



Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

NEWS

Elliott School partners with Sunshine Coalition

Randy Brown, senior fellow in the Elliott School of Communication, has a favorite quote: "Mushrooms thrive in the dark, but democracy needs sunshine." Brown is at the center of the new partnership between the Elliott School and the Kansas Sunshine Coalition for Open Government. The non-partisan organization strives to inform public officials, the media and citizens about the public's legal rights for open meetings and access to government records in Kansas.

In August 2005, the Elliott School will become the official headquarters of the Sunshine Coalition.

Brown, two-time president of the coalition, will serve as secretariat in a one quarter-time position. He will provide management for the organization and promote its services. Brown will also continue to teach Elliott School courses in broadcast news, public information writing and writing for the mass audience.

"My goals for the coalition are to expand membership, put a public face on the organization and secure funding to create educational programs and materials about open government in Kansas," said Brown.

The coalition has a broad membership base, consisting of citizens committed to the principle of open government, media outlets, professors and attorneys. Coalition sponsors include the Kansas Broadcasters Association, the Kansas Press Association and the Kansas professional chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

"This is an important step forward for the Sunshine Coalition, the Elliott School and Wichita State University," said Brown. "The Elliott School will be the place to go to find out about open government in Kansas."

"This association (with the Sunshine

Coalition) fits the Elliott School's identity as a strong academic unit and as a professional school committed to community engagement," said **Susan Huxman**, professor and director of the Elliott School. "Our faculty have expertise in communication law, open government and freedom of information. We will be partnering with the citizens of Kansas and media outlets to strengthen the democratic process in local government."

A flicker becomes a ray of light

Vernon Keel, professor of communication and first director of the Elliott School, had a vision: one that would aid the public in understanding freedom of information and aid journalists in their responsibilities. In 1999, when he was involved in founding the Sunshine Coalition, he envisioned a future educational joint venture between the organization and the Elliott School of Communication.

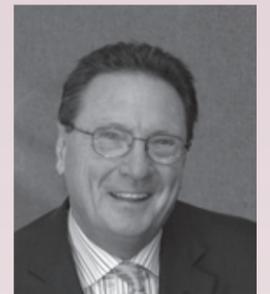
"This partnership is a natural part of the evolution. From the very beginning I saw the potential to involve the ESC." Keel said. "It's really exciting and part of me regrets I can't be part of it." Keel is in his last year of phased retirement from WSU.

The coalition has a long-standing history with Wichita State.

"I operated the coalition for the first few years out of my office," said Keel. In addition to Keel's and Brown's leadership, **Les Anderson**, associate professor of communication and associate director of the Elliott School, has also held board positions.

Wichita State joins a select group of universities with centers for freedom of information and open government. The University of Missouri is one such institution in this region.

Faculty Spotlight



Randy Brown

As senior fellow of the Elliott School, **Randy Brown** has plenty of expertise to share with students. Brown spent 14 years at *The Wichita Eagle* as managing editor, editorial page editor and editorial columnist. He also spent seven years at KAKE-TV, serving as news anchor, operations manager, senior reporter and managing editor. Prior to his move to Wichita he was managing editor at *The Omaha Sun*. Brown was part of a five-member team that investigated and reported on the large financial resources of Boys Town, Nebraska. The article won a Pulitzer Prize for local investigative specialized reporting.

His current community involvement includes the City of Wichita Library Board, Episcopal Social Services, WSU-LINK and the Sunshine Coalition. He also serves as the 2nd Vice President for the Kansas Associated Collegiate Press.

Brown earned his bachelor of science in journalism from the University of North Texas. He enjoys sports and especially loves to golf. He also is a big fan of horse-racing. Randy is married and has two adult sons.

Fiske Hall, continued from page 5

The construction of Fiske Hall reflected the selfless work of President Morrison—who often forfeited his salary and at times dined on milk, water and grapes in order to keep Fairmount College financially sustained—and foreshadowed what lay ahead. During the dedication, Morrison suggested the campus would continue to grow and prosper and indicated where a library, chapel, science building and women's housing would stand in the future.

From dormitory to office building

Students used Fiske Hall as a men's residence until 1926. Since then Fiske has had many other roles and once served as the infirmary for the influenza epidemic of 1918. Fairmount College and University of Wichita personnel converted Fiske Hall to Army barracks during World Wars I and II, respectively. Fiske also has housed the ROTC program, public relations, student

services programs, the president's office, the music department and variety of liberal arts departments over the years.

During a major renovation in 1986, workers removed the first floor central commons area, and the east-facing staircase, entrance and sidewalk. Roofers installed a new red tile roof in 1995, and in 2000 remodelers made alterations to bring the building up to code. Fiske is now entirely classroom and office space and is home to the history and philosophy departments. They hold the record for the longest term of residence, calling Fiske "home" for almost 50 years.

As the campus cornerstone, Fiske Hall anchors Fairmount College and Wichita State to its past and serves as a reminder of Nathan Morrison's vision. Should the rededication become a centennial event, imagine what changes may take place in Fairmount College, Wichita State University and the city of Wichita in the meantime. In the words of Hon. C.L. Davidson, a speaker at the 1906 dedication, "In its final realization Fairmount is proving a noble success."

¹The Fiske sisters of Boston were early contributors to Fairmount College, at one time giving \$9,000. Nathan Morrison wrote in his 1904 fundraising diary that Charlotte Fiske pledged \$2,500 for the men's dormitory, provided that donors pledged another \$7,500 for the same building. Source: WSU Libraries, Department of Special Collections and University Archives.

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

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

Photo credits: Cheryl Miller, Randy Brown, *Inside WSU*, and WSU Libraries, Department of Special Collections

Notice of Nondiscrimination: Wichita State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, age, marital status, sexual orientation, status as a Vietnam-era veteran, or disability. Any person having inquiries concerning this may contact the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, Wichita State University, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita, Kansas 67260-0145, (316) 978-3001.

Produced by University Publications and Advertising 4/05

DEAN'S MESSAGE



William D. Bischoff

Dear alumni and friends:

Recently an employee of the university, "Katy," told me about a solicitation call she had received, asking for a donation to her undergraduate college. The caller was articulate and asked a series of carefully worded questions developed to elicit responses about her undergraduate experience that would hopefully lead to a donation.

The caller asked about her career path and her present employment. Then he asked the question, "Did your undergraduate major prepare you for your current position?"

Katy paused and carefully answered that the core elements of her major had not, but her liberal arts and general education courses had, and furthermore, these same courses had prepared her well for her graduate education.

Katy understood the idea that all undergraduate degrees carry the "hidden major" of liberal arts and sciences based in the general education program. Although her current employment is unrelated to her undergraduate major, she benefits from her overall academic preparation. In fact, Katy said if she were to do it all over again, she would have majored in an area she truly appreciated, to not only gain the depth of study in the subject, but to also enjoy that which she was learning.

A lesson well learned if at least not

applied early on.

Our college mission statement includes this declaration: "A liberal arts and sciences education develops transferable analytical skills—the capacity to gather and interpret information, think critically and communicate effectively—and stimulates a lifelong love of learning that enriches graduates and their communities." Katy continues her education today and takes courses of personal interest, as well as those related to her employment.

She has her liberal arts and sciences coursework to thank for that.

Use your education to explore, create and succeed.

Sincerely,

William D. Bischoff

Burke to direct Center for Environmental and Human Health



Collette Burke

Collette Burke, associate professor of geology, is concerned about the environment and human health, and she wants Kansas residents to be able to find the information

they need on these issues. The Center for Environmental and Human Health is filling that void, supported by a \$50,000 professional grant from the Kansas Health Foundation. Burke will be the center's director.

"The center came about from discussions we started three or four years ago," said Burke. With Bill Howse, a retired rancher and businessman, and Jay Barnes, former director of the Kansas Resource Council, Burke started kitchen meetings similar to those behind the beginning of WSU's Self-Help Network. The group of colleagues and friends met regularly to discuss issues of the environment and human health.

"After all the kitchen meetings we had with representatives of various environmental groups, it was clear that nobody really

knew what the average Kansan thought about linkages between health and the environment, or if they were even concerned," Burke said. With the help of Wichita State's Interdisciplinary Communication Research Institute and the support of two recognition grants from the Kansas Health Foundation, the group sponsored a statewide stratified phone survey to assess Kansans' perceptions of health and the environment.

"We found some fascinating tidbits of information," said Burke. "For instance, approximately 60% of the 700 respondents said they would pay higher taxes if it would keep Kansans, including themselves, from getting sick because of environmental pollution." They also learned Kansans are concerned about the environment and its effects on health, but there is no coordinated place for people to go to get health information.

The center will provide outreach programs educating the public about the center's role and a Web site, making environment and health information easily accessible and detailed by county. The survey results also will be published on the Web site.

"Users will be able to see what kinds of environmental threats exist in their county and learn what's being done about it—or not—and where they can go for more information,"

Burke said. The center also plans to create a listserv for individuals and organizations wanting to learn more about these issues.

The KHF grant provides the major support for the center, but not all of it. Wichita State dedicated a research assistant to help Burke start up the center and the geology department hired a Web designer. Burke, Barnes and Howse are also developing an advisory board to help shape the center's purpose.

Why a geologist?

One unfamiliar with the issues of environmental health might question why a geologist is involved with this type of a center. Burke has an answer.

"Geology is a beautiful segue and dovetailing of the environment and health," she said. "Kansas has great air but lousy water, and few recognize how bad the soil is. These are subjects that geologists may study and improve, and students need to know more about the issues. The center will also be helpful for introductory geology courses where students need to know about links between health and the environment."

For more information about the Center for Environmental and Human Health, please contact Collette Burke at (316) 978-3140 or collette.burke@wichita.edu.

From the front lines — WSU social work professor on active duty in Iraq

By Amy Geiszler-Jones

When convoying American soldiers pass through a military truck stop in southern Iraq, **Cathleen Lewandowski** is there to lend a listening ear and help them cope with life in a war zone.

Lewandowski, a WSU associate professor and licensed social worker, has been on active duty with a U.S. Army Reserve combat stress team for nearly a year. A lieutenant colonel, Lewandowski has spent most of that time at a camp between An Najaf and Al Kut.

"Meaningful is the best way to describe it," Lewandowski said about the work she does. "At times it's difficult. The best way I can describe it is that it's like living in an emergency room 24/7 for 12 months."

As a team chief with the unit, she's responsible for combat stress operations and works primarily at Camp Scania and the camp's surrounding area of operations. The camp, surrounded by 12-foot cement barriers, serves as a sort of military truck stop — providing a place for convoying soldiers to rest, have a hot meal and refuel their trucks.

Lewandowski and her colleagues are there to help the soldiers refuel their minds.

"It's a perfect location for us," Lewandowski said in a recent interview with *Inside WSU* via e-mail, "since we are available to all soldiers coming through on convoys."

Because her unit's primary mission is to look after the mental health of soldiers and be sure they remain ready for combat, she and the unit's staff consult with commanders

about the impact operations have on the soldiers' level of stress and about combat stress-related trends they see.

They provide classes on stress and anger management, suicide prevention and relaxation. Lewandowski also teaches tobacco cessation classes, which many soldiers take.

While it may seem surprising that a soldier in a combat zone would want to quit smoking, she said, "it makes a lot of sense. There are so many things out of our control in this environment. For soldiers in the program, quitting smoking is one thing they can control. It's also something positive they can do for themselves while they are deployed."

She and her team also are crisis counselors, conducting debriefs after any difficult or exceptionally distressing events.

She's also there to provide individual therapy. Besides hearing about the soldiers' combat stress-related concerns, she hears about operational stress, such as discontent about long hours and relationships with fellow soldiers in

a unit. They also tell her about things that are happening at home.

"Worrying about what is happening at home can be a distraction and can affect morale," Lewandowski said.

Communication between the front lines and



Cathleen Lewandowski, an associate professor of social work at WSU now on active duty as a lieutenant colonel with a U.S. Army Reserve combat stress unit, sits at her desk in a camp in southern Iraq. She expects to return to teaching at WSU this fall.

the home front has always played a major role for those in the military. But the way soldiers and families are communicating has changed. Internet access and easier access to telephones can be a good thing, said Lewandowski. But too much of a good thing can be bad.

See Iraq, page 6

Van Stipdonk research update

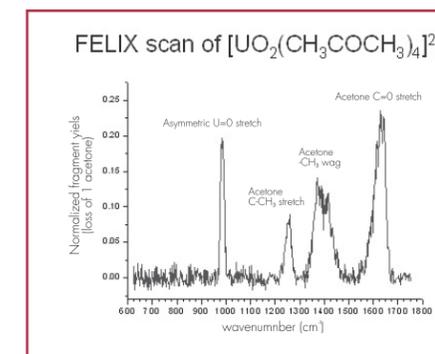
It took a few days to produce the first ever infrared absorption spectra of gas phase uranium complexes, but **Mike Van Stipdonk**, assistant professor of chemistry, and his colleagues succeeded. Van Stipdonk and two colleagues traveled to The Netherlands last fall at the invitation of FOM (the Dutch Foundation for Fundamental Research in Matter).

"Our methodology worked. The mass spectrum told us we had the right combination of molecules, and the vibrational spectrum matched what we would have expected for such a species," said Van Stipdonk. "We can start to say how electrons are distributed in uranyl complexes, what is holding them together and why. It's proof that uranyl can be detected in the air." This finding is important

for several reasons, but most notably in that it will assist scientists in understanding how uranium may be present in the environment.

Van Stipdonk plans additional trips to FOM, and will participate in experiments similar to the one involving gas phase uranyl complexes.

In April, Van Stipdonk returned to the Netherlands and studied how sodium, potassium, thallium, and silver bind to protein by showing their vibrational features.



(FELIX spectrum) This is the FELIX spectrum of the gas phase uranyl complex $[UO_2(CH_3COCH_3)_4]^{12+}$. Van Stipdonk's team produced during their November visit to FOM. The spike labeled "Asymmetric U=O stretch" shows the stretching and contraction of the bond joining the uranium and oxygen atoms. This stretch is one of the many types of vibrations the molecules can undergo, and is influenced greatly by the number and type of surrounding molecules. This particular complex includes a uranyl ion surrounded by acetone molecules. The vibrational spectrum of acetone is well known and extracting it from the scan allows the uranyl complex's spectrum to be isolated.

FAIRMOUNT COLLEGE THROUGH THE YEARS: CHANGE, GROWTH AND PERSPECTIVES

Remembering James Sours, Fairmount College Dean, 1962–1965



James K. Sours led Fairmount College at the time when the university was at a crossroads for higher education in Kansas. *Wichita State University Libraries, Department of Special Collections.*

university system. They also were inseparable for much of their professional careers.

Sours and Corbin shared an abiding friendship. They met while Corbin was a lieutenant in the Navy's Chaplain Corps in Point Barrows, AK, during World War II. Sours served as his assistant. Corbin talked Sours into coming back with him to Wichita to complete an undergraduate degree in political science. Sours then went on to complete master and doctorate degrees in public administration at Harvard University. The University of Wichita hired him to teach political science and later promoted him to professor and chair of the department.

Sours went on to become dean of Fairmount College, which was the highest academic

position on the campus at the time Corbin was president. Corbin described Sours as having "great energy and drive, nicely... cloaked in an easy and unhurried manner his moral character and ethical standards are above reproach." Sours also had held several "first" posts at the university—as

dean of University College, dean of students and director of student services—reflecting not only his affinity for students, but the progression of the institution.

Two years after Sours assisted Corbin with the fight for Wichita State University, he resigned as Fairmount College dean and accepted a position with the American College Testing Program. He announced his resignation from Wichita State, observing that he'd been associated with the university for 17 years as a student, faculty member and administrator: "Therefore, one withdraws from it reluctantly and only physically—never spiritually," said Sours.

Former Fairmount College dean and emeritus associate professor **David Farnsworth** remembers Sours as a professor and colleague. "He was a very strong piece of the campus fabric. He was fair as a teacher and in his administrative positions. James Sours was generally admired as dean of liberal arts and we were all sorry to see him go."

Sours' last administrative post was as President of Southern Oregon University, where he retired in 1979. During a memorial service for Sours in January, SOU administrators included the dedication of the James K. Sours Student Leadership Center. Sours died December 4, 2004, at his Medford, OR, home. He was 79.

Fairmount College faculty perspectives 1964–2005

Fairmount College is inextricably linked with the history of Wichita State University, and coursework from the college remains the core of all undergraduate degrees. A small group of Fairmount College faculty have a lengthy association with Wichita State University and its early years as a Regents institution. A few share below their perspectives on Fairmount College and Wichita State's growth and development since that time period.

Physical growing pains and the core curriculum

"I began my employment in the physics department in January of 1964. The university had just become state-supported, and the enrollment jumped from 6,400 to 9,600 students," said **Skip Loper**, associate vice-president for research and associate professor of physics. "As you can imagine, space was the most immediate problem, because there was a moratorium on new building. Physics was located in the basement of what is now the Geology

Building, but we also had to teach classes in several other buildings on campus, wherever space could be found." At the time, the university's focus was primarily teaching.

During this transition, **Craig Miner**, Willard W. Garvey Distinguished Professor of Business History, was a student. He admits to being fairly unaware of the process throughout his student years, but he was one of the first faculty members hired during the time of expansion.

See Faculty, page 7

Fiske Hall: Cornerstone of Fairmount College

As the oldest building on campus, Fiske Hall is an edifice of the past and a reminder from where Fairmount College and Wichita State have come. Fiske has borne witness to the human condition during health, war and illness,

and through its halls thousands of students have passed on their way to their lodging or, as is now the case, on their way to classes. It was the second building constructed on campus.

On October 26, 2004, descendants of President **Nathan Morrison**, and WSU faculty, staff and students came together to celebrate the significance of Fiske Hall in the history of Fairmount College and of Wichita State University. More than 200 people attended the ceremony in the Beren Gallery of the Ulrich Art Museum.



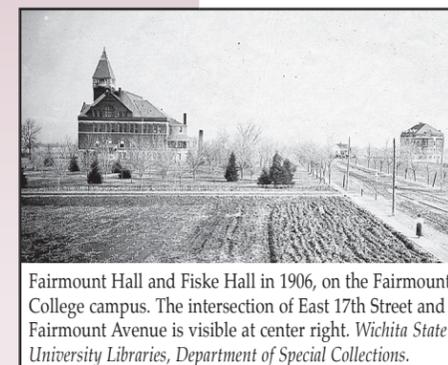
Fiske Hall as it appears today.

Books about Fairmount College and Wichita State University

To learn more about the history of Fairmount College and Wichita State University, please visit Wichita State University Libraries, Department of Special Collections, or read the following books by Fairmount College faculty:

"A History of Fairmount College," John Rydjord, 1977. The Regents Press of Kansas.

"Uncloistered Halls: The Centennial History of Wichita State University," H. Craig Miner, 1995. Wichita State University Endowment Association.



Fairmount Hall and Fiske Hall in 1906, on the Fairmount College campus. The intersection of East 17th Street and Fairmount Avenue is visible at center right. *Wichita State University Libraries, Department of Special Collections.*

Following remarks by President **Donald Beggs** and several university members, Morrison's great-grandson **David Teegarden** spoke of the meaningfulness of the ceremony for his extended family, and thanked Wichita

State for recognizing Morrison's contributions. The Wichita State A Capella choir wore period costumes and performed skits and songs reflecting student activities and attitudes of the time. **Beggs** and **George Platt**, emeritus associate professor of public affairs, unveiled two plaques now affixed to Fiske Hall. One recognizes those responsible for the solicitation of funds and construction of Fiske Hall; the other gives a brief history of the building and its relationship to Wichita State University in its various stages of governance and name.

A men's residence

Workers laid the cornerstone for Fiske Hall, a men's dormitory, October 28, 1904, and Fairmount College dedicated the building June 6, 1906, with much fanfare and celebration. Named in honor of **Charlotte Fiske**, one of Fairmount College's two



Workers build Fiske Hall in this undated photo. *Wichita State University Libraries, Department of Special Collections.*

Fiske family benefactors, the building had steam heat and plumbing; it was three-storied, trimmed with stone, and large enough to house 75 young men. Students paid \$13.50-\$27.00 per semester for room and board, depending on the size of the room and the number of occupants. Although originally wired for electricity, the building didn't come "on-line" until the mid-1910s, and then it was at the request of students, who, concerned about their eyesight, also offered to provide their own light bulbs and fixtures in order to lessen the expense to the college.

See Fiske Hall, page 8

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOLADES

The Fairmount Chapter of Mortar Board recognized **Maria Akrabova**, MCLL-Spanish, with the 2004-2005 Educator Appreciation Award for “outstanding accomplishments and excellence as an educator.”

Shang-Ching Chou, computer science, won the Excellence in Research Award. The university’s Faculty Support Committee cited his reputation as a world-class scientist, impressive record of publication in the field of automated theorem proving, and an 18-year successful grant record with the National Science Foundation as reasons for this honor.

Darcee Datteri, psychology, and **Ken Miller**, mathematics, won the Excellence in Teaching Award.

History professor **John Dreifort** is serving as executive secretary of the Wichita Committee on Foreign Relations.

Robert Feleppa, philosophy, served on the Executive Committee for the national Japan Studies Association and will serve on the membership committee of that organization.

Patrick Kehoe, MCLL, will receive the John R. Barrier Distinguished Teaching Award at the Fairmount College commencement ceremony May 14.

Chungsheng Ma, mathematics, won the Young Faculty Scholar Award.

David Soles, philosophy, won the President’s Distinguished Service Award for faculty members.

Jan Toth, Elliott School of Communication, won the President’s Distinguished Service Award for classified employees.

William Vanderburgh, philosophy, will serve on the Executive Committee of the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science.

Unique Grants

Biological sciences professors **George Bousfield** and **Li Jia** received \$34,802 from the Kansas IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (formerly K-BRIN) to establish a Glycomics Core at Wichita State. The project’s goal is to establish a collaboration between the WSU Bioinformatics Core and the glycomics research currently undertaken by three laboratories: Bousfield’s laboratory at

See faculty and staff accolades, page 7

Sunshine, continued from page 1

“We are very pleased the coalition approached WSU first,” said Huxman. “This is a coveted arrangement, and I’m sure other Regents’ schools would have jumped at this chance. This puts us in the game with some strong journalism schools across the country that have similar freedom of information centers.”

Students to bask in the sunshine

Huxman and Keel are especially excited about students’ access to the partnership.

“First,” Huxman said, “it will benefit students in many tangible ways. They will have direct contact with experts in open records and open government as coalition meetings will be held here.”

Keel agrees.

“Students and faculty benefit because of the level of activity and information available through the coalition and Randy Brown,” he said. “It’s one thing to teach open government in abstract terms and

Iraq, continued from page 3

“On occasion, soldiers spend too much time either on the Internet or the telephone,” she said. “When this happens they can become overly involved with situations back home over which they have no control.”

To de-stress herself, Lewandowski exercises, collects digital photos and listens to music, which helps the most, she said. Like other soldiers, she calls and exchanges e-mails with family.

For Lewandowski, though, some family members are close at hand. Her oldest son has been deployed to Iraq and they have seen each other twice, including once over Labor Day when both got a pass. Recently, her brother was deployed and is in northern Iraq.

“Sometimes I kid and say that we were looking for a quiet, out-of-the-way place for a family reunion,” she said.

Lewandowski expects to return to the United States this spring and be back in the classroom at WSU in the fall, teaching in the School of Social Work.

And she’ll return with a change in her perspective on life.

“I know what my priorities are,” Lewandowski said. “I find it’s easier to not sweat the small stuff.”

another to have the coalition’s presence and activities to bring the issues to life.” The affiliation will make it easy to bring the issues of open access to government meetings and records to students.

“Students often view this as a media access issue, but these are also issues of citizen rights,” Keel said. “Right of access laws protect citizens’ rights of access—which includes the media. It’s for citizens first, not the other way around.”

Huxman said students will have opportunities for practical experience, too. They will assist in preparing the videos, press releases and Web upgrades that the coalition will need to publicize its work. Seniors and graduate students will have advanced coursework possibilities in specific research projects related to open government initiatives.

For more information about the Sunshine Coalition and its association with the Elliott School, please contact Randy Brown at (316) 978-3185 or randy.brown@wichita.edu. Look for updates to the Web site at www.sunshinecoalition.com/home.htm.

Obituary

Gary Crown, associate professor emeritus of mathematics, died January 27. He taught as an instructor for the University of Wichita from 1962-64 and began teaching algebra to WSU students as an assistant professor in 1968. Crown took a leave of absence for the academic year 1985-86 to work for Boeing Military Aircraft Company as a senior specialist engineer. While there he designed a complex computer simulator based on mathematics connected with Kalman Filtering. Crown retired from Wichita State in 2000. Memorial remembrances may be sent to Northfield School of the Liberal Arts, 701 E. 37th St. N, Wichita, KS, 67219.

NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

Diana Challis, program manager, Lake Afton Public Observatory

Paulette Goines, project facilitator, Self-Help Network

Leland Russell, assistant professor, biological sciences

Maaskelah Thomas, project facilitator, Self-Help Network

Faculty, continued from page 4

Miner recalls enormous class sizes when he started teaching in 1969. For example, 300 students took his survey class one semester and they met in Wilner Auditorium. Now enrollment in the survey classes is limited to 125 students and there are several smaller, newer lecture halls on campus.

“The class-size philosophy has certainly changed over the years,” Miner said, “and so has the curriculum. Early on it was lock-step; there were certain classes students had to take. There has been a lot of discussion of the core curriculum over the years and concurrent disagreements on what was more important for students to learn.”

For instance, **Dorothy Billings**, professor of anthropology, has long championed efforts to diversify the core curriculum and promote understanding of cultures worldwide. “There were several attempts led by **Dae Chang**, **Art Rohn**, **Dharma de Silva**, myself and others to internationalize the curriculum. Currently there’s no world history requirement—the University of Papua New Guinea has a world history requirement!”

The move toward becoming a research institution

“President Corbin thought entering the state system would make Wichita State more of a powerhouse” said Miner. “There was a big push at that time to publish and research, and I was already publishing. When I was hired, administrators were concerned about hiring more faculty and meeting the demands of the expansion. It was sort of a difficult time.”

Loper echoed Miner’s comments. “In the early 1970s,” he said, “research became an expectation for most faculty at WSU. Then as now, most of the research was conducted in LAS and engineering. This decision to add research to the university mission eventually lead to WSU becoming recognized as one of the state’s research institutions.”

President **Warren Armstrong** played an important role during his term in making WSU one of the leading institutions in the state. “There was so much bitterness when we entered the state system that we agreed to be a second rate institution, a kind of a stepchild, and not as important as the other schools,” said Miner. “Armstrong had a big hand in bringing WSU to the forefront of the state institutions. He suggested we ought not to try certain things at all, do some things in moderation, and find things where we really excelled and were

outstanding. These areas would be known as centers for excellence.”

Program offerings and budget issues

Toward the end of Armstrong’s term came the 1992-1994 Regents-mandated program review. “It was a particularly difficult time for LAS and other colleges as well,” said Loper. “Degree programs of low enrollment or low productivity were in danger of being eliminated, and all academic administrators were under pressure to identify such programs and look for cost-savings.” Loper was Fairmount College dean during this time period.

However, there were some bright spots too. “It was at this time we were able to bring the Hugo Wall School into the college, which was a great match with the college’s mission to serve the community,” said Loper.

Whereas program offerings or content may fluctuate, one consistent theme Miner has noted over the years is in regards to funding.

“The college atmosphere has always been one of us operating on a shoestring budget,” he said.

However, that hasn’t stopped faculty from creating worthwhile activities for students and the community. “There are plenty of people who will do things on a volunteer basis in order to provide something they think is important and interesting,” said Billings.

Despite the challenges Fairmount College faculty faced over the years, support of the college’s mission and purpose is good.

“I am still a believer in the value of the liberal arts and sciences,” Billings said.

The current dean’s perspective

Dean William D. Bischoff came to Wichita State in 1984 as an assistant professor of geology. Since that time he has been promoted to the rank of full professor, and was associate dean before serving in his present role. He has observed Fairmount College and Wichita State University embrace technology, improve academic and research collections (such as the Downing Collection of Asmat Art), and create PhD programs in chemistry, mathematics and psychology.

“In my view, Fairmount College lives on, carrying the spirit of President Nathan Morrison. We have an environment that is conducive to faculty professional development and research,” Bischoff said.

“Our faculty members’ experiences and areas of study enhance learning opportunities for liberal arts and sciences students, as well as all students at the university. We will adapt to the challenges of the future and prepare our students to do the same.”

FACULTY AND STAFF ACCOLADES

WSU, Dr. Heather Desaire’s laboratory at the University of Kansas, and Dr. David Harvey’s laboratory at Oxford University. The ultimate goal is to tie into larger databases, such as those supported by the Consortium for Functional Glycomics.

In a multidisciplinary partnership, **Will Parcell**, geology, and **William Vanderburgh**, philosophy, won an URCA for their project “Fuzzy Geology: Using Many-Valued Logic to Represent Uncertainty in Stratigraphic Datasets.”

STUDENT ACCOLADES

English Graduate students teach a weekly creative writing class in the Prison Arts program at the Hutchinson Correctional Facility. The nine-week class includes sections on poetry and fiction writing. Participants have included **Katie Antholz**, **Michele Battiste**, **Brian Evans**, **Jason Harper**, and **Holly Wilson**.

Political science majors **Anthony Curry** and **David Neef** won Midwest Model United Nations Outstanding Delegate awards in the economic and social council committee. They represented Brazil at the conference in St. Louis.

Debate team partners **Kathleen Doris**, psychology, and **Martha Moon**, political science, advanced into the single elimination rounds at debate tournaments in January at University of North Texas, University of Texas - Dallas, and Baylor University. This was only the second time in the past 10 years that a WSU team was successful at all three tournaments. Doris also won All-American honors in March at the Cross-Examination Debate Association national championship tournament in San Francisco. **Jeff Jarman**, director of debate and assistant director of basic oral communication, coaches the group.

Stanislav Stoyanov, doctoral student in chemistry, won the Dora Wallace Hodgson Outstanding Dissertation Award, which recognizes special achievements and exceptional quality of graduate work at Wichita State.

Student **Aaron Turner**, political science, will intern with the State Department this summer at its consulate in Taiwan.