

SBU presents Roweton, Welch with HONORARY DOCTORATES

(LEFT TO RIGHT) SBU President Dr. C. Pat Taylor; Ellen Rose Douglas Roweton, recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Business; Thomas B. Welch '78, recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Business; and Dr. Lee Skinkle, provost, during the annual Founders' Day chapel March 5 at SBU.

BY DENISE ELSON TUCKER '89

Ellen Rose Douglas Roweton of Bolivar, and Thomas B. Welch, '78 of Victoria, Minn., received Honorary Doctor degrees from Southwest Baptist University during the annual Founders' Day chapel service held Monday, March 5, in Pike Auditorium on the Bolivar campus.

SBU awards honorary doctorates to recognize outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to society and to kingdom work.

ELLEN ROSE DOUGLAS ROWETON

Rose Roweton, who received an honorary doctor of business degree, was born to Elvin and Florence Douglas, both 1927 graduates of Southwest Baptist College. She graduated in 1955 from Bolivar High School, where she was valedictorian and class president, and was inducted into the Bolivar High School Hall of Fame in 2001.

Roweton received a bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Missouri in 1959 and married Max Roweton, a 1956 SWBC and 1958 Mizzou graduate, that same year. She taught music at Humansville Schools for one year, served as an elementary room mother for 12 straight years and as PTA president. She received the Bolivar Civic Service Award in 1988 for her lifetime participation in community service. She also taught private piano and flute lessons from 1961-1975.

Rose began working at the family business [Roweton's Western Auto, then Roweton's Home Center] in 1968, helping with errands, stocking shelves and assisting customers. Rose retired this year after having worked at Roweton's for 50 years, and as manager for 19 years.

Dr. Brad Johnson, vice president for university relations at SBU, said, "It is probably an understatement to say that the name Rose Roweton is synonymous with customer service, but would nonetheless be true."

"Rose, your business acumen, expertise, superb customer service and commitment to simply do what is right have made you a beloved figure in the Bolivar community," Johnson said. "The words 'legend' and 'icon' come to mind when I think about you and your business, but also, the words 'faithful' and 'friend'.

"You have, undoubtedly, made Bolivar a better place for all of us. For the many contributions to this place that we call home, Southwest Baptist University wants to celebrate your life of service and dedication to our community."

Rose and Max Roweton, who live in Bolivar, have five children: Vicki, Kendal, Denni, Marla and Kelly, 17 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. She has been a member of First Baptist Church of Bolivar since she was a child, and has taught 5

year olds in Sunday school for 39 years.

“My grandfather, Tom Douglas, when he was a younger person, travelled both far and wide for Southwest Baptist College,” Roweton said. “My parents, my grandparents and my husband would all be very proud that I was here to [accept this honor], and I am very glad that I was able to do it, too. Thank you very much for this honor.”

THOMAS B. WELCH '78

Tom Welch was born in Tennessee, but spent most of his childhood in Florida, graduating from high school in Panama City in 1974. He earned a degree in business administration from SWBC in 1978 and began his career in Little Rock, Ark., where he met Robin, whom he married in 1979.

Welch joined the investment firm of Dean Witter Reynolds in 1981 to begin a career in investment management. In 2002, a chance discussion with SBU alum and investment manager Jim Jones '86, who managed the endowment fund at SBU, led to re-involvement with the University and the beginning of a multi-year collaboration between Welch, Jones and the SBU Investment Committee.

Welch and his family moved to Minnesota in 2003, where he served as managing director for Wells Capital Management, representing investment strategies to large institutional clients. In 2003, he was awarded the C. Stewart Sheppard Award by the CFA Institute for his contributions to the education of professional investors.

Welch and his wife, Robin, have been

married 38 years and have three grown children – Rachel, Robert and Caroline – and two granddaughters. In recent years, Welch has served on the advisory board of the student-run investment fund at the University of Minnesota and on the finance committee of his local hospital. He also is on the advisory board of his county government water management agency and serves as a hospice volunteer. Welch is active in his church and serves as a teacher of adult Bible classes.

“As students, we all come here with the gifts that the Lord has given us,” Welch said. “Some are like embers in a fire; some are not used like they should be and it can stay small and burn out, but others roar. For me, at this place, a couple of special professors were like bellows that ignited a desire that I didn’t know I had to do investment [work]. My senior year, I took a class on stock market investments, and the wheels in my head finally started turning and stoked a fire that set me on a career path.

“So many of the good things in my life tie back to this institution,” Welch said. “It pointed me toward my career. I didn’t meet my wife here, but I was introduced to her one summer by my roommate. My first job in the investment industry came through someone I met through contacts made here. And, a chance encounter with a fellow alum, Jim Jones, opened the door to give a little back to the university.” ■



Faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members may submit nominations for SBU honorary doctorates to the Office of the President at any time during the year. Only written nominations accompanied by a comprehensive résumé of the individual being nominated will be considered.

Honorary doctorates are awarded to alumni who have made noteworthy achievements such as those related to the academic purposes of the University or who have done outstanding service to the University, the local community or the denomination.

For more information about the nomination criteria and process, please contact Ashley Dinwiddie, Executive Coordinator and Director of Major Events, at (417) 328-1500 or adinwiddie@SBUUniv.edu.

SBUlife

Magazine of Southwest Baptist University | Volume 103 Issue 2 | USPS 507-500

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SBUlife (USPS 507-500) is published in February, April, July, and November. It is distributed free for alumni, parents and friends of Southwest Baptist University by the Office of Marketing & Communications, 1600 University Ave., Bolivar, MO 65613. Periodical postage paid at Bolivar, Mo., and additional mailing offices.

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Almeida, Rose crowned MR. AND MISS SOUTHWEST

BY DENISE ELSON TUCKER '89

Joao Vitor Silva de Almeida, an exercise science major from Campo Grande, Brazil, and Tali Rose, a social work major from Gainesville, Mo., won the titles of Mr. and Miss Southwest at the annual pageant on Friday, March 2, at Southwest Baptist University.

Eight candidates were nominated by SBU faculty and staff and voted upon by the student body for the purpose of selecting a pair of students to represent the Bearcat family for the next year.

This year's candidates also included: Austin Acosta of San Antonio, Texas; Callie Chenoweth of Van Buren, Ark.; Maggie Evans of Pittsburg, Kan.; Josie Linder of Macon, Mo.; Phillip Sneed of Bolivar, Mo.; and Blaise Torrence of Festus, Mo.

A surprise visit from the 1968 Miss Southwest winner, Sandy McDonald Jones, turned into a second coronation for Jones, as she was presented with a crown and bouquet of flowers. In 1968, Jones received a plaque for being named Miss Southwest.

The pageant featured introductory videos and a talent presentation by each candidate, followed by a round of text-message voting to determine the top four candidates, who then participated in question-and-answer sessions. A final round of voting determined the winners.

Rose, who plans to go to Hong Kong after graduation and "show them Christ," said that winning the title of Miss Southwest is a "huge honor."

"To be able to represent something I hold so dear to my heart and that has formed the person I am today, is the kind of stuff that happens in movies or dreams," Rose said. "I am super-thankful for the experience and my hope is that if it is a dream, I never wake up."

Almeida, who plans to go to exercise physiology graduate school and work as a lab assistant, said he is honored to be named Mr. Southwest.

"It definitely means a lot to me, since I am an international student, and I bet there are not many foreign students who can say the same," Almeida said. "It is an enormous honor to represent SBU as Mr. Southwest. SBU is my home in the U.S.; therefore, I am really pumped to see what's to come."

The beginnings of the "Miss Southwest" pageant date back to the 1930s, with "Mr. Southwest" being added in 1963. The pageant, which was organized by the students of SBU's University Activities Council, was one of the keynote happenings of Bearcat Days, a visit event in which admitted students considering SBU attendance were hosted on campus. ■



TOP PHOTO: 2018 Mr. and Miss Southwest candidates (from left): Austin Acosta, Maggie Evans, Phillip Sneed, Miss Southwestern Tali Rose, Mr. Southwestern Joao Vitor Silva de Almeida, Callie Chenoweth, Blaise Torrence and Josie Linder.

2ND PHOTO: Mr. Southwestern Joao Vitor Silva de Almeida performs "I'm Yours" by Jason Mraz with friends.

3RD PHOTO: 2018 Miss Southwestern Tali Rose (left) and 1968 Miss Southwestern Sandy McDonald Jones.

BOTTOM PHOTO: 2018 Miss Southwestern Tali Rose performs "Flashlight" with friends.

NEW DEGREES *offered at SBU*

DIGITAL MARKETING

Southwest Baptist University has added a degree in digital marketing that will give graduates a competitive edge in an emerging field.

The bachelor's degree adds computer information science courses to a blend of business, marketing and graphic design courses that already are part of a traditional marketing degree.

"We have a fantastic computer and information science program at SBU and are pleased that our digital marketing students will be able to benefit from the

expertise of our CIS faculty," said Dr. Angie Brown-Peterson '07, '08, assistant professor of business administration and chair of the Department of Business Administration.

The Digital Marketing Institute predicts that there will be 150,000 digital jobs by 2020 – and not enough digital professionals to fill them. Mondo, the largest national staffing agency specializing in high-end, niche IT, tech and digital marketing talent, says that demand for digital marketing professionals will rise by 38 percent this year.



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING ON BOLIVAR CAMPUS

The Missouri State Board of Nursing granted initial approval on Feb. 28 for SBU's pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing program on the Bolivar campus, contingent upon an approved site visit scheduled for December 2018.

Through the pre-licensure program, students will earn a bachelor's degree and preparation for taking the NCLEX-RN exam to become a registered nurse. Students will benefit from SBU's liberal arts curriculum that enhances problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

The application deadline for the first nursing

cohort of 24 students in the Don and Carrie Babb Department of Nursing on the Bolivar campus is July 1. Students must complete three semesters of pre-requisite courses and apply for acceptance into the program. Classes are scheduled to begin Spring 2019.

For more information about the pre-licensure program, contact Nancy Delmont, chair of the Don and Carrie Babb Department of Nursing, at [417] 328-1553 or ndelmont@SBUniv.edu or visit SBUniv.edu/explore and click on "Nursing [Pre-licensure BSN]."

MBA-HEALTH ADMINISTRATION CONCENTRATION

SBU's Master of Business Administration degree with a Health Administration concentration, which begins the Fall 2018 semester, requires 46 hours of courses: 34 hours of MBA core requirements and 12 hours of health administration courses.

The concentration can be added to the Residential track, which is a hybrid of in-person and online instruction, or the

Professional track, which is offered online.

Contact Levi Bridge '08, '09, D.B.A., MBA director and assistant professor of business administration at SBU, at [417] 328-1758 or lbridge@SBUniv.edu to answer specific questions regarding the program. For more information, including the application process and tuition rates, visit www.SBUniv.edu/MBA.





Master of Arts in Christian Ministry degree **PROVIDES IDEAL OPTION** FOR STUDENTS TO CONTINUE STUDIES AT A HIGH LEVEL

BY DENISE ELSON TUCKER '89

When it was announced that Southwest Baptist University would be offering a Master of Arts in Christian Ministry degree, the news was music to Ryan Puls' ears.

"I was excited that SBU was going to get a master's program going," said Puls, a 2007 SBU graduate who commutes from Harrison, Ark., where he works as the associate pastor of youth and recreation at First Baptist Church.

"I remember that there was much talk about the possibility of the program around the time I was finishing up my undergrad. I was also hopeful that it would be something that could be part of my education."

The MACM degree was years in the making, and one that Dr. Zach Manis, professor of philosophy and director of the Master of Arts in Christian Ministry program, says integrates the ministry and theology sides of the Courts Redford College of Theology and Ministry in a systematic way.

"We want to equip students to apply theological knowledge to practical ministry initiatives in new and fruitful ways," Manis said. "The whole program is designed as a continuation of a liberal arts approach to education."

The 42-hour degree program will take less than half the time for completion of a Master of Divinity and is designed for individuals who desire advanced study in ministry in order to serve the church more purposefully.

Students must complete four core courses, one each from the categories of leadership, theology, community and service. At least nine elective courses are required, allowing students to select courses that emphasize areas of study that are conducive to each student's vocational and ministry goals.

"It is difficult, but that's a good thing," said James Bohner '12, who works in SBU's IT department. "It's challenging, and it's one of the

reasons I wanted to come back here, so I could take the classes here. I love the faculty here at Redford. I know that they are very educated, but also that they are very focused on preparing leaders, ministers and people who will want to not just have head knowledge, but to see actual Kingdom work done."

Prior to the launch of SBU's program, many students who completed a major in Redford College felt they had no ideal options for master's-level work.

"We were graduating students who were over-prepared for traditional Master of Divinity programs because of the amount of

training they had already received in biblical studies, biblical languages, theology, etc., as undergraduates," Manis said. "Now our students – and students coming out of sister institutions with comparable majors – have a better option: a graduate program that picks up right where their undergraduate studies end, allowing them to obtain master's-

level proficiency in the discipline in a much-more efficient and cost-effective way.

"In addition, the program offers our students the convenience of completing both their undergraduate and graduate degrees in just five years – all right here at SBU."

And, being part of the inaugural class is something that Scott Pruitt '13 loves.

"There is something very special about feeling like we are getting to help launch this degree with SBU," said Pruitt, who commutes from Lebanon, Mo. He works as an integrated health specialist for Pathways Behavioral Health and pastors at Mt. Etna Baptist Church in Bolivar.

"It is exciting to know that our professors are learning with us. I think their passion has, in some ways, been rekindled by the fact that they are getting to teach something new and deeper than what they have been with the undergrad rotation." ■

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SPECIAL ABOUT FEELING LIKE WE
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Scott Pruitt '13

BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY CONFERENCE OPENS EXHIBIT AT SBU

Southwest Baptist University opened the special exhibit “Khirbet el-Maqatir – A Journey through Biblical History” with a biblical archaeology conference, featuring Dr. Scott Stripling, on Saturday, Feb. 24, on the Bolivar campus.

The program consisted of two presentations and a tour by Dr. Stripling, provost of The Bible Seminary and recent director at the Khirbet el-Maqatir excavation.

The conference featured two presentations – “The Problem of Ai: Solved After 40 years of Excavation in the West Bank” and “Mass Murder at Maqatir.”

The exhibit is on display through

Dec. 8 in the Joyce Sells Heritage Center of the Harriet K. Hutchens Library and features about 50 artifacts from ancient Israel, Mesopotamia, Egypt and Syria. The exhibit will be open Mondays-Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and will be closed on holidays.

Artifacts that are on display include pottery vessels, amphora, scarabs, seal impressions, oil lamps, slingstones and city gate door sockets, representing several biblical periods from the time of Abraham to Joshua’s conquest.

Visitors will have the opportunity to view artifacts from 2000 B.C. to the time of Jesus and the Roman era.



Dr. Scott Stripling (center), provost of The Bible Seminary and recent director at the Khirbet el-Maqatir excavation, leads a tour of the “Khirbet el-Maqatir – A Journey through Biblical History” exhibit at SBU.

LANGFORD RECOGNIZED WITH HONORS PROGRAM BRUNCH



Dr. Allison Langford, associate provost for teaching and learning, visits with members of the first Honors Program class of 2009. (From left) Kristin Hamm [current instructor of accounting at SBU], Chris Dodson and Sarah Dodson.

Dr. Allison Langford, associate provost for teaching and learning at Southwest Baptist University, was honored with a brunch recognizing her immeasurable contribution to the Gordon and Judy Dutile Honors Program at SBU.

Langford, who first came to SBU in the Fall of 2003 as instructor of university studies in the University Success Center, was tasked in January 2005 with designing an honors program to begin in the fall, as well as recruiting the first honors cohort by March.

Between January and March of 2005, Langford identified qualified students from the applicant pool, contacted them individually by phone and followed up to complete the recruitment process. With the help of a newly formed honors faculty committee, she built the program from scratch, a process which included developing qualification criteria, selection process, honors curriculum within general education, as well as honors-specific coursework.

“The first three months of the program was a whirlwind,” Langford said. “Each applicant submitted an essay and was

interviewed by faculty. It was a lot to organize in a short time, but I was thrilled to have 19 students in the first class. After that, I was able to build on those beginnings.”

The first Honors graduates completed the program in 2009, which was renamed the Gordon and Judy Dutile Honors Program in 2010. To date, SBU has recognized 147 graduates from the Dutile Honors Program, and there currently are 101 Honors students on campus.

The mission of the Honors Program is to support and challenge high-ability students by fostering fierce curiosity, intellectual humility, dynamic community, and holistic growth and achievement.

“Allison’s keen analytical mind, work ethic, compassion, and deep interest in learning have inspired me, as well as all the students who have been fortunate enough to be in her classes,” said Dr. Jodi Meadows ’92, who became the Honors Program director in 2014. “Her foundational work in developing the Honors Program is bearing fruit all over the world in students whose lives were enriched by the honors coursework, values and community. I am grateful for her work and for her friendship.”

1960s

Carol (Davolt) Spurgeon '62 recently published a book titled, "How Could He...!? An Ordinary Journey With An Extraordinary God." It is available online at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Spring Arbor, Kobo and iTunes. Carol can be reached at spurgeon@3rivers.net.

1970s

Maria Korte '73 works as a contractor for the U.S. Department of Energy in records management, with no plans to retire. She and her brother bought the family farm in Pandora, Ohio. Maria has one daughter and two grandsons, and can be reached at mariakorte60@gmail.com.

Jerry Frazier '75 is employed part time as a Living History Interpreter in the World of Jesus of Nazareth in the new Museum of the Bible, in Washington, D.C. He has been employed full time as the associate pastor at Groveton Baptist Church, Alexandria, Va., since 1998. Jerry and his wife, Ellen, have one son.

1980s

Brent Dickerson '84 is a senior tax specialist and has worked for the IRS for 29 years. He also has served part-time in ministry in small churches in the Kansas City metro area since 1984. He and his wife, Linda, live in Independence, Mo. and have five children, one granddaughter. Brent can be reached at brent.dickerson@att.net.

Randy Watts '85 is married to Debbie and lives in St. Louis, Mo. He can be reached at randstera@gmail.com.

David Williams '85 lives in Albuquerque and would love to hear from his friends at SBU. He can be reached at coachwordsworthy@aol.com.

1990s

Paul Loser '95 lives in San Antonio, and is employed by the United States Air Force. He and his wife, Cara, have five daughters and one son.

2010s

Dr. Bill Powers, Ed.D. '16 recently was named Missouri's Middle School Principal of the Year by the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals. Dr. Powers is principal at Cherokee Middle School in Springfield, Mo. His wife, Dana Powers, Ed.D. '16, serves as principal of Carver Middle School in Springfield. They have one son, Seely (9).

Jacqueline Fox '17 lives in Jefferson City and can be reached at jmfox94@gmail.com.

FUTURE BEARCATS

Julie (Adams) Tufts '07 and her husband, Zach, welcomed their first child, Ezekiel Owen, on Dec. 22, 2017. The family lives in Chattanooga, Tenn., and can be reached at jztufts@gmail.com.



Kristin (Thorson) Cooke '11 and her husband, Caleb, welcomed their son, Trenton Jon Cooke, on Nov. 6, 2017.

In Memory

Randy Arnett '78 and Kathy Arnett '78, who were missionaries in Africa, passed away on March 14 from injuries suffered in a car accident as they were traveling for missions work in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Arnetts, who were appointed to the International Mission Board on Oct. 14, 1986, as missionaries to West Africa, had served as theological education strategists for Africa since 2009. Randy and Kathy are survived by their parents; their two daughters, Bevin Wyrick and Jillian Cavness '09, '12 and their husbands; sisters; a brother; five grandchildren and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. Donations may be made to the Randy and Kathy Arnett Memorial Fund, c/o Signature Bank of Arkansas, P.O. Box 89, Bentonville, AR 72712.

Angela Cox, 53, wife of Dr. Terry Cox, professor in SBU's Physical Therapy department, passed away on Feb. 27 in her home. Angela is survived by her husband, Terry, daughter Shannon (Cox) Snyder, a son-in-law, son Connor Cox, her mother, mother-in-law, a brother and several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Contributions may be made to Convoy of Hope, 330 S. Patterson Ave., Springfield, MO 65802.

Robert Jines '86 passed away on Feb. 20 in his home at the age of 69. He and his wife Carolyn '86 had just celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 17. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn; one son, two daughters and six grandchildren; one brother and one sister. Memorial donations may be made to Bright Futures of Pea Ridge in c/o of Sisco Funeral Home, P.O. Box 54, Pea Ridge, AR 72751. Carolyn Jines '86 lives in Pea Ridge, Ark., and can be reached at carolyn.jines@gmail.com.

SBU Alumni Association

Thank you to the alumni and friends who came to the SBU alumni day in Washington, D.C.

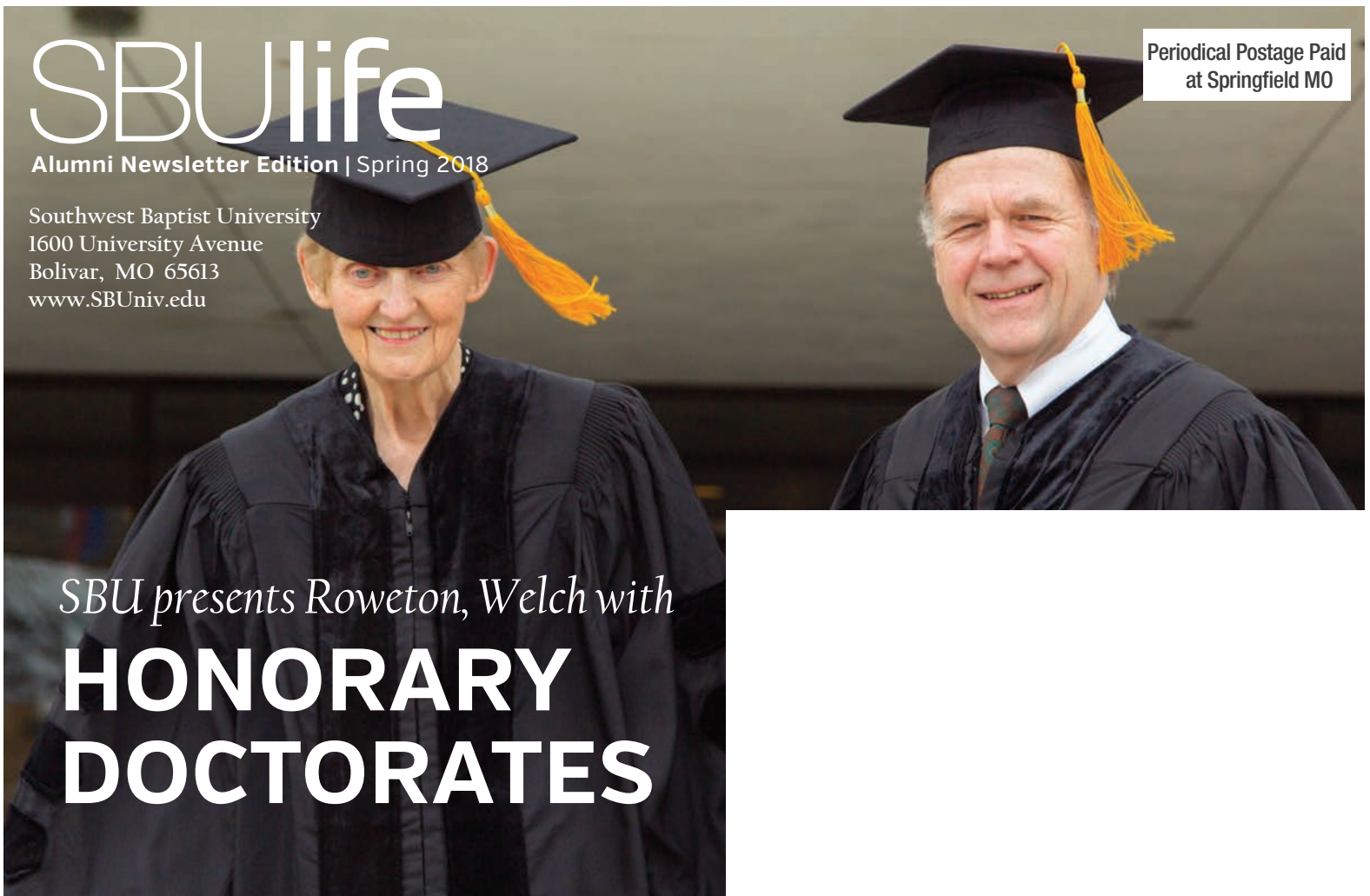


SBULife

Alumni Newsletter Edition | Spring 2018

Southwest Baptist University
1600 University Avenue
Bolivar, MO 65613
www.SBUniv.edu

Periodical Postage Paid
at Springfield MO



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**HONORARY
DOCTORATES**



Public retirement reception for
PRESIDENT TAYLOR

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

1:00-4:00 P.M.

SELLS ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER



Have a favorite memory of Dr. Taylor?

Share your stories with us by emailing

SBUcommunications@gmail.com. Select stories will be

included in the summer edition of SBULife.

Submit your story by May 15.



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