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On becoming a national college

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Time right for national reach

The desire to be a national liberal arts college is one thing; the potential to rank nationally is quite another. For Southwestern, the decision to reach for national prominence rests on both.

As it prepares for the most ambitious program in its 135-year history, Southwestern has never been healthier — academically, financially, or physically. Below, you will see why.

- Among this year's 267 freshmen, 40 were valedictorians of their high school classes, while 21 were salutatorians. 24% of the class ranked either first or second in their classes. The average SAT score for the class ranked in the top 15% in the nation; the average ACT score, in the top 12%.

- The college has approximately the same number of National Merit winners per capita as Swarthmore, Amherst, Dartmouth and the University of Chicago.

- The number of applicants for 1984-85 is the highest ever, at 1,269. It surpasses the record set last year by nearly 29%.

- A merit scholarship program introduced two years ago stands as one of the largest in the country. It provides 124 merit scholarships yearly, the largest of which — the Bellingrath, Hyde and Goodrich — cover full tuition, room and board and are renewable annually for four years. A total of \$3.1 million in financial assistance is available for 1984-85.

- A low student-to-faculty ratio is important to today's college-bound populace. Southwestern's ratio of eleven students to one professor is particularly attractive.

- 80% of the college faculty hold the Ph.D., and 25% are members of Phi Beta Kappa. The faculty come to Southwestern from the leading universities in the nation. Although the prominence and prevalence of faculty publishing has risen recently, teaching is still the number one priority. Student evaluations indicate that teaching quality is stronger than ever.

- The \$5,000 Clarence Day Award, presented to a faculty member each year, is one of the largest teaching awards in the country.

- A beautiful, park-like campus and a location in one of the South's largest and most exciting cities provide the best of two worlds for students and faculty. With its Gothic stone and slate buildings — 13 of them on the National Register of Historic Places — Southwestern is one of the most photographed colleges in the region. Yet, a short drive from the serene wooded campus are opportunities that only a major metropolitan area can provide.

- Memphis, with its metropolitan population of one million, is the country's sixth largest distribution center and site of one of the world's finest medical complexes. Available to students are abundant internships, symphony and theatre performances, professional sports, art galleries and museums, restaurants and riverfront entertainment, and an international airport. Southwestern is the only small college in the South ranked "very selective" which has a metropolitan location.

- The college has produced 4 Fulbright Scholars and 3 National Science Fellows in the past

5 years. Six graduates have been Rhodes Scholars since the program's founding.

- For the past few years, the acceptance rate of seniors to medical schools has consistently exceeded 90%; to schools of law, dentistry, business, and international studies, the rate has been close to 100%.

- Among graduates of ten recent classes, 53% have already earned master's, doctoral or professional degrees.

- Southwestern alumni include the CEO of Consolidated Foods and the founder of Hospital Corporation of America; the former chairmen of United States Fidelity and Guaranty, The Continental Corporation, and Price Waterhouse; three college presidents; the past president of the American Bar Association; a former U.S. Supreme Court Justice; a U.S. Congressman; two U.S. Ambassadors; the South Korean Ambassador to the U.N.; and the tight end of the New York Giants football team.

- Southwestern has had a balanced budget for the past 11 years. The Southwestern Fund has tripled in the past 10 years, with alumni participation 89% higher than the nation's average.

- A recent \$5 million challenge grant extended anonymously by five trustees underscores a rising commitment to the college among the board of trustees. The challenge is contingent on the college's securing an additional \$15 million in gifts and pledges by the end of 1986. At present, the college's ten-year, \$50 Million Commitment campaign, begun in 1977, stands above \$32 million.

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