

# FAIRMOUNT COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

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WICHITA STATE  
UNIVERSITY



## TEACHING EVALUATIONS VIEWED IMPORTANT BY MANY

Although teaching evaluation is a popular topic these days, Wichita State has taken it seriously for more than 30 years.

One of the main functions of the Social Science Research Laboratory, a unit within Fairmount College, is to coordinate and administer the SPTE, Student Perception of Teaching Effectiveness. This instrument is more commonly known to faculty and students as teaching evaluations, and it is something they encounter for almost every course.

"The SPTEs are important for two reasons," said **Charlie Burdsal**, professor of psychology and director of the laboratory. "They produce improvements in teaching quality because of the feedback mechanism. They are also considered in tenure and promotion cases."

More than 1,200 SPTEs are administered each semester at Wichita State. In addition to Fairmount College faculty, instructional personnel in the colleges of business, education and engineering use the instrument. Pittsburg State University also uses the SPTE extensively.

As a tool, it provides instructors with important feedback, allowing them to improve

their teaching methods for future semesters.

"I feel WSU does a better job of evaluating teaching than any other school," Burdsal said.

One faculty member, **Ron Matson**, associate professor of sociology, finds the SPTE results helpful in adjusting to his students' needs. "With many years behind me in the classroom, SPTEs have allowed me to tinker with different aspects of my courses," Matson said. "The tinkering allows me to stay invested in making myself and my classes meet the expectations of a changing student population."

By and large, students take filling out the evaluations seriously. The particular scoring of two data items to measure internal validity, meaning that students are following directions, leads to a rejection rate of 1 percent - 1.25 percent of the SPTEs.

"It's a good way to assess professors' teaching," said **Felicia Giok**, a student majoring in biological sciences. "I comment on their usage of Blackboard and if it's effective or not, and if they are responsive to students and have good communication skills in class."

Although the SPTEs comprise a large part of

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the Social Science Research Laboratory activity, staff complete many other tasks related to teaching support. As with most successful projects, the idea for the lab started small and grew into something bigger.

In 1977, former professor of political science **Jim Sheffield** applied for and received a small grant. Its purpose was to provide remote computer access to social science departments in Lindquist Hall and to promote social science research.

Out of that grant, SSRL has grown to handle exam grading, survey support, data analysis support and supervision of two computer labs for class use.

**Charlie Burdsal** came to WSU in 1970 and joined the university as a full-time faculty member in 1972. He served as chairman of the psychology department for 28 years.

His hobbies include flower gardening, barbequing and computers. He and his wife, **Jeanne**, enjoy traveling in the Southwest and have begun a collection of modern Pueblo pottery. The couple has been married 30 years and have one daughter, Kristin. Cats Zach and Maggie now share their home.

Burdsal's research interests include psychometrics, problem children, program evaluation and research evaluation. He teaches classes in research methods. He holds bachelor's of arts and doctoral degrees in psychology, both from Texas Tech University.

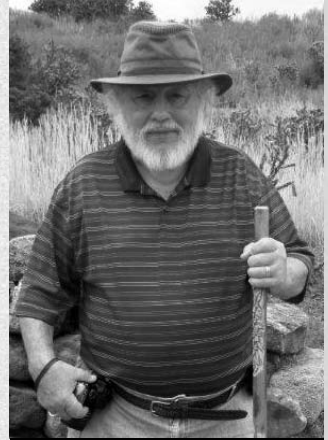


PHOTO BY JEANNE BURDSAL.

## PHYSICS DEPARTMENT TO MERGE WITH MATHEMATICS, STATISTICS

Wichita State University is merging its department of physics with the department of mathematics and statistics.

The merger, which will be completed by July 1, 2011, was announced by **Gary L. Miller**, provost and vice president for academic affairs and research; and **William D. Bischoff**, dean, Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

It follows a Kansas Board of Regents required review process in which Miller had recommended dissolution of the physics department because of its chronic low number of majors and graduates.

"This is a very desirable outcome and completely aligned with ongoing reshaping efforts to best utilize the university's human and intellectual resources," Miller said. "It offers a real chance to strengthen our physics program through collaboration with mathematics. This will benefit students and serve as a catalyst for new research opportunities."

The merger, which must be approved by the Kansas Board of Regents Chief Academic Officers, will allow the continuation of an undergraduate degree program in physics.

"Our plan strengthens the degree programs, course offerings, cross-college interaction and

academic support for students," Bischoff said. "We believe this is a viable alternative to program discontinuance."

He said the move reflects the teaching qualifications of faculty in both departments and the interrelatedness of their research interests. The merger is integral to the success of other campus programs, including engineering, education and health professions.

"This creative interdisciplinary arrangement will lead to enhanced possibilities for collaboration among faculty and the cross-fertilization of ideas," said Bischoff. "It will also provide cross-college support for the developing engineering physics program."

The consolidation of departments will combine financial resources and provide a renewed focus on recruitment and retention of students majoring in physics, Bischoff said.

The merger will also result in the creation of a physics help laboratory, similar to one currently existing for mathematics courses.

"We are pleased to further support the academic success and interests of our students," said Bischoff. "The academic integrity of the programs will continue to be strong and prepare students for the workforce."

# IN MEMORIAM: CRAIG MINER, DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR AND KANSAS HISTORIAN

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**H. Craig Miner**, the Willard W. Garvey Professor of Business History, died Sept. 12, following a lengthy illness. He was 65.

A WSU alumnus, he left a doctoral fellowship at the University of Colorado in 1969 to join the Wichita State faculty. In 1972, he became an associate professor and was promoted to full professor in 1978. Ten years later, he was named distinguished professor, and his endowed professorship began in 2006.

Miner taught for the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the W. Frank Barton School of Business, including courses in Kansas and local history; U.S. 1865-1900; advanced research and writing; and economic history. He was often nominated for the Board of Trustees Excellence in Teaching and Academy for Effective Teaching awards. He won several awards and honors for his scholarly writing including the State Library of Kansas' 2009 Kansas Notable Books List for "Seeding Civil War: Kansas in the National News, 1854-1858."

He served as chair of the history department from 1998-2004 and was director of the public history program from 1998-1999.

Miner was an expert in the history of Kansas and business history and the author of about 40 books. He served on the WSU Centennial committee and the University Press of Kansas Editorial Board. He was involved with approximately 20 organizations throughout the years.

Known for his wide range of interests, he once considered the possibility of returning to school to study Egyptology. He also gave instruction in amateur astronomy and Greek. He enjoyed cross-country bicycling, classical guitar, historic keyboard instruments, book collecting and classic cars.

He married **Susan Miner** in August 1967. They have two sons, **Hal** and **Wilson**. Memorials have been established at St. James Episcopal Church or to Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice, both in Wichita.



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# DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY BENEFITS FROM DAVID JACKMAN ESTATE

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It is not the first time the WSU department of anthropology has benefited from the generosity of **David Jackman**, but now it will be in perpetuity. Jackman, who died Jan. 27, 2009, bequeathed \$4 million to the WSU Foundation for the David and Sally Jackman Endowment for Anthropology.

"David was a friend to the university for decades," said **Elizabeth King**, WSU Foundation president and CEO. "He was an early supporter of the Holmes Museum of Anthropology during its renovation and a favorite with our staff because of his vivacious enthusiasm for life."

The endowment will fund areas such as graduate student support, fellowships and research assistantships, expenses associated with anthropology field schools, experiments and other training activities; computer, laboratory and field equipment technology upgrades and replacements; WSU Biological Anthropology Research Facility updates and replacements; operation and maintenance; undergraduate student scholarships; visiting speakers and faculty search expenses.

"This gift is reflective of a man who supported things he could see, a man who had an interest in understanding their contextual background and how to advance them," said **Peer Moore-Jansen**, chair of anthropology. "We have a chance to take advantage of new opportunities provided to us by this gift of unprecedented financial support, enabling us to keep turning out great students with an even greater array of potentials and futures."

# TWO FACULTY NAMED FOR DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORSHIPS

**George Bousfield**, biological sciences, and **William Woods**, English, recently joined the small group of endowed professorships in Fairmount College. Bousfield is now the Dr. Lawrence M. Jones Distinguished Professor. Woods carries the mantle of M.V. Hughes Professor of English. Both professorships qualify for the Kansas Board of Regents Faculty of Distinction program, which will supplement the payout of the endowed funds, extending the impact of the contribution. The funds will provide annual salary stipends, in addition to possible research and professional travel support.

"The award came as a bit of a surprise," said Bousfield.

His work on women's reproduction, particularly concerning follicle-stimulating hormone, is known worldwide.

In addition to this research, Bousfield is also involved in developing an international consortium to study gonadotropins (the hormones his lab studies) and their receptors.

"I will be studying with investigators from France, England, Mexico and the United States," said Bousfield. "This consortium will lead to opportunities for students to learn new techniques at the participating laboratories."

An internationally recognized Chaucer scholar, Woods also teaches courses on Greek dramatists, Homer and Virgil.

"This professorship was a most generous gift," said Woods. "It enhances our department and allows us to do much more for students with teaching materials."

It will also help him with his research, he said, providing the opportunity to study in other places.

"It gives me the chance to expand my research in the history of late medieval and early modern times," Woods said.

He will also use part of the professorship funding for travel to a conference at Notre Dame on medieval and Renaissance studies.

## FOUR UNDERGRADUATE SCIENCE STUDENTS EARN SARACHEK AWARDS

It's hard work being an undergraduate student studying science.

Knowing this, former WSU faculty members **Alvin** and **RosaLee Sarachek** created annual awards to recognize outstanding student scientists in undergraduate programs at Wichita State. Alvin Sarachek retired from Wichita State in 1992 as Distinguished Professor of Natural Sciences and former chair of the biological sciences department. His wife, RosaLee, was also a career biologist and served as the first chairperson of Wichita State's medical technology program. Both shared research interests in microbiology.

The Saracheks' generous gift allows for a first place award of \$2,000 and an honorable mention award of \$500 each in life sciences and in physical sciences. Undergraduate majors in the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences performing research with a faculty mentor in the natural sciences who also participate in the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Forum are eligible for the awards.

Students recognized with the Alvin and RosaLee Sarachek Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Natural Sciences Research were:

**Abigail Pastore**, First Place, Biological Science, for her project, "Effect of Above Ground Herbivory upon Root Systems in *Lespedeza capitata*." **Leland Russell** was her adviser.

**Aaron Mahoney**, Honorable Mention, Biological Science, "Effects of Seed Leachate from an Invasive Plant on Germination of Native Forb Species." **Greg Houseman** served as his adviser.

**Daniel Pankratz**, First Place, Physical Science, "Development of Biocompatible and pH Responsive Catatonic Vesicles for Drug Delivery." **Doug English** was his adviser.

**Rachel Jacobs**, Honorable Mention, Physical Science, "Supramolecular Mg Phthalocyanine - Fullerene and Mg Naphthalocyanine - Fullerene." **Francis D'Souza** served as her adviser.

# GRAND OPENING OF BIOLOGICAL FIELD STATION

Construction of the research and classroom center at the Wichita State University Biological Field Station: Ninnescah Reserve is complete. Wichita State and the Wichita State University Foundation hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, September 24.

Funding for the project included a \$240,000 National Science Foundation grant and matching dollars from generous donors to build a research and classroom center.

The approximately half-million-dollar center serves as headquarters for three parcels of land totaling more than 500 acres: the Ninnescah Reserve, the nearby Sellers Reserve and the recently acquired Gerber Reserve in Kingman County.

At these parcels, students and faculty study grassland restoration, river ecology and general wildlife biology. Each of the reserves represent habitats west of the Flint Hills and not found at field stations owned by other public universities in Kansas.



RIBBON CUTTERS AT THE FIELD STATION OPENING WERE (L-R) GARY MILLER, WSU PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND RESEARCH; ELIZABETH KING, WSU FOUNDATION PRESIDENT AND CEO; BILL HENDRY, WSU BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES CHAIR; CURT GRIDLEY '80, DONOR; DON BEGGS, WSU PRESIDENT; AND BILL BISCHOFF, DEAN, FAIRMOUNT COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES. PHOTO BY DAVID DINNELL.

## IN MEMORIAM



DAE H. CHANG

**Nancy A. Brooks**, 66, former assistant professor, sociology, died April 18. A memorial has been established at the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Wichita.

**Dae H. Chang**, 82, professor emeritus of criminal justice, died March 27. He was founder of the International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice, a forum for scholars, academics and practitioners interested in comparative theory and empirical research in the area of criminal justice.

**L. Raymond Fox**, 70, professor emeritus of biological sciences, died September 26. A memorial has been established at Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice, Wichita.

**Jeanne Garnett**, 87, retired secretary, English, died June 2.

**Lowell D. Holmes**, 85, professor emeritus of anthropology, died August 31. A memorial has been established at Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice, Wichita.

**Eugene Savaiano**, 96, professor emeritus of Spanish, died June 11. He began his career at the University of Wichita in 1946 and became head of the Spanish department in 1947. In the 1960s, he helped found the WSU Summer Program in Puebla, Mexico. Memorials have been established at Botanica and East Heights United Methodist Church gardens, both in Wichita.



EUGENE SAVAIANO  
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## FACULTY & STAFF

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**Les Anderson** and **Amy DeVault**, Elliott School of Communication, led the production of a 100-page, four-color magazine filled with student stories and photographs for the Symphony in the Flint Hills. Students covered the Flint Hills event in person for an Elliott School summer seminar course. <http://flintheillsmediaproject.magcloud.com>.

**Jim Bann**, chemistry, was awarded patent number 7,731,979 by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The patent, "Protective Antigen Having Fluorinated Histidine Residues," concerns a protein developed in Bann's lab that has the potential to be used as an anthrax vaccine or anti-toxin after exposure. The patent is the result of research conducted on membrane protein folding, which was sponsored in part by a National Institutes of Health grant. This is the first patent awarded to WSU since 2002.

**Randy Brown**, Elliott School of Communication, has been appointed by **Gov. Mark Parkinson** to the Kansas Board of Healing Arts. His term will run through June 2014.

**Francis D'Souza**, chemistry, was elected as Fellow of the Electrochemical Society. This honor is based on individual contributions and leadership in the achievement of science and technology in the area of electrochemistry and solid-state sciences and current active participation in the affairs of the Electrochemical Society. Fewer than three percent of the worldwide membership is a fellow.

**Orren Dale**, social work, is the interim regional representative to the board of Alpha Kappa Delta, the national Sociology Honor Society.

**Linnea GlenMaye**, school of social work, has been elected to a three-year term as a member of the board of directors of the National Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work. NADD supports deans, directors and chairs to be effective leaders in higher education and advances effective leadership and innovation in education, research and service. It consists of more than 200 graduate social work programs in the U.S. and Canada.

**Jay Mandt**, philosophy, serves on the National Honors Council Board of Directors.

**Sal Mazzullo**, geology, along with alumnus **Brian Wilhite** and Woolsey Operation Co. owner **Wayne Woolsey**, recently received the American Association of Petroleum Geologists Presidential Award for their paper, "Petroleum Reservoirs within a Spiculite-Dominated Depositional Sequence: Cowley Formation (Mississippian: Lower Carboniferous), South-Central Kansas."

**Eunice Doman Myers**, associate dean, had her poem "Perseid Musings" read and presented in a poster session at the 10th International Multicultural-Multilingual Poetry Reading in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. The event was in conjunction with the United Nation's Dialogue Among Civilizations Through Poetry.

**Nancy McCarthy Snyder**, Hugo Wall School, has been named director of the Hugo Wall School of Urban and Public Affairs. **Misty Bruckner** is now associate director for the center, and **Angela Buzard** is director of the school's new Environmental Finance Center. Two public affairs associates have also joined the center's staff: **David Poynter** and **Dane Baxa**.

## NEW HIRES

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**Deepak Aralumallige-Subbarayappa**, mathematics and statistics

**Fred Besthorn**, School of Social Work

**Karen Countryman-Roswurm**, School of Social Work

**Francisco Flores-Cuautle**, modern and classical languages and literatures-Spanish

**Mary Liz Jameson**, biological sciences

**Nanhee Kim**, mathematics and statistics

**Lisa Hines**, School of Social Work

**Jesse Shellhammer**, biological sciences

## IN RETIREMENT

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**Pedro Bravo-Elizondo**, modern and classical languages and literatures-Spanish

**Karen Burge**, English

**Melissa Calloway**, Center for Urban Affairs

**Paul Cromwell**, School of Community Affairs

**Anthony Gythiel**, history

**Karen Tones**, sociology



WILLIAM D. BISCHOFF

Dear alumni and friends,

In spite of the current budget situation, Fairmount College is moving forward. Situations such as this financial environment encourage us to creatively manage our resources and produce new efforts. A few of these bright moments include:

- Creating the Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Physics to increase collaborative research and teaching;
- Celebrating the grand opening of the Biological Field Station;
- Exploring avenues to make it easier for students to earn a double major across colleges;
- Hiring new faculty for the first time in more than a year.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

William D. Bischoff, dean



## STUDENT ACCOLADES

**Rachel Jacobs**, chemistry, won first place for her oral presentation, "Supramolecular Mg Phthalocyanine – Fullerene and Mg Naphthalocyanine – Fullerene," at WSU's Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Forum. **Francis D'Souza**, chemistry, served as her adviser.

**Eranda Maligaspe**, graduate student, chemistry, won first place for his poster at the Capitol Graduate Research Summit in Topeka. **Francis D'Souza**, chemistry, served as his adviser. Held yearly, the summit features graduate students and their research from Wichita State University, Kansas State University, the University of Kansas and the University of Kansas Medical Center.

**Daniel Pankratz**, chemistry, won second place with his poster, "Development of Biocompatible and pH Responsive Catatonic Vesicles for Drug Delivery," at WSU's Undergraduate Research

and Creative Activities Forum. **Doug English**, chemistry, served as his adviser.

**Veronica Ealey Pyles**, social work, was recognized by the McNair Scholars Program for her presentation "Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing: An Eye Moving Exploration." **Orren Dale**, social work, served as her mentor.

**Stacy Tiemeyer**, social work, won fourth place in the Graduate Research and Scholarly Projects poster competition for "Health Care Occupations: Road to Success or Path to Dead End?" Her faculty mentor was **Twyla Hill**, sociology.

Wichita State's American Chemical Society Student Affiliates Chapter received a grant from ACS to provide undergraduate programming at the Midwest Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society held in Wichita in October.

Wichita State University does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital status, political affiliation, status as a veteran or disability. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies: Director, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita KS 67260-0205; telephone (316) 978-6791. Produced by University Relations 10/10

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Donald Beggs, president, Wichita State University  
William Bischoff, dean, Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The Fairmount College newsletter is published two times a year. For information, contact Cheryl K. Miller, coordinating editor, (316) 978-6659 or cheryl.miller@wichita.edu



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