor, faculty and administration for Bethany University, and District Superintendent of the Rocky Mountain District. Bob earned a bachelor’s degree from Bethany Bible College in 1972, a master’s degree from Denver Seminary in 1986, and a Doctor of Ministry in Pentecostal Leadership from the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary in 2004.

SAGU sees 8th consecutive semester increase

SAGU reached its fourth-consecutive spring enrollment increase on the heels of its fourth-consecutive record fall enrollment. Total on-campus enrollment increased 6 percent compared to Spring 2010, with notable growth among graduate students.

Spring 2011 marked the highest spring enrollment in SAGU’s 84-year history. Additionally, it represented a 25 percent increase in spring enrollment since 2007. Students propelled SAGU to its highest enrollment last fall when 2,064 students enrolled.

SAGU’s Harrison School of Graduate Studies set a record enrollment Spring 2011 with an 11 percent increase. Availability of graduate distance education and the new Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership are direct contributors to the growth.

In a recent address to students, President Bridges identified the number of programs added in the last five years. Since 2007, SAGU has added bachelor’s degrees in Ancient Studies, Bilingual Education, Criminal Justice, Digital Media Arts, Drama, Human Services, Management Information Systems, Physical Education, Social Work and Sports Management. SAGU also added master’s degrees in Children and Family Ministries, Early Education Administration, History, Human Services Counseling, Master of Divinity, Social Studies Education, Language Arts and Reading, Organizational Leadership, Principalship and School Counseling. President Bridges also identified programs being evaluated for the near future: bachelor’s degrees in Apologetics, Archaeology, Leadership, Business Law, Business as Missions, Business and Public Administration, Decision Science, Hospitality and Hotel Management, Logistics, Nonprofit Management, Education-Science, Education-Art, Jazz Studies, Journalism, Political Science; and master’s degrees in Church History, English and Business Administration.
Ethics Team becomes back-to-back champions

On November 5th, 2010, the SAGU Business department participated in the annual Ethics Match. The SAGU team won the match for the second year in a row. In the years that SAGU participated, they have never finished lower than third place.

The Ethics Match promotes the study of business ethics in private universities. SAGU students competed against teams from McMurry University, Schreiner University, Southwestern Adventist University, Southwestern University (Georgetown), Texas Lutheran University, Texas Wesleyan University, University of Dallas, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and Wayland Baptist University. The SAGU team faced Texas Lutheran University in the final round of the match to earn first place. Last year SAGU topped Southwestern University of Georgetown.

“This is a tremendous accomplishment, which does so much to confirm the academic reputation of our university,” commented President Bridges. “Congratulations goes to each of our team members, but special recognition goes to Barry Gordon, Business Department Chair, who sponsors the team each year and puts in countless hours of personal time in preparing these students to compete at the highest level.”

The SAGU team included Tessa Neely, Braden Pollard, Christopher Rhoades and Priscilla Trevino. There was also a second group of SAGU students who scrimmaged with the team and helped prepare them for the match. This group consisted of Veronica Joseph, Ben Kissee, Christalyn Ko, Hunter Shelton, Colin Sweeney and Blake Vansteenburg.

Holocaust survivor Irving Roth speaks in chapel

Holocaust survivor Irving Roth spoke during chapel service Thursday, March 31. Roth partners with Christians United for Israel (CUFI), an organization founded by SAGU alumnus Dr. John Hagee to educate audiences about the historical reality of the Holocaust and present threats to Israel.

During Fall 2010, Dr. John Hagee and SAGU President Kermit Bridges discussed the possibility of creating a local CUFI chapter. In the process of establishing the SAGU chapter, student Jonathan Clinkenbeard’s interaction with CUFI’s campus division allowed the opportunity for Roth’s visit.

President Bridges explains the importance of hearing Roth’s message. “We first and foremost wanted to educate our students concerning the reality of the Holocaust. From a biblical standpoint, I wanted to reinforce our prophetic understanding of the restoration of national Israel and to recognize there are divine blessings associated with those who support Israel.”

Roth was born in Kosice, Czechoslovakia, in September 1929. Of 4,000 people on his train, he was one of 300 who survived the first round of murders at Auschwitz concentration camp. He was later transferred to Buchenwald concentration camp in East Germany where he was freed in 1945 at 15 years of age. He and his surviving family moved to the United States in 1947.

From 1952-1954 Roth served in the U.S. Army. He is married with two sons and four grandchildren. He is a retired electrical engineer, a historian, lecturer and writer about the Holocaust. He is the Director of the Holocaust Resource Center at the Temple Judea of Manhasset, NY.
University Scholars announced

The University Scholarship is the highest level of four academic scholarships offered to incoming full-time students. Recipients of the full-tuition scholarship are selected based on academic qualifications as well as school, church and community activities.

Emily Jones  Flagstaff, AZ
- Church Ministries or Education Major
- Grand Canyon Youth Corps
- Children’s Ministry Intern
- Local Soup Kitchen Volunteer
- Recipient of Dr. Voie Stuart Chase Coy Scholar Athlete Award
- Track and Field, Cross Country & Soccer

Joseph Kendrick  Shreveport, LA
- Church Ministries Major
- Eagle Scout
- Pilot
- Professional Scuba Diver Instructor
- Fine Arts Involvement—Christian Band, Worship Team, Short Sermon and Percussion Solo

Emily Kuhn  Bee Cave, TX
- Elementary Education Major
- Lake Travis Scholar
- Student Advisor of Lake Travis FFA Organization
- Honor Star in Assemblies of God Missionettes Program
- Assistant Children’s Pastor

Nikayla Sadler  Arlington, TX
- English Major
- Eta Sigma Alpha Honor Society – Upsilon Eta Chapter
- National Merit Letter of Commendation
- TFAA Concert Choir
- TFAA Ballet Ensemble
- Entrepreneur

Criminal Justice students win at Explorers competition

SAGU’s Criminal Justice students won two categories at the Texas Law Enforcement Explorers Advisors Association (TLEEAA) State Competition in Fort Worth on April 2.

Ellis County Sheriff’s Office (ECSO) Explorers Post 106 took 16 members to the competition. The members were placed in four teams with six advisors. A total of 94 explorer teams from across Texas competed. The event is comprised of 14 staged scenarios that the teams must execute correctly. The students are judged as they respond to the scenario.

Ellis County Explorers won eight trophies, two of which were won by SAGU Criminal Justice students A’ja Fletcher and Chris Mann. The students competed in four scenarios winning second place in Robbery In-Progress and Domestic Crisis. Other trophies won included first place in Active Shooter, Accident Investigation and Officer Down-First Aid; second place in Call for Police; and third place in Felony Traffic Stop.

The 106 ECSO Explorers meet every Tuesday night for 4-5 hours of training. Their training includes an hour of physical training at the Garrison Wellness Center, an hour of classroom teaching, and 2-3 hours of hands-on training.

“You are able to take what you learn from the professors and apply it to real-life scenarios. It’s an effective way to learn what you need before you go attend the police academy,” explained Fletcher. “By the time I complete my degree in criminal justice, I feel like I will be ready to join the police force.”
SAGU plans to break ground on its state-of-the-art World Communication Center (WCC) Fall 2012. President Bridges met with the University’s Board of Regents on April 29 to propose the development of the WCC. The Board unanimously approved the development plan. The facility will be built on the east perimeter of campus, just north of Nelson Memorial Library. The complex will address the needs of media-intensive programs like Communication Arts and Music. In addition to freeing up office and classroom space, it will provide cutting edge media tools such as audio/video editing labs, recording studios and a digital multi-keyboard training room. It will also provide band/choral rehearsal halls and a new fine arts auditorium, which will provide additional means to partner with the community.

The first phase of construction will develop the eastern half of the facility, which will contain classrooms, faculty offices and some of the labs, studios and rehearsal halls. The fine arts auditorium will be the centerpiece of the second phase, which will develop the western half.

In the past ten years, SAGU has doubled facility square footage with the construction of Bridges Hall, Teeter Hall and the Garrison Wellness Center. When residential living reaches appropriate levels, the University will consider the addition of another dormitory adjacent to Bridges and Teeter Halls.
Growing up in the Assemblies of God (AG), Donnie Bostwick felt that teaching and coaching at an AG university would be his ideal job. When SAGU’s men’s basketball coaching position became available at the beginning of the year, he began praying about the possibility. On April 8, 2011, he was named the new basketball head coach.
Bostwick spent the last four years as athletic director and head coach at Oklahoma Wesleyan University (OWU) earning a record of 120-20. His teams qualified for the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) National tournament each year and were 2009 NAIA National Champions. He was named the NAIA DII Coach of the Year in 2009 & 2010 and the 2009 MCAC Athletics Director of the Year.

President Bridges shared with the basketball team, “Coach Bostwick is arguably the most qualified coach we’ve ever hired, having reached championship status at every level as a player and coach, but it is his total commitment to the spiritual development of student-athletes that really stands out and makes him such a great addition to the University.”

He is a member of National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC), has served as a NAIA National Rater, and now serves on the NABC-NAIA Executive Committee. He was also a NABC guest speaker at the Final Four in Houston, TX, this past year.

“Nothing is more important to me than having the opportunity to influence college-aged student-athletes in their own spiritual development,” Bostwick said. “My mission field is coaching and teaching. It ranks first among my vocational priorities.”

After a 10-year stint as assistant coach at John Brown University (JBU) in Arkansas, Bostwick took the reins of the Oklahoma Wesleyan program that had four consecutive 20-loss seasons. He led the Eagles to season records of 26-8, 35-2, 30-5 and 29-5 qualifying the team for a place in the NAIA national tournament each time.

While his team won NAIA’s DII National Championship in 2009, the other three campaigns ended with trips to the Sweet 16, the Elite Eight and the Final Four. Additionally, two of his OWU Eagles were named the NAIA Division II National Players of the Year the past two seasons.

In the book he is currently working on, Bostwick shares the biblical principles that he lives by and instills in his players. He teaches that mental toughness is built through sacrifice, self-denial and dedication to God. While meekness, preparation, lovingness, focus and humility are among his lessons learned, adversity is one lesson he speaks most candidly about. He calls it the “Consider Adversity Pure Joy Principle.”

He writes, “There are a few things in life you can be sure to expect on a regular basis. The sun will rise in the morning, and you can always count on adversity showing up along your path. If you welcome adversity, then it will give you a better chance of overcoming it.”

Bostwick earned a bachelor’s degree in Social Studies Education at John Brown University in Siloam Springs, AR. He also holds a master’s degree in Health and Physical Education from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, OK. He hopes to have his book published in the near future. He and his wife Sheri have four children: Gunter (14), Paige (12), Kylie (9) and Kade (6).
Gibson ranked 2nd in NAIA for three-pointers

Senior Jared Gibson finished second place in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) for the number of 3-point shots made, sinking a total of 103 during the season.

“It meant a great deal to me to be recognized as one of the top shooters in the country,” said Gibson. “Leading the Red River Athletic Conference (RRAC) in threes was a great honor as well! But in all honesty, making the RRAC All-Tournament team was the biggest honor.”

He made roughly the same percentage from long distance (39%) as he did from inside the twenty-foot curve (40%). The former Plano West High School graduate is known for his 30-foot shot. He was also ranked fourth in the NAIA for an average 3.3 trifectas per game.

More than 1,000 basketball players are in the NAIA. Of those, only 130 players make more than 30 percent of their attempted shots. Only 17 can connect on 42 percent or better.

During the three seasons at SAGU, he has improved his accuracy from .306 to .355 to .390 this year.

Goddning named Athletic Director

Goddning is committed to meeting the wants and needs of the coaching staff and athletes. Recruitment, community service, ministry outreach and discipleship of student-athletes are his top priorities.

“The ability to have a coaching staff that understands the institutional culture and is committed to the mission and values of SAGU is paramount to the success of the athletic program,” shares Godding. “This success will be reflected on the field and/or court as well as in student-athlete involvement in the classroom, chapel, student government, missions and other outreach opportunities.”

Coach Godding has taught courses in Business Sports Management and Physical Education during his tenure at SAGU. He received his Master of Education in Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance at Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD. He is pursuing his doctorate in Sports Management at the United States Sports Academy in Daphne, AL.

Prior to SAGU, he served as the assistant and head football coach at his alma mater, Crown College in St. Bonifacius, MN. He also served three years as athletic director and ten years as head football coach for Trinity Bible College in Ellendale, ND.
SAGU Lady Lions minister at pregnancy center

The SAGU Lady Lions basketball team had the opportunity to minister at Heartline Pregnancy Center in Warsaw, IN, on Wednesday, March 16. The team was attending the 2011 National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Division I Women’s National Championship.

The NCCAA sends the winners of their six regional tournaments along with two at-large teams to form an 8-team tournament. They were named the #1 seed at nationals based on their 13-1 run at the beginning of the season and their exhibition win over NCAA Division I Texas State University.

The day before the tournament NCCAA requires all teams to participate in community service. As host, Grace College led the teams in a time of worship and devotion before everyone dispersed to their service project. Senior Forward Chelsea Jones summarized, “Andria Harshman, Grace College’s Volleyball Coach, challenged us to use basketball as a platform to share our faith in the community.”

The Lady Lions served at Heartline Pregnancy Center, a Christian organization committed to helping young mothers continue their education. The ladies assisted the center’s day care program with playtime, exercise and crafts. Jones recounted, “The kids didn’t want us to leave. Some of the 5- and 6-year-olds even convinced their mothers to take them to our last game against Emmanuel College.” She expressed how the center’s prayer emphasis and dedication to the women is succeeding. “Angie told us that about 90 percent of these ladies are graduating high school and going to college.”

Women’s softball added to athletics

Women’s fast-pitch softball will join the athletic lineup of basketball, soccer and volleyball. It will be offered as a varsity sport for Fall 2011.

The team will join the Red River Athletic Conference of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA). Currently, eight of the conference’s 14 member institutions have softball teams in Oklahoma, New Mexico, Louisiana and Texas.

President Bridges announced in chapel on March 5, “Women’s softball has been an important component in the University’s strategic plan to provide a full range of athletic programming for both men and women student-athletes.”

“We knew there was a growing interest on campus to see softball launched,” said President Bridges. “But we were particularly pleased to hear the overwhelming positive reaction from the student body when we announced it in chapel—especially that its inaugural season would occur during the 2011-2012 academic year.”
Eleanor Rose Guynes, the wife of former SAGU President Delmer R. Guynes, went to be with the Lord Friday, April 22, 2011, at 8:30 p.m. in Mombasa, Kenya. Mrs. Guynes was buried in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on May 1, 2011. A memorial service was held at SAGU on Friday, May 20.

Dr. Guynes shares, “What a wonderful life we have had because a young girl heard the voice of God calling her to China and took step after step in ‘mustard seed faith’ to follow that call … and what great mountains of opportunity and difficulty have moved in response to that ‘mustard seed faith’ planted firmly wherever God has placed her!”

Mrs. Guynes was born on February 7, 1928, in Okmulgee, OK. She enrolled at SAGU in the fall of 1946 despite opposition and limited financial resources. She was introduced to Delmer Guynes in the summer of 1948, and they married Easter morning, April 17, 1949.

Their opportunity to work in China was hindered in 1949 when it became a closed country. But, they received an opportunity to pastor a church in Caldwell, TX, in 1952. Approximately two years later, they were approved missionaries to Malaysia (Malaya at the time). By the end of 1954, they pastored the only structured Assemblies of God church in Malaysia.

The Guynes started the construction of the Bible Institute of Malaysia in 1958. In 1965 they returned to Dallas, where Eleanor received a master’s degree in elementary education at Southern Methodist University (SMU). While Dr. Guynes pastored at University Assembly of God Church of Waxahachie and served as SAGU’s Academic Dean, Eleanor taught in the Midlothian school system.

In 1968, they moved to Springfield, MO, where she was a faculty member at Central Bible College (CBC) for 12 years. During this time, she earned a second master’s degree in cross-cultural communication at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary.

Upon resignation from CBC,
China opened, and they established the Assemblies of God Office in Hong Kong. Over the next 10 years, they developed Operation Sunrise, an international prayer program for China, and Sunrise Educational Foundation, a teacher placement program for Chinese universities.

In 1982, they returned to Texas where they were heavily involved at SAGU. Dr. Guynes served as the University’s president, and Mrs. Guynes taught full-time until her retirement in 1995. She played a vital role in re-establishing the University’s missions emphasis.

Mrs. Guynes is survived by her husband, Delmer Guynes; her 4 children: Beckie Smith and her husband David, Patricia Brooks and her husband Paul, Del Guynes and his wife Christi, and Janette Triplett and her husband Marc; her grandchildren: Kevin and his wife Miriam, Kent and his wife Michelle, Kimbra and her husband Nick, Krista and her husband Bryan and his wife Susan, Clayton and his wife Andrea, Derek and his wife Lacy, Lindsay, Lauren, Devan, Joshua, Jessica, and Jennifer; and her great-grandchildren: Katie, Kaleb, Micah, Wes, Cory, Tia, Lexxi, Ethan, Ellie, Evan, Ava, Aaron and Connor.

“Regardless of any worldly pressures of fear and concern, her commitment to fulfill the mission of God is a testimony to the very nature of Jesus Christ at work within her and is an enduring testimony to me and my family,” says grandson Bryan Brooks.

The family requests that those wishing to honor Mrs. Guynes do so with a contribution to:

Eleanor Guynes Scholarship Fund
SAGU Foundation
1200 Sycamore Street
Waxahachie, Texas 75165

Kind Words

“We remember our fond memories of you both on our arrival in Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, in 1963. You were dearly loved by all. We send our love and condolences to you.”

Donald and Ruby McMurray

“I remember learning so much from the powerful servant of God! Our mission trip to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, would not have been the same. My love goes out to Dr. Guynes and his family members.”

Alfonso Llamas

“I will always hold this fine lady in high esteem. Such a genuine person who made such a difference in the lives of many without bringing attention to herself.”

Reggie McElhannon

“She was always involved, always fun to be around, always had that wonderful giggle that we all knew so well, and could sew or read or cook with small children in her arms, crawling on her back, or hanging around her neck! . . . I have such sweet, sweet memories of our families being together during those times. And she did make the hottest chicken curry that our family all came to love! She was dear to us, and we will all miss her! But we will see her again at that Great Reunion!”

Mitzi Witt

“My earliest memories of my grandmother are of me and my cousins playing ‘Hide and Seek’ at her house. We would try and hide from her and then try to sneak up on her and scare her. Then we would go and sit on her glider swing in her backyard, and she would come and sit with us and laugh with us about the day and the silly things that we had done. I remember that she thought that I was too loud, and she got my mom to have my hearing checked. She was sure that I was ‘loud’ because of hearing problems, but it was just me and she got used to ‘me’.

Jennifer Triplett

“You will be greatly missed. I remember sitting with you in chapel one day. You brought your trusted New Testament with you, but the minister started preaching from the Old Testament. I shared my Bible with you. It was a simple thing, but I will never forget sharing my Bible with such an amazing woman of God.”

Tamara Collins Burson
God’s Eleventh Hour Angel Fund provides financial assistance for students who are hours away from having to pack their bags and leave school due to a lack of funds. SAGU alumnus Maurice Jones was the first recipient of the scholarship in January 2010.

In January 2011, senior music ministries major Tyler Martin had an outstanding balance of $4,500. He had applied for student loans but was rejected. He had turned over every rock to secure financing, but he had run out of time. He was hours away from having to drop out before the final semester of his senior year. To his surprise, there was one more option.

SAGU’s Advancement Department notified him that he was eligible for God’s Eleventh Hour Angel Fund. After his interview with the scholarship’s founder, Kristine Rikli, his outstanding balance was paid in full. He was able to complete his bachelor’s degree and graduate in the spring without having to drop out of school four months before graduation.

Martin had initially planned to attend the University of North Texas to study music but was drawn to SAGU because of the reputable music program and the strong Christian environment. His music proficiency has substantially improved, and SAGU has opened opportunities for him to minister on and off campus. He plans to become a vocational worship minister. He would also like to be a session musician for professional music recordings. “I believe SAGU has enabled me to do both these things as well as given me guidance on how to be a Christ-follower in a secular world,” Martin commented.

The Eleventh Hour Angel Fund is made possible by alumni and friends of SAGU. It was started with a zero balance in 2010. During the past academic year, God spoke to a handful of alumni to donate money to fund the scholarship. Neither Jones nor Martin would have graduated if the alumni of SAGU had not supported the Eleventh Hour Angel Fund.

Without the fund, these students would not have been able to reach the call God has placed on their lives. Everyone affiliated with SAGU knows someone who has had financial struggles in the pursuit of their degree or whose collegiate dreams have been cut short. Individual gifts of $50, $100, $500, $1,000 or more made payable to God’s Eleventh Hour Angel Fund will merge together to change students’ lives—one student and one check at a time.

If you would like to directly impact Christian students who are literally hours away from having to quit school due to a lack of finances, please specify God’s Eleventh Hour Angel Fund on the attached giving envelope.
1950s

Norma Strange Moore (1959) recently moved to live with her daughter and son-in-law in Sulphur, LA. She attends Living Waters Assembly of God and attends writing class, sign language class, 50+ organization and other activities.

1960s

F. R. McAdams (1962) from Oklahoma and his wife have been in ministry for over 50 years, including over 37 years as evangelists with morning Bible seminars. They pastored in West Virginia, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and Kansas. They also taught in French Bible School in Montreal, Quebec. They graduated from Central Bible College as well as SAGU. The McAdams conducted missionary crusades in Mexico, Chile, Guyana, South America and South Africa.

2000s

David (2000) and Angela Watts (2001) serve as the dorm pastors of SAGU’s Savell Hall. David and Angela have 10 years of ministry experience prior to coming back to SAGU. Most recently, David served as the lead pastor of the Anahuac Assembly of God in Anahuac, TX. Angela earned a Master of Library Sciences from the University of North Texas and serves as a librarian in the Dallas Independent School District.

1 Chris (2006) and Carlie Sutherland (2002) have been happily married for over three years and are living in Manitou Springs, CO. Both alumni of SAGU, Chris is the general manager of an optical practice and Carlie works as a speech-language pathologist.

2 Noel Escamilla (2006) and Bethany Rolf (2006) were married September 16, 2006. They currently live in Cortland, IL. They have been hosting a house church every week for two years. On July 9, 2010, they welcomed their first child Elijah into the family.

3 Since graduating from SAGU, Erminia Canto (2006) has been in Belize working, pastoring and studying theology. A month after her return, she was immediately hired at a private Christian school to substitute for an office assistant who was on maternity leave, which led to a position being created for her, and she worked as a school counselor. Today, she is involved in primary, junior high and high school counseling, teaching special needs, coaching and is also on the Belize sports ethics team. Erminia pastored the Worship Center in Belize for two years, but now knows that God is moving her in a different direction.

4 Kim Nicol (2006) returned home to Scotland after leaving SAGU and obtained her bachelor’s degree in physical therapy. She is currently in her first year of medical school, hoping to become a doctor in the medical missions field. She married Justin Moak from California on June 24, 2010.

5 Christian Sena (2007) and Renee Amsler (2011) were married on June 19, 2009, in Quincy, IL. They reside in Mesquite, TX. Chris is employed by Webber LLC, and Renee teaches English at MISD.

6 Robin Ippensen (2008) is the accounting supervisor at Craig Industries, Inc. She has recently become the president of their safety team and is working on implementing lean manufacturing into the accounting department. She and her husband Alex just celebrated their 2-year anniversary in August.

Celebrations

7 Dr. Vicki Finn (Jackson) (94-97) and her husband Jeremi Finn welcomed their first child Caitlin Bailey Finn on November 1, 2010. Caitlin weighed 6 pounds 14 ounces and was 18 inches long. Their family resides in Kaufman, TX.

8 Jason (2001) and Melissa McCoy (2001) welcomed their third child into their family when Penelope Jolie McCoy was born on June 4, 2010. Jason is the children’s pastor at Newspring Family Church in Jenks, OK and children’s pastor at a new church plant: Reality Church in Glenpool, OK.

Assembly of God in the Northwest Chicago Suburbs.

Walter and Kristy Wendler (2004) welcomed Bronson Hayes Wendler into the world on February 26, 2010. They also have a daughter, Katelyn Grace Wendler, who was born on November 24, 2008. The family resides in Ocean Springs, MS.

Josh (2004) and Laura Morris (2007) would like to announce the birth of their new baby girl Baylie Ann Morris. Baylie was born on October 12, 2010, at 5:35 a.m. She came one month early but was healthy. Josh pastors First Assembly of God in Andrews, TX. Both Josh and Laura are working on their master’s degrees. Their first daughter Natalie is now two years old.

Joshua (2006) and Lesby Daniels (2005) married in 2006. They have been blessed this year with a new addition to their family. Angelina Faith Daniels was born September 10, 2010. Her 3-year-old brother Jeremiah Daniels is very protective of his little sister and loves her very much.

In Memoriam

Zelma J. Nygren, 87, homemaker, went to be with the Lord Friday, April 29, 2011. She was preceded in death by her husband Rev. Dean Nygren. Her survivors include her daughter, Marla Zaragoza; her sons: Douglas D. (Joni), Kelvin L. (Nancy), Kerwin L. (Sunny) and Sgt. John G. (Cindy) Nygre; 10 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Rev. James H. Gilbert Sr., 88, went home to be with his Heavenly Father on December 21, 2010. His wife of 64 years, Margaret, was at his side. James was born on June 18, 1922, near Duncan, OK. He had six brothers and two sisters. Though a large family, they were very close. James loved and respected his parents and helped to care for them in their later years. He adored his brothers and sisters and enjoyed telling stories of their childhood.

Imelda Dean Goree (1934–36), a native of Meridian, MS, and a resident of Mobile, AL, passed away on Sunday, November 14, 2010.

Dr. Richard Dobbs Strahan (1946) of Round Rock, TX, went to be with the Lord on November 22, 2010. Dr. Strahan attended SAGU, and he also completed a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Biology at Texas Wesleyan College (Fort Worth) in 1948. He was awarded a graduate scholarship to attend Southern Methodist University from which he received a Master of Education in 1949. He returned to SAGU to teach science as he was completing his master’s degree. He continued his graduate studies at the University of Houston and received a doctorate in education in 1953. Dr. Strahan served as Academic Dean at Evangel College in Springfield, MS, in 1955. In 1958, he began work as a faculty member in the College of Education at the University of Houston. In 1965, he was appointed the first president of Lee College in Baytown, TX. Dr. Strahan retired in 1997. He is survived by his wife, four children and six grandchildren.

Rev. John H. Geire, Jr. (1947), 83, passed at 12:45 p.m. on February 10, 2011. He was born November 4, 1927, in Rosebud, TX. An evangelist, pastor and Bible teacher, he was ordained by the General Council of the Assemblies of God in 1949. Over the course of his ministry he pastored Texas churches in San Benito, Taylor, Hamilton, Fairfield and Houston. In his retirement, more active than ever, he traveled in missionary endeavors to the American Indian Bible Institute (Arizona) to the International Correspondence Institute (Belgium) and separate missionary outreaches in Africa and Paraguay, South America. Finally, he became the Southwest Regional Director of the RV Maps program of the Home Missions Department of the General Council of the Assemblies of God, coordinating and overseeing over 50 church construction projects.

Harry Hodge (1950) died on December 4, 2002. He graduated from Jr. College and Latin Bible College with a degree in theology in 1950. He met Verna Mae Miller in college there. They graduated together and immediately started traveling to evangelistic meetings. They graduated together and immediately started traveling to evangelistic meetings. They were in ministry together for 54 years.

Rev. Emory J. Dalan (1950), 85, went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, May 27, 2010. He was born on February 19, 1925, in Mt. Vernon, WA. Emroy was a wood shop teacher at Reed Springs and Morrisville Schools for many years. He was also a pastor. Emory is survived by his son and daughter, three grandchildren, six great grandchildren, three sisters and a host of family and friends. He was preceded in death by his
Rev. Herbert M. Yandell (1950) went home to be with his Lord and Savior on July 28, 2010, at age 87. He founded the Bartlett First Assembly of God Church in April 1974 and remained there until his retirement in November 1993. Rev. Yandell also cofounded Teen Challenge of Memphis and served on the board until his recent home going. He also cofounded the Local Sunrise Service which brought local denominations together for Easter services (and is still an annual community event), and he was a WWII Army veteran. Rev. Yandell was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Geneva Yandell, and his sister Violet Dukes. He is survived by his son and daughter, his grandson, and his brother and sister.

Rev. Gerald Raymond White (1952) passed away Sunday, December 12, 2010, at age 90. He was born on October 16, 1920, in Spencer, OK. Raymond was an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God. He pastored in several towns in Oklahoma, Missouri, and Montana before settling in Greenville, Texas. Raymond continued his part-time ministry while attending East Texas State University (ETSU) and earned a master’s degree in journalism and psychology. Prior to attending ETSU, Raymond attended Central Bible Institute in Springfield, MO, and a Baptist Seminary in Los Angeles, CA. He moved to Waxahachie, TX, where he taught English and journalism for about 10 years at SAGU. Raymond and Ethel were also missionaries to the Philippines.

Jim Bob Alexander (1961) passed away on December 6, 2010, at age 77 in Pasadena, CA. He was born in 1933 in Tulsa, OK. After graduating high school, Jim served four years in the U.S. Army.
Navy during the Korean Conflict. Jim graduated from SAGU with a Bachelor of Arts. He served as the Dean of Men at Southwestern while he attended Texas Christian University for a degree in education. He later graduated from California State College with a Master of Arts in Social Science. Jim was a licensed Assembly of God minister and attended the First Assembly of God church in Azusa, CA, for many years. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Marzetta Vernon-Alexander; his three children, eight grandchildren and two brothers.

Rev. Michael Shields (1968) of Paris, TX, died Saturday, January 22, 2011, at age 64.


David R. Brauchler (1979) of Euless, formerly of Irving, an Assemblies of God pastor, passed away Saturday, January 8, 2011. The Rev. David R. Brauchler was born April 2, 1932, in Brooklyn, NY. He was a pastor, missionary and evangelist with the Assemblies of God for 55 years.

Christopher Robert Rogers (1998-2000), of Dallas, TX, went to heaven on Wednesday, September 15, 2010. After attending SAGU, Christopher studied recording engineering and received his Associate of Science in 2002 from Full Sail in Orlando, FL. He went on to record, produce and mix music with many talented artists. Chris is survived by his wife Lindsay Rogers; his parents, Bob and Becky Rogers; his sister, Angie Fleming and her husband, Michael Fleming and their two children, Ben and Luke; and extended family and friends.

Rev. H.L. Stevens was born September 8, 1916, in McComb, OK. On Feb. 25, 1936, he married Ruby Pearl Rearick. She preceded him in death. On September 8, 1996, he married Pat Nichols in San Antonio. Stevens was an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God. He began ministering as a junior in high school. After graduating, he and his wife ministered and were pastors in Minco and Blair, OK, and later moved to Nocona. In 1939, they moved to Sunray, and in 1944, they moved to Dumas where they pastored First Assembly of God for 40 years. He retired in 1984, but continued serving his Lord in multiple capacities in the area and nation.

Rev. James Thomas Alford, 75, of Jonesboro, AR, died on Sunday, July 18, 2010, at his home after a long illness. Rev. Alford was born on August 21, 1934, in Blytheville, AR. Alford was a retired Assemblies of God pastor of 53 years. He was a former Senior Adult Pastor for First Assembly of God in Jonesboro, pastor for Happy Home Assembly of God in Hampton, AR, and Chaplain for Calhoun County Detention Center. He served as pastor for several churches in Oklahoma and Texas.

Effie Irene Farwell (1945-49), age 94, of Burley, passed away Saturday, February 26, 2011, at Highland Estates Assisted Living in Burley. She was born April 30, 1916, in Decatur, TX. Irene graduated with a bachelor’s degree from Decatur Baptist Teacher’s College in Decatur, TX. She married William Albert Farwell on June 20, 1950, in Boyd, TX. Irene taught school at Westbrook School in Westbrook, TX, Southwestern Bible Institute in Waxahachie, TX, and community schools in Boyd, TX, in the 1940s. In 1950, she moved to southern Idaho to reside and assist her husband in managing their farming operations in Heglar. She was an active member of the Christian Center Assembly of God Church in Burley. Irene is survived by her foster-daughter, Carol (Duncan) Johnson of Lewiston; a foster-grandaughter, Stacey Vantrease; and many nieces and nephews whom she loved and attended to. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; and a sister, Pauline Applewhite.

On June 12, 2011, at 78 years of age, Bonnie Sheaffer went to be with the Lord. SAGU conferred an honorary doctorate to Bonnie in 1997. Sheaffer Full Life Center is named after Bonnie and her husband Dr. Daniel T. Sheaffer, who preceded her in death. Bonnie will be remembered as a loving and devoted wife, mother and grandmother.
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  - Bilingual Education *
  - Elementary Education
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    - Social Studies/History
  - Music Education *
    - Instrumental *
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- Marketing
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Accreditation
Southwestern Assemblies of God University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award the Master, Bachelor and Associate degrees.
On-Campus Undergraduate Programs

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- Music Education
  - Instrumental
  - Piano
  - Vocal
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- Media Ministries
- Music Ministries
- Music Performance
  - Instrumental
  - Piano
  - Vocal
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Associates
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- Psychology
- Social Studies

Quick Facts

Enrollment ........................................... 2,064
Student/Teacher Ratio ...................... 16:1
Cost Per Year ...................................... $21,320
   Based on tuition for 15 credit hours with room and board for 2011-2012.
Financial Aid ................................. 87% receive financial aid.
Phone ........................................ 1-888-YES-SAGU
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