



Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

NEWS

From being mentored to honoring the mentor

The influence of a mentor and the role he or she plays in one's career is inestimable.

French poet Michel Deguy's (pronounced da-GHEE) influence in **Wilson Baldrige's** life began more than 30 years ago and has resulted in Baldrige winning a prestigious award for translating Deguy's collection of poetry, "Recumbents," into English. Baldrige, MCLL-French, is the 2006 recipient of the PEN Award for Poetry in Translation.

"The award means a lot to me because it goes back to my graduate school days," said Baldrige. "Deguy was a regular guest there, so I was getting my ground work for my life career."

Deguy, an emeritus professor of literature at the Paris-8 University gave yearly readings on the SUNY-Buffalo campus, where Baldrige earned his doctorate. "There I was, front and center each time," said Baldrige. "He's a great teacher and kind of like a dad."

The strong bond between the two has brought Deguy to the Wichita State campus several times. Baldrige and Deguy gave a bilingual reading of "Recumbents" on the WSU campus in April 2005.

Baldrige is quick to point out the award is really about others, namely Deguy and French philosopher Jacques Derrida, whose essay "How to Name" also appears in "Recumbents".

"There's no such thing as false modesty with translators—it's about the original work, being a mid-wife and bringing it along," Baldrige said.

In his role as mid-wife, Baldrige was able to bring the works of Deguy to life

for those who don't know the French language. It began with understanding Deguy on an intellectual level.

The key to Deguy

Baldrige said he's always been interested in poetry and he knew at a young age that that his career life would be teaching French. He is also fascinated with philosophy and anthropology.

Deguy has similar interests.

Deguy's work ties the fields of poetry and philosophy together with language. He is known for lyrical abstraction and the interpretation of parables in his poetry.

Both men were influenced by the writings of Martin Heidegger. They also read extensively on French Structuralism, which is concerned with the construction of meaning through various forms of representation.

Baldrige and Deguy seemed destined to meet again beyond the SUNY-Buffalo classroom. Their lives ran mostly parallel until a serendipitous meeting on a Paris street in 1986.

Baldrige was in Paris with **Carl and Ginette Adamson** and a group of WSU students at the Luxembourg Gardens. He was early in his career at Wichita State, having just written an article on one of Deguy's books, "Made in USA." As he and the students left the gardens, Baldrige recognized Deguy parking his motorcycle across the street. Baldrige ran across, greeted Deguy and told him about the article. Deguy remembered Baldrige from SUNY-Buffalo and asked him to translate it. Baldrige and **Brigitte Roussel**, MCLL-French, translated the

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Michel Deguy and Wilson Baldrige

Associate professor **Wilson Baldrige** believes learning a foreign language is paramount to understanding important differences between and among cultures. It's all about developing the ability to see things from the viewpoint of the other.

"It opens doors in the marketplace," he said. "In our global environment, knowing one or more foreign languages in addition to your area of expertise gives you a definite advantage over the next person."

Learning French has taken Baldrige to France several times, including a residency program as a junior in college and again as a graduate student. In addition to his academic career, he spent two years as a French patent application and technical letter translator for an Arlington, Va., law firm.

In his time away from WSU Baldrige devotes himself to poetry and philosophy. He has an active interest in prehistory and enjoys visiting the caves of southwest France, such as Pech Merle, Bernifal, and Font-de-Gaume. He has two adult children, Laryssa, attending KU, and Russel, a student at WSU. A native of Bethesda, Md., Baldrige earned his doctorate in French at State University of New York-Buffalo. He holds a bachelor of arts in French, with a minor in art history, from Denison University.

See *Mentor*, page 4

Faculty and staff accolades

Elizabeth Behrman, physics, participated in an invitation-only physics forum fully sponsored by WH Freeman Publishers to discuss best practices in teaching with physicists from major institutions across the United States. The meeting centered on homework and tutorial programs, classroom response systems, branched tutorial learning, and interactive animations.

The Kansas Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French has named **Gail Burkett**, MCLL-French, as the 2006 French Educator of the Year.

Doris Chang, women's studies, recently completed a visiting fellowship of the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange in Taiwan.

Chuck Koeber, sociology, Fairmount Chapter of Mortar Board advisor, was one of four chapter advisors recognized nationally with the organization's Excellence in Advising Award for the 2005-06 academic year.

Craig Miner, Willard W. Garvey Distinguished Professor of Business History, was elected to fill an at-large position on the executive committee of the Kansas Humanities Council.

"Suspension," a poetry collection by **Richard Spilman**, English, won the New American Press Chapbook Award.

Clay and **Carole Robarchek**, anthropology, were invited presenters at an interdisciplinary conference on emotion, jointly sponsored by the Foundation for Psychocultural Research and University of California-Los Angeles.

Bob Rozelle, LAS Advising Center, was awarded the first Service Award by the Kansas Academic Advising Network.

Carrie Wyatt, LAS dean's office, was elected president of WSU's Council of University Women for the 2006-07 academic year.

Student accolades

Loveness Mpanje, graduate student, geology, was awarded a nationally competitive Grant-in-Aid for graduate research from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. She received \$1250 in support of her project, "Geology of the Lansing-Kansas City Group in the O'Connor Field, Edwards County, Kansas." She is working with professor **Sal Mazzullo** on the project.

Jan Mead-Moehring, graduate student, anthropology, is one of four WSU McNair scholars to attend the Heartland conference in Kansas City this fall. Her paper is on social dynamics and copulatory behavior in the all male gorilla group at Sedgwick County Zoo. **Peer Moore-Jansen** is her faculty advisor.



William D. Bischoff

Dear alumni and friends:

Sometimes one needs to step back from the daily activities of his or her duties to reflect on what makes the environment a thriving, stimulating place to work. On July 12, Fairmount College faculty and staff met with **Gary L. Miller**, vice president for academic affairs and research, for what he called "Immersion Day." Selected departments from Fairmount College gave 10-minute presentations highlighting the strengths of their programs and unique characteristics. What a great opportunity for Dr. Miller and others to learn what makes Fairmount College such an important part of Wichita State. For example:

Fairmount College has 70 professors, 72 associate professors, and 49 assistant professors, who published 22 books, 32 book chapters, 162

DEAN'S MESSAGE

refereed journal articles, 38 book reviews, and gave 96 paper presentations in 2005. This is in addition to their teaching and service activities.

Biological sciences recently developed a five-year capital improvement plan to build a new laboratory station and storage facilities at the field station near Viola.

The chemistry department offers six areas of emphases in its programs: analytical, biochemistry, inorganic, organic, physical, and polymer.

The Elliott School of Communication collaborates with the Media Resources Center to produce Studio B, the only student-run and developed news broadcast in Kansas.

The Fairmount Center for Science and Mathematics Education oversees the Lake Afton Public Observatory. During an average year, more than 6,000 individuals attend an observatory program. FaCSME is also responsible for the 2007 National Science Olympiad to be held at WSU in May. This tournament will bring more than 2,500 of the nation's best and brightest science students to campus.

History students begin using the research process in the 100-level classes. Each department

course features a strong writing component.

The LAS Advising Center advisors met with 13,586 students in 2005.

The mathematics and statistics department generates seven percent of all credit hours for Wichita State. Faculty are able to develop any math or statistics course needed for any department or college.

Psychology has the largest enrollment of any department of non-majors.

The School of Community Affairs is the second oldest active program of its kind in the nation. Students in the criminal justice program have an opportunity to study abroad through the summer session in London.

Social work students must complete 500 hours of field experience prior to graduating. More than 70 area agencies participate in the practicum program.

If you would like to learn more about Fairmount College, our programs and our centers, please visit this Web page: webs.wichita.edu/?u=las&p=/Faculty/Immersion.

Sincerely,

Two longtime LAS faculty named to new professorships

By Amy Geiszler-Jones

Two longtime Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences faculty — one a child psychologist and the other a mathematician — were named to two new Faculty of Distinction professorships created by gifts from two sets of sisters.

Jim Snyder, who has been on the psychology faculty since 1977, was named to the Katherine and Edith Erker Faculty of Distinction Endowed Professorship, and **Victor Isakov**, on the mathematics and statistics faculty since 1988, was awarded the Emylou Keith and Betty Dutcher Faculty of Distinction Endowed Professorship.

Snyder, who won the Excellence in Teaching Award in 1996, has been working on grant-funded projects on the development of aggression and

delinquency in children. His research results have been published widely in child development journals, as well as newspaper articles across the country.

As principal investigator or co-investigator for research projects, Snyder has received two National Institute of Health grants totaling \$4,940,000, two State of Kansas Social and Rehabilitation Services grants totaling \$176,000, and several small local agency grants and contracts totaling \$320,000.

Isakov, who won Wichita State University's 2001 Excellence in Research Award, has been putting his mathematical expertise to use in studying aircraft cabin noise and crack detections. As principle investigator or co-investigator for research projects, Isakov has received approximately \$1,100,000 in

NEW FACULTY & STAFF

Wally Axman, mathematics
Seth Bate, Self-Help Network
Katherine Earles, mathematics
Harry Gregory, National Science Olympiad
Mustafa Hamdan, mathematics
Robin Henry, history
William Hoston, political science
Jacie Kaufman, mathematics
Gina Knauff, computer science
Craig Knobbe, mathematics
Jens Kreinath, anthropology
Su Li, sociology
Vanessa Lohf, Self-Help Network
Sandra Lyon, social work

Barbara Mason, LAS Advising Center
Jennifer McCoy, biology
Rick Mulkey, English
Patricia Phillips, LAS Advising Center
Dan Russell, philosophy
Philip Sawatzky, MCLL-Spanish
John Schafer, computer science
Melissa Walker, Hugo Wall School
Joseph Yager, Hugo Wall School
Wang Ying, Elliott School of Communication
Zachary Zaccagni, computer science

Recent grant awards

James Bann, chemistry, was awarded \$138,180 by Washington University/National Institutes of Health for the project "MRCE for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases (Development Project)," and \$87,600 from the University of Kansas Center for Research/Department of Health and Human Services/NIH, and \$10,658 from the KUCR/DHHS/NIH for the project "COBRE: New Pilot Project Grant."

Keith M. Prufer, anthropology, was awarded a \$123,838.00 senior research grant from the National Science Foundation for "The Uxbenká Archaeological Project." This three-year research program is investigating the development of complex societies in a little studied area of Mesoamerican. In addition, the project conducting educational programs for children and adults and working to create sustainable eco-tourism development projects in nearby indigenous Mayan communities.

National Science Foundation funds.

The professorships were set up by two sets of sisters. Little is actually known about the Erker sisters except that both were secretaries working at local companies. Edith had attended Fairmount College for part of the fall 1920 semester. Their \$1.1 million gift came as a surprise to the WSU Foundation.

Keith and Dutcher attended Wesley's nursing school, worked in the hospital's nursery and later graduated together from the University of Wichita in 1950, with Dutcher being the only female business graduate that year. Dutcher passed away in 2001, and since then Keith has given money to fund a business scholarship, help build the Marcus Welcome Center and create the professorship in their names.

Miles raises both funds and friends

Sharon Miles is more than a fund raiser—she's a friend raiser. And as the WSU Foundation's senior director of development for Fairmount College, she has plenty of opportunities to do just that. "My role is to facilitate good things for the college and for our donors," said Miles. "I have the opportunity to work with community friends, faculty, deans, and staff, and it's a huge privilege."

In consultation with **William Bischoff**, dean, the department chairs; and the WSU Foundation; Miles has developed a set of priorities for Fairmount College fund raising. One is to develop more faculty of distinction positions, particularly one in geophysics. Another is to establish support for faculty and student development through faculty fellows and scholarships. She'll also help find funding support for the National



Sharon Miles

Science Olympiad hosted by Wichita State in May 2007, and the annual state Olympiads.

Before joining Wichita State, Miles was the development director for the Kansas Humane Society and held many volunteer positions in fundraising for non-profit organizations. She has a bachelor of business administration in finance and an associate of arts in economics, both from Wichita State. She is president-elect of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and is a Certified Fund Raising Executive.

Mason named director of LAS Advising Center

After a national search, **William Bischoff**, dean, found on campus the best-suited person to lead the LAS Advising Center: **Barbara Mason**.

"Barbara's liberal arts background, experience with advising WSU students, and strength of relationships with faculty made her the best candidate," said Bischoff. Mason had served as an academic advisor in the computer science department since 1981.

Mason began her position as director of the LASAC in April. Since then she has worked on defining the mission of the center, which she has summarized as "accurate information, academic success, and mutual respect," which emphasizes the importance of the advisors and the advising relationship.

"LASAC advisors are usually the first contact for LAS students (both first-time freshmen and for transfer students), so we see the students at the beginning of their academic careers," said Mason. In addition to providing information to students and campus entities about WSU's general education program, the LASAC staff also provide transfer credit



Barbara Mason

evaluations to other post-secondary institutions in Kansas and evaluate general education transfer credit from schools across the

United States and out of the country. Foremost, though, is the advisors' dedication to student success at Wichita State, not only helping them select a major, but helping them connect with faculty and staff in their major departments.

Mason began her career at Wichita State while completing her dissertation in English literature from Indiana University in Bloomington. She also has a master of arts from Indiana and a bachelor of arts from DePauw University, both in English literature. In keeping with her passion for an expansive education, she spent her junior year abroad at the University of Durham.



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Mentor *cont'd from page 1*

piece together, and Baldrige's translation relationship with Deguy began.

The process of translation

The translation of prose is complicated and multi-layered: the translation of poetry is even more difficult.

"It's more than the mechanical gesture of getting the words of one language over to another," said Baldrige, "The basic unwavering tenet of translation is to translate the meaning, not the words. It is bringing a great work over into another language so that its culture can get the benefits of the philosophy, the thought, of the other."

Then the translator must determine how to phrase the translation.

In certain cases, Baldrige said, one must add something to make the meaning complete in the mind of the reader. This may include leaving in generally known words of the original language, footnoting an idea, or adding words to the text to make it clear.

With poetry, there's an additional phase:

repeating in the new language the structure and content so that the translation functions as literature. The translator must duplicate its aesthetic and musical qualities.

Translating "Recumbents" took approximately five years in man-hours, Baldrige says, but the mastery of skills of learning to translate it—with apprenticeships in French, poetry, philosophy, and Deguy's thinking and writing—took 30 years. The turning point came about 10 years ago, when Baldrige's first translations of Deguy's work were published. After a lengthy search for an appropriate publisher, Baldrige's translation of "Recumbents" was released in 2005 by Wesleyan University Press.

The PEN award

The PEN Award for Poetry in Translation recognizes the outstanding translation of a literary work. PEN is an association of writers working to advance literature, defend free expression, and foster international literary fellowship.

Although Baldrige did the yeoman's work in bringing the project to fruition, he attributes

the success in winning the award to the support he received from others.

"This means a lot for the institution, too," said Baldrige. "Skip Loper was really great with providing a subvention, and the late **Robert Kindrick**, along with **Dean Bischoff**, supported the project from its beginning."

"For me this has come full circle," said Baldrige, reflecting on his career and the mentoring relationship that began 30 years ago. The mentee has honored the mentor.

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 and Wilson Baldrige

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