

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

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Summer 2017

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Managing Editor

Ryan McElhany, Director of Marketing and Public Relations

Associate Editor

Andrew Hurst, Public Relations Manager

Designers

Ellie Weaver, Ryan McElhany

Writers

Andrew Hurst, Ryan McElhany

Photographers

Lauren Zoucha, SAGU Archives,
Wiki Creative Commons

Special Thanks

Vi Holder, Archivist

Mission Statement

Southwestern Assemblies of God University exists to equip students spiritually, academically, professionally, and cross-culturally for their God-given careers and callings.

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REGISTER FOR HOMECOMING 2017
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In 2013 in Kitsap, Washington, firefighters were battling a forest fire. It wasn't the sort of fire with plumes of smoke and orange flames, or the sort that licks up everything in its path. Townspeople might not have known it was there, slowly burning, if not for the firefighters inching through the forest watching for smoke and feeling for heat.

How could there be a forest fire that people didn't realize was burning? Put simply, the sneaky fire was smoldering underground, fueled by old growth.

Many in the western United States might be familiar with root fires, capable of burning along the root system of a tree. The embers can live for months, long after the fire of the surface seems extinguished. Some fires have been known to travel underground and resurface far from where the fire began.

This year, SAGU celebrates 90 years. It is hard to believe that our alma mater has

seen nine decades. In that span, the United States has seen 16 presidents from Coolidge to Trump.

What will life look like 10 or 25 years in our future? What is in store for SAGU in that time? To know where we are heading, we first look back.

In 1927 and 1931, a handful of dedicated, sold-out Christians decided that they needed to start Bible schools. Visionaries

that they were, they realized that a Bible school should not just prepare ministers for pulpit ministry. Our culture and world would need ministers and missionaries who could reach people "on the farm, in the shop, or store,

We see that spark travel through the roots of our alumni... students come to SAGU to plant those roots, to catch fire, and to spread that fire..."

or office."

Those pioneers of our institution saw a need, and they sacrificed to see it fulfilled.

Finances were slim. Our SAGU founding was neither simple nor easy. They had experienced the fire of God, and fueled by their faith, were determined to spread that fire to the world.





In small school houses in the southwest, they ignited a root fire — a fire that has burned for 90 years. Sometimes, that fire has blazed atop a hill. Other times, it seemed on the verge of being extinguished. But, it still burns.

We are a Pentecostal institution. Our history has been marked by revival. Alumni from the 1960s would count revival services among their most treasured memories.

We are a missions institution. We see that initial fire travel through the roots of our alumni, extending around the world.

Students come to SAGU to plant those roots, to catch fire, and to spread that fire far from where it began.

You are a part of that root system. Together, we turn our eyes forward.

We are as committed to spreading that fire as our founders were. Before any new program, before any sport, before any new college, I long first for a renewed work of the Holy Spirit on our campus and around the world. I sit in chapel and long for these students to revel in the power of the Holy Spirit that marked each of our lives. We must make room for those moments.

From that, we continue our good work.

(continued on page 22)



Dr. Kermit and Jan Bridges with sons
James (left) and Forest (right)



FIRE

On the farm, in office or pulpit

"To give men and women a better knowledge of the Word of God, and to bring them into closer fellowship with Christ, and into harmony with His will for themselves, whether it be to serve Him in their own homes, on the farm, in shop or store or office, to minister in the pulpit as pastor or evangelists, or to carry the glad tidings across the seas." - PC Nelson

Reverend Peter Christopher (PC) Nelson was a committed follower of Christ and brilliant leader. Under his vision, a two-story brick school house became a center for Biblical and pastoral training for young adults pursuing ministry.

Along with his dedication to spiritual growth, Nelson was noted for his intelligence. It is rumored that when Nelson was a student, he would take notes during class in Greek for practice. He could read in twenty-two languages and had extensive knowledge of Greek and Hebrew.

Nelson was born in Denmark in 1868. His family immigrated to the United States when Nelson was four

years old. He would later work his way through college and Rochester Theological Seminary while supporting his family and soon began preaching.

As Nelson continued to pursue ministry, he experienced a devastating injury from an automobile accident. He suffered a severe knee injury and potential blood poisoning. Doctors considered amputation. A small group of

Pentecostal believers brought scriptures of divine healing to him as he lay in desperation on his hospital bed. After meditation on this scripture and

prayer, Nelson was instantly healed. Soon thereafter, he received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. He began hosting "Full Gospel" evangelistic campaigns, seeing many miraculous healings and conversions before founding Southwestern Bible School.

A man of belief and faith, Reverend Nelson would confidently say to students at Southwestern Bible School. "Children, do you know what you are doing here on this hill? You are building an Institution." 🐦

**Children, do you know
what you are doing here
on this hill? You are
building an Institution.**



Watch P.C. Nelson's Story at
www.sagu.edu/founding



Starting fires

The story of Southwestern Assemblies of God University's creation is one of divine direction and provision. Born out of the merging of three schools, Southwestern continues to embody the vision of its founders: P.C. Nelson, Guy Shields, and J.T. Little. Though it was providence that brought these schools together, the merger wouldn't take place until 1940. Until then, all three schools would encounter winding roads full of intense struggles, but never lacking God's supply.

Southwestern Bible School

In 1927, Peter Christopher (P.C.) Nelson founded Southwestern Bible School. His church, Enid Gospel Tabernacle, approved the purchase of the Roosevelt Central High School at 316 Cherokee Street in Enid, Oklahoma.

Nelson said the purpose of the school was: "to give men and women a better knowledge of the word of God and to bring them into closer fellowship with Christ and into harmony with his will for themselves."

Southern Bible College

In 1931 J.T. Little founded the Southern Bible Institute in Goose Creek, Texas. Little was

succeeded by Eli Richey as president. The first class at SBI contained 39 students. By 1935, the school had a new home in Houston, Texas.

Shield of Faith

Guy Shields, another evangelist hailing from West Texas, founded Shield of Faith Bible Institute in Amarillo, Texas. Shields felt led by God to create an institution where young ministers could be mentored and trained for ministry. This dream became a reality in 1931. He purchased a vacant lot across from his church and completed much of the school's construction himself. In 1935, the school moved to a building in Fort Worth, Texas. It was here that SBI joined Shield of Faith in 1940, to create the South Central Bible Institute.

One year after the formation of SCBI, Southwestern Bible School joined the 2 colleges to form the Southwestern Bible Institute. Today, Southwestern continues to embody the principles upon which it was established. The evangelistic yearning of its founders is daily satisfied by missions minded professors and students alike. The heritage of evangelism and powerful moves of the Spirit live on in students and alumni. 🙌

Dust bowls and shovels

SAGU had an opportunity to talk with Ruthie M. Smith, an early student of Shield of Faith. Ruthie grew up on a ranch west of Fort Worth in the 30s. As ranchers, her family suffered the full blow of the Great Depression.

"We didn't have any money, but the Lord supplied," Smith says. "Every time I would need something, I was always able to get it because I trusted the Lord."

Ruthie was a committed believer and was determined to finish high school and pursue ministerial training.

During this period, Guy Shields was traveling as an evangelist and spreading the word about the institute. It was President Shield's efforts that led Ruthie to Shield of Faith Institute.

Without means to get to school, she hitched a ride with two men who were hauling fence posts to a town near the school. When she arrived, she went door to door asking if there was an extra room. After searching, she found a home that would let her work for her stay.

During her time at school, the southwestern



states experienced the challenges of the Dust Bowl. Residents of Texas and Oklahoma moved to California in droves. For students at Shield of Faith, this period required a great deal of exhaustive labor to continuously remove dirt and dust that would collect on

campus. At the time, the school was in a dugout.

"They would say to the boys 'Get a tub, get two shovels and I want you to carry all this dirt out of the school,'" Smith said. "It would take half a day or more just to remove the built up dirt within the school's buildings."

Ruthie continually expressed her gratitude and appreciation for the role Shield of Faith played in her spiritual walk and ministry. The trials prepared her for the ministry God placed in her heart from the time she was a young girl. She was honored as Valedictorian in 1939. 🙌



Assemblies Of God Buy School Plant

**Old Trinity Buildings,
Waxahachie Campus
Bought for \$50,000;
To Be Bible Institute**

Consolidation of three Bible schools into what will be known as the Southwestern Bible Institute at Waxahachie was announced Friday as members of the executive board of the Texas district, Assemblies of God, signed papers that transferred ownership of the old Trinity University property to their church.

Consolidated will be the Southwestern Bible School of Enid, Okla.; the Southern Bible College of Houston and the South Central Bible Institute, Fort Worth.

The new school will open in September with an enrollment of approximately 350 students, it was said.

It was a consideration of \$50,000 that purchased the Trinity University property from the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., built for about \$470,000. The deal was consum-



—News Staff Photo.

UNIVERSITY PURCHASED—The Assemblies of God denomination's dream of an adequate plant to house its Bible school in the Southwest came true Friday when officials of the church signed final papers culminating the purchase of the old Trinity University property at Waxahachie. Left to right, as they penned signatures to the deed that transferred title to the buildings and grounds from the Presbyterians to the Assemblies of God, were the Rev. C. P. Robison, secretary-treasurer, Texas District Council, Assemblies of God; the Rev. E. B. Crump of Wichita Falls, member of the executive board; the Rev. F. D. Davis, state superintendent of the church and president of the school; the Rev. Jasper Manton of Dallas, first vice-chairman of Trinity University board of trustees; the Rev. O. B. Braune, Fort Worth, and the Rev. Milton Summers, Dallas, executive board members.

Creating a divine union

In 1940, a unique meeting between three schools took place. It was a meeting of three presidents- Reverend P.C. Nelson, President of Southwestern Bible School, Reverend Guy Shields, President of Shield of Faith Bible School and Reverend Raymond T. Richey, President of Southern Bible Institute.

The presidents casually conversed with one another discussing the similar obstacles they were experiencing as administrators of their institutions. It was at this moment, Nelson experienced a revelation. He stood and declared, "Brethren, I believe it would be pleasing to God if we could get these three schools consolidated and find a good location for them." Richey then jumped to his feet and urged everyone to join hands and thank God for His direction.

Southwestern Bible School was to merge with Shield of Faith Bible

Institute and Southern Bible Institute. Three would become one and the sovereign hand of God was visible as the consolidation was initiated.

That same year, Southern Bible Institute merged with Shield of Faith Bible Institute in Fort Worth to form South Central Bible Institute.

Shield of Faith was previously located in Amarillo, Texas. It was founded in 1931 and included not only a Bible school, but also a grade school and high school.

Southern Bible College in association with the Richey Evangelistic Temple, began at Goose Creek, Texas, in 1931. It was started by Reverend J.T. Little in Trinity Tabernacle and later moved to Houston in 1933.

District Superintendent F.D. Davis was instrumental in effecting the merger, serving as president of the school until 1941. At the time, Nelson moved Southwestern Bible School

to Fort Worth from Enid, merging with SCBI. As a result, SCBI became Southwestern Bible Institute with Nelson as President.

What had begun as separate but similar visions in the spirits of three leaders - to create a place where ministers could be trained for the harvest- was now merged into the solid reality of Southwestern Bible Institute. The culmination of years of prayerful obedience and self-sacrifice had come to a head.

The "threefold cord" was poised to present, as P.C. Nelson put it, "the whole Gospel, for the whole man, for the whole world."

The school made the move to Waxahachie in 1943 and went through two name changes; first, to Southwestern Assemblies of God College in 1963, and then to Southwestern Assemblies of God University in December of 1994. 🐉

Ripples of war

In 1944, nations watched as tyranny and oppression threatened the world. D-Day Invasion, Operation Market Garden and The Battle of the Bulge, some of the most significant battles in history, took place in this one year.

Americans worried that their way of life and freedom was at stake across the pond. The war also imposed many economic and material shortages upon the American civilian population. This especially affected financially-depressed, church-supported organizations like Southwestern Bible Institute.

Enrollment suffered from the absence of classmates who left to serve God and country in the Armed Forces of the United States.

World War II extinguished the excitement of a new campus. The Waxahachie campus had just been purchased in the Spring of 1943 and the summer that followed was a time of great change as SBI began the move from Fort Worth. However, the repercussions of war took a toll on the class of 1944. Gifts of money, furniture and food staples allowed the school to struggle through that first year. Students and staff managed on lean meals, such as donated peanut butter and syrup. Beans were a staple of the dining room in the basement of the girls' dormitory.

The graduating class was affected by wartime extremes in another way when it was determined that a yearbook could not be produced at the end of that first year. This omission was accepted with understanding by these fine classes but the absence of a yearbook left an emotional mark of regret in the hearts of many of the students.

Fannie Enloe Brown, a leader in the High School Class of 1944, tackled the task of assembling a printed record of memories associated with those classes of 1943-1944. 📖



Creative solutions and pew builders

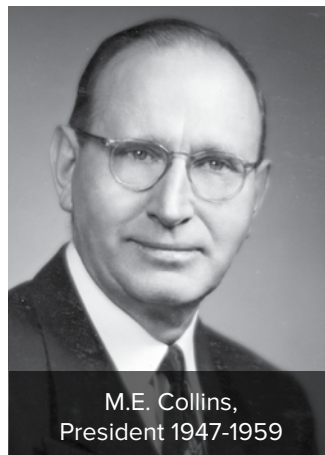
The ripples of World War II affected the morale of students and caused a lack of financial stability for Southwestern. When Reverend Millard. E Collins was elected President of Southwestern in 1947, he sought methods to recover from the financial aftermath of war. He coupled his deep faith and trust in the Lord with a firm yet sophisticated grasp of what it took to pay the bills.

President Collins pursued unique endeavors to restore the financial state of the institution including wood work, agriculture and printing. A wood-working shop was put in place to produce church pews and other institutional furniture. The printing shop took orders for books and other publications. On October 1, 1950, the school received an 85-acre farm just north of the campus. Students prepared the farm for crop and livestock production.

Each of these three enterprises had a triple benefit for the school. First, they provided employment for a number of students. Second, they had the potential of generating a profit through sales of furniture, print jobs, and crops such as cotton. Finally, each of the three could produce things actually needed at Southwestern. 🐾

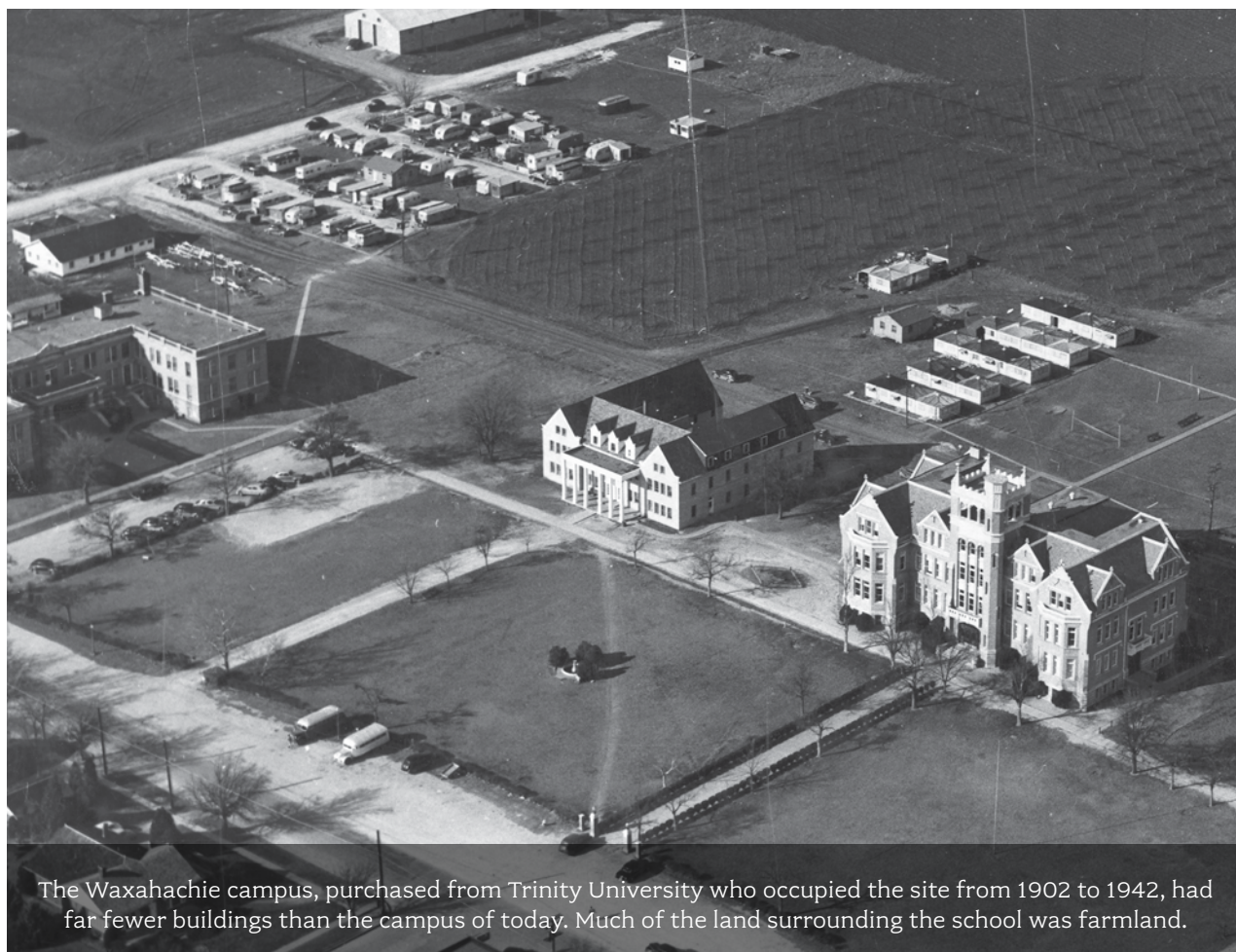


Easing the return of servicemen through the G.I. Bill



M.E. Collins,
President 1947-1959

After World War II, millions of American servicemen were returning to civilian life, and many of them decided to take advantage of the educational benefits of the G.I. Bill. The Bill provided money to veterans who were going to college. Among them were young men and women who felt the call of God to Full Gospel Ministry. President M.E. Collins, himself was a U.S. Navy veteran of the First World War. He was passionate about helping ex-servicemen and women who felt called to pursue ministry and education at Southwestern. 🐾

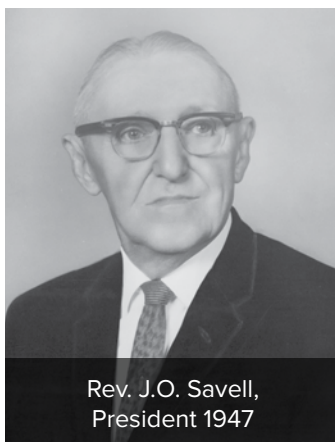


Revolutionizing the election of presidents

A major change revolutionized the process of installing a new president for Southwestern. In June of 1947, a motion was passed during the District Council Meeting to appoint an educator over the college. While this may not seem unorthodox today, it was a new process for the college.

During that time, all of Texas fell into one district. For several years prior to 1947, the structure of the college was such that the District Superintendent, by virtue of his office, would also be President of Southwestern.

Rev. Savell was elected District Superintendent of the Texas District Council that year. As the



District Superintendent, one of his first official acts was to appoint a President over the college, initiating an election process. Reverend M.E. Collins was appointed President on July 22, 1947, a position he held for 12 years.

Reverend Millard E. Collins became the first full-time president. Rev. Savell continued to act as District Superintendent. He served on the Texas District Executive Committee and served on the Board of Regents.

SAGU continues to profit from the leadership of Reverend J.O. Savell.

SAGU utilizes the same election process today. His influence will forever remain an integral part of SAGU's heritage and legacy. 🐉



Remains after the dorm fire, 1953

Gone in a flash

On November 15, 1953, Southwestern Bible Institute experienced a flash fire that would consume the men's dormitory. The entire structure was destroyed due to a hazard caused by a heating plant of the west wing of the dormitory. Fortunately, no students suffered any injuries.

However, over one hundred of the boys residing in the dorm lost their personal possessions. They lost everything — clothes, books, bedding, musical instruments. They were essentially homeless.

Amid tragedy rose victory. The community rallied together to provide for these boys who had just been devastated by a tragic loss.

The first to give back to the boys was a fireman who had just attempted to put out the fire. The following morning he provided the first five dollars to start the relief fund. Shortly thereafter, friends and residents of the Waxahachie community offered over 200 places for the boys to stay until the school could provide a new dormitory.

God used the experience to build a deeper bond with the community. Along with opening up their homes for students, the community sent clothing and money. 🙏



On the origins of Judah

On December 12, 1958, Vice President George Brazell announced the addition of the new school mascot, Judah the Lion. Judah was first seen drawing in customers to an automobile agency in Miami, OK. VP Brazell decided the lion needed a promotion, and wanted him as a mascot and school representative. Funds at the time were unavailable for Judah's purchase. Soon, a contribution from J.H. Thorman

enabled Brazell to return and purchase Judah. The lion participated in promotional events for the Institute, drawing in crowds and fans. Judah accompanied Brazell as a sermon illustration for one of his sermons entitled, "Be like a Lion." Judah was instantly loved and cared for by SBI staff and students. Since then, Judah the Lion has remained the mascot of Southwestern for over 55 years. 🦁



Ron Hembree with Judah, 1958



Judah, 2000



Judah, 2016



SBI becomes SAGC and gains accreditation

By early 1960s, the institution had developed into a full-fledged college. What had started out as an institute strictly for Biblical learning and ministerial training had evolved into a four-year Bible curriculum and a two-year, liberal arts junior college, as well as a high school. As such, it became apparent to the Board of Regents, school administration and faculty that Southwestern Bible Institute would need a title to reflect the diverse range of programs it offered. A movement was initiated to rename the school "Southwestern Assemblies of God College."

Following enthusiastic approval by the owning districts, the name became official. SBI was now SAGC. Along with this name change

came one of the biggest academic milestones for Southwestern. Since the Collin's administration, the school had accreditation through AABC. However, AABC did not provide the level of accreditation that would allow the majority of secular colleges and universities to recognize and accept for transfer educational credits earned at Southwestern. Receiving this level of accreditation would also allow Southwestern to be eligible to receive federal funds. This type of recognition would have to come from a regional accrediting body, such as the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, or SACS.

Under President Kendrick's leadership, Southwestern

diligently performed a self-study in preparation for attaining regional accreditation by SACS. All faculty, staff and administrators participated to ensure all school operations would comply with requirements. Finally, in 1968, SAGC's junior college and two-year program of general education studies was granted regional accreditation. The upper-level courses gained SACS accreditation in the 1980s.

As SAGC looked toward the future of higher education, the Board of Regents decided to discontinue the high school in 1964. The graduating class of 1964 would be the last class to graduate from the high school. 🐦



School air strip

Once upon a time, Southwestern had an air strip. The strip began at Solon Road and ran in a straight line to East University, across from where Bridges and Teeter Halls now stand.

Pearl Ellis, alumna and former librarian, said the government had requested administration for permission to build a tower on campus during WWII. It was supposed to be on "the highest point between Dallas and Waco." It was intended for use during the war. However, the air strip remained until the late 1960s. It continued to be utilized for student pilots until the noise caused complaints from nearby property owners. The air strip was shut down soon after. 🐦

P.C. Nelson Library opens a new chapter

Southwestern's Library went through a series of ups and downs until the P.C. Nelson Memorial Library was completed in 1960. Students in the 1960s were the first to benefit from the last building project under the Collins presidency. Events leading to the library's completion date back to the 1940s. In June 1943, Pearl Ellis was asked by Rev. M.E. Collins, who was in charge of hiring faculty and staff, to be the librarian. At that time, Southwestern had three years of Bible School and four years of high school. Arrangements were made with Nelson's widow to purchase 10,000 volumes of P.C. Nelson's library for \$.25 a volume.

The books were housed in a room on the first floor in the northeast corner of the administration building. They were placed in rows on the floor because no bookshelves were available. In 1946, the books were transported to the newly-acquired army barracks. However, a small fire broke out in the barracks library due to bad wiring. In 1956, the accrediting association required the college to house the library in a fireproof building. Plans were made to place the library in the south basement of Collins Hall. When the boy's dorm burned, residents needed to move into Collins Hall, resulting in an abrupt change of plans. Books were relocated to different parts of campus until the library was completed.

September of 1959 was a historic date, as the school broke ground for the library site. In 1960, Southwestern completed the P.C. Nelson Memorial Library. Classes were let out for half the day while the faculty, staff and students formed lines and moved the library books to the new building. 🐦

McDuff revival services

One notable highlight from this era was the Spring Revival of 1968. Evangelist and alumnus Coleman McDuff returned to his alma mater with his brothers to lead the revival on March 25 through the 29. During this revival, classes were shortened and chapel services were extended. Night services began at seven each evening. Many alumni that attended during this period have emphasized the profound, spiritual impact the revival left on their walk with the Lord and the necessity of revival to break up the daily routine of the school semester.

SAGU students continue to experience the impact of setting one week aside during the semester for spiritual growth. Through "Spiritual Saturation," the SAGU community prioritizes the importance of creating a spiritual atmosphere similar to the Spring Revivals that took place almost 50 years ago. 🐦



LOGOS THROUGH TIME

1927



1927

"THE WHOLE GOSPEL FOR THE WHOLE WORLD"

SOUTHWESTERN

BIBLE SCHOOL

1931



1936



Southern Bible Institute

SOULS IS OUR GOAL

1936



1941



1954



1999

southwestern

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

university

2003



PRESENT



Dr. Farmer harvests bumper crop

Dr. Blake Farmer attended SBI, graduating from all four divisions of the college: the High School, the Junior College, the Three Year Bible Institute, and the Bible College. Upon graduating from SBI in 1944, he served in the U.S. Navy. Dr. Farmer was on the Task Force of the Third Fleet of the United States Navy that, at the end of the war, freed Mrs. Elizabeth Galley Wilson and the other prisoners of war held throughout the Philippines. After returning from WWII, he enrolled in Southwestern Bible Institute and was awarded a Bachelor of Science and a Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) from Baylor University in 1965.

Farmer became President of Southwestern in 1964, where he found ways to advance the physical development of the campus even when resources were thin.

The 70s became a decade of growth, building upon the regional accreditation of 1968. A series of significant construction projects were made possible by federal funding and increased donations from churches and individuals in the Assemblies of God. In 1970, Southwestern dedicated Savell Hall. A new cafeteria was completed less than a year later. Three years later, a new student center was completed. This was the last major construction project during Dr. Farmer's administration.

In 1974, SAGC established the Pentecostal Archives at Nelson Memorial Library, one of the most significant collections in the Pentecostal world. It included the personal library of William Burton McCafferty, donated by his widow, Catherine McCafferty, and



Dr. Blake Farmer, President 1964-1978

Klaude Kendrick's taped interviews of a number of early Pentecostal leaders.

In 1978, Dr. Farmer resigned after a 14-year presidency. SAGC had reached its highest enrollment ever with 812 students. 🐦

Saved from extinction

Turbulence followed the 1978 surge in enrollment. From 1978-1982, enrollment dropped 27%. Compounding matters, SAGC received very little in endowment funds and was almost entirely dependent upon tuition for operations. Difficult economic conditions forced closures of Christian colleges around the country.

Under H.A. Brummett's administration, an institution facing the threat of extinction sought strength in the power of the Holy Spirit. Brummett, known for his tenacity, vision and outgoing personality built relationships with churches and individuals in the region who, in turn, helped the school.

Economic challenges persisted throughout his tenure. But, his vision would lay the foundation for the 1990s. He proposed construction of a new dormitory, married student apartments, a classroom and office building for the Bible college. All of these proposals would eventually be accepted and completed. 🐦

Weathering the storm



The Board of Regents called upon Delmer R. Guynes to serve as President after Brummett's resignation. The Guyneses were serving in intercessory ministry to China known as Operation Sunrise. Initially reluctant to leave the field, Dr. Guynes agreed to serve as President with the understanding that he could continue his missions work from Waxahachie.

In 1982, he stepped onto a

campus with only 490 students. The school had an operational deficit of almost \$1 million on a budget of \$3 million. Guynes worked with the school's owning districts and Christian Fidelity Insurance Company to restructure the school's debts to ease financial pressure. Additional financial help came from generous gifts. For the last year of his presidency, SAGC had an operating surplus of over half a million dollars.

Southwestern undertook a number of renovations — Collins Hall, the chapel and the Farmer Administration Building. SAGC also introduced a four-year degree in the Teacher Education Program for Christian Schools and the Distance Education (DE) program. The addition of a distance education program long before the conveniences of the World Wide Web would prove to be an idea ahead of its time. 🐦

J. Paul Savell advances academics



The Board of Regents selected Dr. J. Paul Savell, academic dean and acting executive vice-president to succeed Dr. Guynes. Dr. Savell took office on June 1, 1985. With his vast experience and expertise as an educator in public and private schools, Dr. Savell secured Level II Accreditation with SACS in 1987. The accreditation enabled the university to offer bachelor's degrees in elementary education, business and psychology.

President Savell also took steps to counteract the financial problems caused by recession and low enrollment. Under his administration, the college established the Southwestern Foundation. The purpose of the foundation was to build and manage the school's endowment funds with the goal of making Southwestern "recession-proof." Dr. Savell resigned the presidency in the fall of 1990 but kept close ties with the school through the Southwestern Foundation.

Savell is regarded as the architect of distance education at SAGC during his service with Dr. Guynes. In Savell's administration, distance education enrollment increased 225%.

Many of the advances that would be taken in the 1990s were envisioned by Dr. Savell. 🐦



March of Bibles

In the 1960s, Southwestern borrowed federal funds to assist a major renovation of the Farmer Administration Building. The loan's fine print prohibited the use of the renovated facilities for religious purposes. In time, the university was required to move Bible-related classes to other locations. Only general education or nonsectarian courses could be taught in the Farmer Administration Building.

When Dr. Delmer Guynes became president in 1982, he led the college to restructure the terms of its indebtedness with Christian Fidelity, which freed the school from the church/state restrictions contained in the original lending agreement. A formal March of the Bibles was organized during Homecoming 1984. Representatives from the former schools that would merge to form Southwestern gathered and marched toward the front of the administration building where a formal proclamation declared that the Bible was back in the Farmer Administration Building to stay.

To this day, each commencement begins with a March of Bibles. 🏡



Delmer and Eleanor Guynes, SAGU icons

The Guyneses are regarded by many as the embodiment of SAGU. Having navigated the school through turbulence in the

1980s, they were called upon again to serve from 1991-2000. They encouraged a prayer movement led by Mrs. Joyce Bridges that brought prayer teams

to campus every week from churches across the region. It created a spiritual momentum and ushered in nine consecutive years of growth from an enrollment of 596 to 1,782, including eight consecutive record enrollments.

Harrison School of Graduate Studies, now Harrison Graduate School, was completed — a

move that required additional accreditation approval. The process was completed by the middle of the decade with SACS

granting full accreditation for new master's degrees in practical theology, education and counseling.

After the addition of a graduate school, Dr. Guynes and administration

proposed to the Board of Regents that the school drop "college" from the name and incorporate "university." The administration presented a number of possible names to the student body who voted overwhelmingly to keep its historic identity by calling it Southwestern Assemblies of God University. 🏡



The Road to Emmaus

On December 1, 1994, students and staff gathered around the front lawn. They began to pray as they marched the new "Road to Emmaus Prayer Walk." They prayed for the Church, the poor, the sick, the less fortunate and persecuted believers around the world. They also prayed for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the campus and the Waxahachie community.

The Road to Emmaus is a story in the Bible which tells of Jesus Christ walking with two disciples after His resurrection. Students from the last three decades have often seen Dr. Guynes walking the "prayer walk" as he still demonstrates the passion for prayer and missions that were the hallmark of the Guynes' administration. 🏡

Steadfast, Dr. Kermit Bridges is longest sitting President

President Kermit Bridges and his wife Jan joined the campus family 23 years ago. Having taken the helm of SAGU in 2000, he is the longest-sitting SAGU president. Jan has been a member of the faculty, serving on committees and volunteering for the Alumni Association and Southwestern Women's Auxiliary.

Between Guynes and Bridges, the university has benefited from three decades of steadfast leadership, allowing the university to pursue new growth through expanded vision.

Guynes launched SAGU's first master's degrees. Bridges launched SAGU's first doctorate and gained an accreditation standing that allows the school to add new doctorates in the future.

Guynes presided over construction of the Sheaffer Center with Bridges as Vice President of Advancement.

Bridges orchestrated construction of Teeter Hall, Bridges Hall, Garrison Wellness Center and the Hagee Center. Since 1999, 56% of the university's 707,000 under roof square feet was constructed.



Guynes led the school to record enrollment in 2000 with 1,782 students. Bridges continued that momentum, leading SAGU to its first years with more than 2,000 students.

Both men shared a passion for academic quality, new avenues of ministry, and commitment to the Assemblies of God fellowship.

Under Bridges, SAGU launched more than 45 new programs and redesigned many more. Meanwhile, the school is moving aggressively to form partnerships with districts and schools of ministry around the country.

Football hosts and wins first bowl game

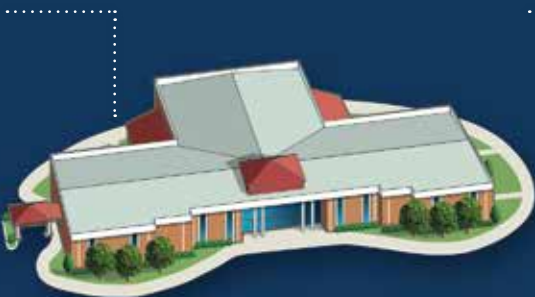
In 2015, the football team was selected to host and play in the National Christian College Athletic Association's (NCCAA) Victory Bowl. The Lions faced off and won against the University of Northwestern (Minnesota). SAGU finished the regular season with a 7-3 record, among the team's best seasons ever.



Basketball receives rings

In 2013, men's basketball climbed to a no. 6 ranking and reached the final game of the NAIA national championship. The Lions (33-5), won more games than every team except one. They battled tooth and nail against the bigger and more experienced Georgetown College Tigers. The journey included nationwide broadcast exposure on ESPN3. The team would later receive rings as national runner-ups.

1999 SHEAFFER CENTER



2006 TEETER + BRIDGES RESIDENCE HALLS



2010 GARRISON WELLNESS CENTER



New programs

Associate

Addictions Counseling, A.S.
Church Ministries, A.A.
Early Childhood Education, A.A.
Human Services, A.S.
Intercultural Studies, A.A.
Religious Studies, A.A.
TESOL, A.A.
Health Science, A.S.

Bachelor's

Ancient Studies, B.A.
Bible & Theology, B.A.
Business Sport Management, B.S.
Child & Family Studies, B.A.
Church Leadership
Communication Studies, B.A.
Community Care & Counseling, B.S.
Counseling Pre-professional, B.S.
Criminal Justice, B.S.
Digital Media Arts, B.A.
English, B.A.
General Ministry, B.A.A.S.
Human Resource Management, B.S.
Human Services, B.S.
Marketing, B.S.
Mathematics, B.A.
Math Education, B.A.
Music Performance, Jazz Studies, B.A.
Occupational Leadership, B.A.A.S.
Physical Education, B.A.
Psychology Pre-professional, B.S.
Religion & Philosophy, B.A.
Social Work, B.S.
Theatre, B.A.
Theatre Education, B.A.

Master's

Biblical/Theological Studies, M.A.
Business Administration, MBA
Clinical Psychology, M.S.
Early Childhood Education, M.Ed.
Early Education Administration, M.Ed.
Educational Leadership, M.Ed.
History, M.A.
Human Services Counseling, M.S.
Master of Divinity, M.Div.
Middle & Secondary Education, M.Ed.
School Counseling, M.Ed.
Organizational Leadership, M.A.

Doctorate

Doctor of Ministry in Leadership and Creative Communication

1987-1997

1997-2017

SAGU launches schools of ministry coast-to-coast

SAGU has partnered with schools of ministry across the country to offer accredited online degrees. Each site offers either an online associate degree in Bible or online bachelor's degree in Church Leadership. Each school serves as a feeder to SAGU's main campus in Waxahachie, TX. 📍



American Indian College joins SAGU

American Indian College joined the SAGU family. President Bridges and AIC President Dr. David Moore announced the agreement in March 2016. The SAGU AIC campus in Phoenix, Arizona offers business, education and church ministries majors. It is the oldest institution in the nation serving primarily American Indian natives. SAGU and SAGU AIC achieved accreditation with SACS in early 2017. 📍

2010 CLAXTON LOCKER ROOMS



2013 HAGEE COMMUNICATION CENTER



SAGU partners with LETU for Health Science

Health Sciences can be a great starter program for students interested in health professions like medical assistant or health information or who plan to enroll in preparatory health courses for nursing, pre-med, science or health education. In 2017, SAGU formed an agreement with LeTourneau University to give students a pathway to nursing. Students enrolling in the ASHS at SAGU can participate in LETU global service opportunities, lab events, and nursing organizations such as the Student Nurses Association and Nurses Christian Fellowship. SAGU students are later allowed first round application and spaces for the LETU clinical nursing program. 🐦



Proposed 6-story dormitory



Proposed administration building, front view

“Failed plans should not be interpreted as a failed vision. Visions don’t change, they are only refined... be stubborn about the vision, but flexible with your plan.” - John C. Maxwell

(continued from page 5)

Schools of Ministry

You have likely noted SAGU’s aggressive move toward schools of ministry across the United States. We have more than 40 partners from sea to sea. Why stop there?

What if SAGU had a partnership with every district school of ministry in the United States? Even further, what if we extended to international schools of ministry and prepared ministers on other continents?

Nursing and Health Science

It seems natural that we would extend the ways we minister to the spiritual needs of the lost by first ministering to their physical needs. Can you imagine the day that SAGU is home to a burgeoning nursing program? That dream is one that would require a substantial investment from willing

and able donors. Our recent partnership with LeTourneau University to offer Health Science at SAGU is a small step toward that larger dream.

Education

The landscape of teacher education has changed. Educators require new tools, new technologies and deeper knowledge about how to integrate those tools to improve learning.

SAGU’s education department continues to renovate our curriculum as we build relationships with school districts across Texas. Meanwhile, we dream toward a second doctoral degree, perhaps in the field of Educational Leadership.

Counseling

Counseling and psychology are among our strongest programs. As

we strengthen our reputation in all disciplines, we continue to seek program-specific accreditations to boost our renown.

The counseling department is dreaming toward CACREP accreditation. Our social work department is dreaming toward national accreditation as well.

What if SAGU was able to become a State Approved LPC CE provider for mental health professionals?

What if we served the community through a health center off campus that serves pastors and their families, doubling as a site for students to complete internship hours?

Perhaps a doctoral degree in counseling would be a good fit for SAGU as we expand Harrison Graduate School.

Future development

Planning is already underway for a new phase of development involving two new facilities. SAGU is evaluating a new dormitory with two possible building sites. The new facility would provide amenities similar to those of Teeter and Bridges Halls.

A new administration building would replace the current Davis Hall, which is located at the center of campus. When constructed, the position of the new building would open room to create a central mall from the entrance of the Hagee Communication Center to the Barnes Student Center. Miraculous provision paved the way for the Hagee Communication Center. For these new facilities to be possible, the university will need key donors who believe in the purpose of SAGU. 🙌

Social Work

We are taking steps to gain accreditation for our Social Work program in the next 5 years.

Criminal Justice

Our Criminal Justice program is thriving. What if SAGU could establish a Police Academy on our Waxahachie campus?

Business

Our business program is strong. We recently received IACBE accreditation. Our business department is increasing the rigor of each major, crafting proposals for new programs and focusing on competency-based learning. What if we could establish a full-fledged College of Business?

Meanwhile, we are exploring ways to deliver degrees in new formats. One proposal would accelerate the MBA through accelerated course completion in a 7-week format.

The vision fulfilled

Our campus dreamers are hard at work laying plans for tomorrow. Some of these dreams can be achieved easily. Some of them can be fulfilled through the faithful work and resolve of SAGU staff and faculty.

Others will require the bold dedication of donors and friends who feel moved to take SAGU to higher heights. If you know of someone who may partner financially on our larger initiatives, please help this magazine find its way to their hands. 🙌

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

To celebrate 90 years, Join other Lions by sharing your memories. Sound off on social media as you continue the root fire in your online communities.

There were days when the Spirit moved so mightily upon those who were pressing in for more of Him that the classes immediately following the chapel hour were canceled.

VIC AND NAOMI SCHOB 1960

Revival prayer on Thursday nights, led by student Cade J. Leuschner! God healed me of a leg injury suffered during a football game. Played the next week like nothing happened!

R.T. WALDEN 2013

Little did I know that my life was going to be forever changed and forever linked to this place where I came to receive an academic education and to achieve spiritual growth.

IRMA PHIPPS 1993

My memories – prayer walks around the campus when God would speak to me things that changed my life! I will eternally be grateful for the impact that my time at SAGU had on my life!

The revival with Rev Bobby Wilson from Pueblo, CO and when the VW Bug was put in the administration building.

KATHY YOUNGER 2013

Being on the film crew for the student film Drawing a Blank was life-changing for me. I trudged around for a month straight tethered to an audio recorder and boom mic through torrential downpours and scorching sun. Wouldn't trade it for the world.

BEN FENTON 2016

Some of my favorite memories didn't happen during the school year on campus... but on the mission field during the summers... Dominican Republic in 2009... El Salvador in 2011... gave me SUCH a love for Latin America/Caribbean...

AMY ROCHELLE 2012



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