



2002 Neihardt Seminar Announced

The 2002 Neihardt Seminar at Wayne State College will take place June 24-29. Entitled "Writing from the Heartland" and featuring noted writer Dan O'Brien, the seminar will meet June 24-28 from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. and on June 29 from 9:00 a.m. until noon. The seminar will be available for undergraduate or graduate credit, and there will be a pre-Seminar meeting held on May 29 at 1:00 p.m. in Humanities Building room 205. The course number is ENG 368/568.

Dan O'Brien received his M.A. in English from the University of South Dakota and his M.F.A. from Bowling Green University, and has taught at the University of New Mexico, Bowling Green University, the University of Denver, and the University of South Dakota. He received the *Western Heritage Award* for the Best Novel of 2000, the *Western Writers Best First Novel Award*, a *Breadloaf Scholarship*, and two national Endowment for the Arts Artist Grants among numerous other awards and honors. His books include *Buffalo for the Broken Heart* (nonfiction), *The Contract Surgeon* (novel), *Equinox* (nonfiction), *Brendan Prairie* (novel), *In the Center of the Nation* (novel), *Rites of Autumn* (nonfiction), *Spirit of the Hills* (novel), and *Eminent Domain* (short stories); and he has had dozens of stories and articles appear in popular and scholarly journals. He has also written several screenplays and has had

a video—*A Falconer's Memoir*—produced and aired on National Public Television.

The Neihardt Seminar began over twenty years ago—1980 or shortly thereafter. The seminar annually attracts interested undergraduate and graduate students, teachers pursuing further certification, freelance writers honing their skills, and any other persons interested in a fresh look at the way words work to articulate humanity. The first seminars were focused exclusively on studying the works of John Neihardt; some of the early seminars were taught by Sally McCluskey (a former WSC faculty member who had done her dissertation on Neihardt) and distinguished longtime WSC English professor Sayre Anderson (who was the first recipient of the Balsley-Whitmore Award for teaching excellence). The scope of the seminar quickly broadened to include other poets and writers, other themes and content. In the early 1990s the English faculty decided to focus on visiting writers and poets to teach the seminar. Many writers of national repute, including Utah Poet Laureate David Lee and Nebraska State Poet William Kloefkorn, have taught the course.

For further information about the 2002 Neihardt Seminar please call the School of Arts and Humanities at 402-375-7394.

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Spotlight on the *Arts & Humanities* Wayne State College

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A publication of the School of Arts and Humanities at Wayne State College

Volume 1, Number 1

New full-time faculty and staff

The School of Arts and Humanities welcomes new full-time faculty and staff members Adolfo Cacheiro (Assistant Professor, Department of Language and Literature), Linda Christensen (Assistant Professor and Chairperson, Department of Music), Brian Gahagan (Interim Instructor, Department of Communication Arts), Jay Martin (Interim Assistant Professor, Department of Music), and James O'Donnell (Professor of Music and Dean, School of Arts and Humanities).

Adolfo Cacheiro was born in Havana, Cuba, and has lived in the United States since 1961. He received a B.A. from Queens College of the City University of New York, an M.A. from Cornell University and a Ph.D. from New York University. His teaching background includes twelve years as a Spanish teacher at Brooklyn Technical High School, and two years as a professor at Millsaps College (Jackson, Mississippi), before coming to Wayne State College. At Millsaps Cacheiro became an honorary member of Sigma Delta Pi, the National Hispanic Society.



Cacheiro's dissertation is on the works of Cuban novelist Reinaldo Arenas and his book entitled *Reinaldo Arenas: una apreciación política* was published by International Scholars Publications in 2000. He has had articles published in *Hispania* and *Revista de estudios hispánicos* and has presented conference papers on the works of Reinaldo Arenas and Alejo Carpentier at international conferences. Cacheiro's teaching interests include Latin American *Modernista* poetry, contemporary Latin American novels and short stories. He is also interested in study abroad programs, and his avocational interests include classical music and travel.

Linda Christensen teaches class piano, group piano, and music technology at Wayne State College. She holds a B.A. in music from Weber

State University, an M.M. in Piano Performance/Pedagogy from Southern Methodist University, and a Ph.D. in Music Education/Piano Pedagogy from the University of Oklahoma. Her pedagogy teachers have included Sam Holland, E. L. Lancaster, and Jane Magrath. Her piano



teachers have included Ed Gates, Alfred Mouldous, and Mary Ray Johnson. Christensen is active in the Music Teachers National Association and the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, where she chairs the Future Trends in Piano Teaching committee. She has been published in *Keyboard Companion* and has served as educational consultant for the 2000 edition of *The Music Tree*. In addition to her regular academic schedule Dr. Christensen has been a faculty member at many summer piano camps focusing on music technology for children, and has also been musical director and pianist for many theater companies in Washington, Utah, Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Interim Instructor **Bryan Gahagan** was born in Denton, Texas. After living in Wyoming, Vermont, Texas, and Iowa, his family eventually settled in the Wayne/Sioux City area. An alumnus of Wayne State College, Gahagan graduated in 1988 with a Bachelor of Science degree and two majors, Broadcasting and Journalism. As a student, Gahagan was general manager of KWSC-FM and KWSC-TV as well as editor-in-chief for the *Wayne Stater*. Previous to his interim appointment at Wayne State, Gahagan worked at two country music radio stations, a Christian radio station, two rock radio stations and two television stations. He has also helped to develop, write and shoot a



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Message from the Dean

James O'Donnell
Dean, School of Arts and Humanities

New campus structure creates academic departments, schools

Through a yearlong process during the 2000-2001 academic year, Wayne State College completed a major study and organizational change of its academic structure. Leading to this change was the appointment of a campus-wide task force followed by a thorough review of academic structures at 34 similar institutions in Nebraska, Kansas, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Colorado, and Wisconsin. This review identified Wayne State College as the only institution of its size and scope that had maintained a divisional academic structure. After further review the task force recommended a restructuring of the Wayne State College campus, and presented two variants of a department-and-school configuration to President Stearns.

Guiding principles and values of the reorganization included the desire to enhance the facilitating of excellence in teaching and learning, to enhance institutional flexibility, to make easier new collaborations between academic areas, to enhance the effectiveness of strategic planning, and to enhance the sense of community already existing on the WSC campus.

The process combined the former Fine Arts Division and Humanities Division into the School of Arts and Humanities, which is now comprised of the departments of Art and Design, Communication Arts, Language and Literature, and Music.

The new department-and-school structure provides new opportunities on our campus for academic disciplines to move forward as distinct entities. This newsletter, *Spotlight on the Arts and Humanities*, is intended to provide Arts and Humanities alumni and friends with information about our new School. We look forward to staying in touch with you, and sharing with you exciting news as it develops.

School of Arts and Humanities to create Advisory Board

Over the next several weeks the School of Arts and Humanities will create an Advisory Board. This group of alumni, friends, and business leaders will serve as an important link between the School of Arts and Humanities and the Northeast Nebraska region. These volunteers will serve in a number of roles which will include a leadership role in providing the broader community with an understanding of the School of Arts and Humanities' teaching, research, and service mission and accomplishments.

Advisory Board members will agree to serve a three-year membership on the Board and will also provide ideas and input into school and departmental program development. The Board will meet as a group on campus once or twice each year.

In order to recruit a Board of enthusiastic and interested individuals, it is important that nominations come from as many quarters as possible. If you have a nominee in mind for this new initiative, please contact James O'Donnell, Dean, School of Arts and Humanities, Wayne State College, Wayne NE 68787; or via e-mail at JaODonn1@wsc.edu.

We look forward to announcing the membership of the Advisory Board in the next issue of *Spotlight on the Arts and Humanities!*

Department of Art and Design receives NEA Grant

WSC art instructor Judith Berry, left, and Wayne High School art teacher Amy Jackson prepare clay for the sculpting process.



The Department of Art and Design recently received word that for the first time in its history a \$10,000 grant has been awarded from The National Endowment for the Arts. The funded project will support a partnership between the Department of Art and Design, the Wayne Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Wayne School District to create and install collaborative public art strategically placed throughout the Wayne area.

The National Endowment for the Arts recognizes, encourages, and supports excellence in artistic endeavors. Of the 284 applications received by the NEA in the "Challenge America: Community Arts Development" category, 164 grants were awarded throughout the United States. The grant to Wayne State College is the only grant in this category awarded in the State of Nebraska during the current grant cycle.

Operating with the theme of "Embracing the Past, Present, and Future by Connecting to Each Other," area children and their parents will create 40 clay sculptures and a mural. It is hoped that arts learning will be encouraged and pride in community heritage will be fostered. The mural will be located adjacent to the Wayne Area Chamber of Commerce. According to grant author and department faculty member Judith Berry, "the goal is to include as many members of the community as possible in various capacities throughout the creation and completion process."

Key participants in the project will include Art and Design faculty members Judith Berry and Ray Replogle, Wayne Public Schools faculty member Amy Jackson, and the Wayne Chamber of Commerce executive director, Karin Vaughn.



Student Poets Present Their Work at Conferences

The Great American Road Show, featuring WSC student poets Amy McGeorge, Scott McIntosh, Trenton Muth and Dade Johnson, were invited this fall to read their work at the Western Literature Association annual meeting and the Nebraska Literature Festival. The Western Literature Association's 36th annual meeting was held in Omaha, Oct. 17-21. Its theme this year was "Headwaters and Watersheds: Literary Tributaries of the West." The student poets first read as an opening event in Central Park Mall across from the W. Dale Clark Library. They read again the next day on the University of Nebraska, Omaha, campus. William Kloefkorn, Nebraska State Poet, and David Lee, Poet Laureate of Utah, long time friends of Wayne State's writing program, were the featured readers at the WLA awards banquet.

The Great American Road Show poets were also among the 45 Nebraska poets and writers invited to read at this year's Nebraska Literature Festival, held Sept. 21-22 at Peru State College. Wayne State faculty members **Lisa Sandlin** and **J. V. Brummels** also read and served on a series of panels relating to writing and literature.



Student poets Scott McIntosh, Trenton Muth, Amy McGeorge and Dade Johnson with Nebraska State Poet William Kloefkorn, at the Nebraska Literature Festival held at Peru State College.

New faculty...continued from front page

film, written copy for news programs, and developed advertisements. Most recently, Gahagan worked for 10 years at KCAU-TV in Sioux City, Iowa as master controller and announcer.

A native of southern California, **Jay Martin** earned a Bachelor of Music degree from California State University-Fullerton and a Master of Music degree in trumpet performance from the University of Southern California. As a trumpeter his primary teachers have included Keith Benjamin, Robert Karon, Boyde Hood, Roy Poper and Malcolm McNab. He is currently pursuing a Doctoral of Musical Arts degree at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Prior to his appointment at Wayne State College Martin served as assistant director of bands at Woodbridge High School in Irving, California, and as a graduate teaching assistant in bands and music history at UMKC.



Martin has extensive experience as a freelance performer and teacher in the Los Angeles and Kansas City areas. He is a former principal trumpet of the Northland Symphony and member of the soul/funk band, Bloodstone. He has

presented scholarly work for The College Music Society and is a regular contributor of recording reviews for the *Journal of the International Trumpet Guild*. At Wayne State College Martin serves as assistant director of bands and as high brass instructor in the Department of Music.

James O'Donnell joins Wayne State College as Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities. He holds a Doctor of Arts degree from Ball State University as well as an Artist diploma from the World Federation of International Music Competitions. He has performed as a soloist throughout the United States as well as in Europe and Asia with professional, civic and school groups including the Budapest Festival Orchestra, the U.S. Army Band, the Mid-Atlantic Chamber Orchestra (Washington, D.C.), and the West Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra. As a member of the O'Donnell-McCarthy Trumpet and Organ Duo he has performed in leading venues including the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the National Presbyterian Church, the Cathedral of Mary our Queen, and the Atlanta Sacred Music Festival. The duo's second recording, "The Trumpet's Lofty Sound," is regularly broadcast throughout the U.S. on National Public Radio, and upon its release received enthusiastic review in *American Record Guide*, *Fanfare*, and the *Journal of the International Trumpet Guild*. *BBC Music Magazine*

and *The London Times* music critic Barry Millington proclaimed that it contains "highly impressive playing...delivered in exuberant and supremely confident style."

O'Donnell's awards include *Finalist* in the Budapest International Trumpet Competition, *Semi-Finalist* in the Project 4 International Music Competition (Germany), *Artist of Special Mention* in the *Concerts Atlantique* management competition (New York City), two teaching commendations from the State of Tennessee, a *Research and Creative Activity Award* from East Tennessee State University, an *Authors and Artists Award* from Indiana State University, and both the *Alumni Achievement Award* and the *Outstanding Alumnus Award* from the Ball State University School of Music. O'Donnell comes to Wayne State College following five years as chairperson of the Department of Music at Indiana State University. He previously served East Tennessee State University for 13 years in a variety of roles, including applied music instructor, ensemble director, instrumental coordinator, graduate coordinator, assistant to the chair, and interim chairman. As an administrator, he brings to Wayne State College extensive experience in student and faculty recruitment, curriculum development, program development, and accreditation matters. He and his wife Emma have two young children—Kyle, age 4 and Shane, 16 months.



Pearl Hansen receives award from Nebraska Art Teachers Association.



Faculty member Siobahn Kelly with WSC students Courtney Pierson, Amy McGeorge, Gabriela Easterday, and Sally Schroeder.

School of Arts and Humanities Faculty Receive Awards

Faculty members **Pearl Hansen** (Chairperson, Department of Art and Design), **Siobhan Kelly** (Department of Language and Literature), **Janet Schmitz** (Department of Language and Literature), and **Deborah Whitt** (Chairperson, Department of Communication Arts), were recently recognized for their outstanding accomplishments in teaching.

In October, **Pearl Hansen** was recently awarded the 2001-2002 Higher Education Award from the Nebraska Art Teachers Association in a ceremony at the Iowa and Nebraska Art Educators Fall conference held in Council Bluffs, Iowa. A member of the National Art Education Association (NAEA), Hansen regularly attends and presents at conferences and organizes national and state trips for faculty and students to conferences, art museums and artists' studios. She has served as a representative for Nebraska Art Teachers Association (NATA), a member of the Ad Hoc Committee for Art Education, Nebraska Council for Teacher Education, and the Nebraska Safety Center Advisory Council. Previously Hansen was awarded the Nebraska State College System Board of Trustees Teaching Excellence Award in 1997 and the Outstanding Art Educator of the Year by the Nebraska Art Teachers

Association in 1989. She also earned the Burlington Resources Foundation Faculty Achievement Award for the 1989-1990 academic year for unusual effort devoted to quality classroom teaching, direct involvement with students and possession of high scholarly standards.

Hansen has also been the recipient of Wayne State Foundation Faculty Renewal Grants. After two years as Fine Arts Division Head, this past summer she returned to full-time teaching and coordinated a two-week trip to Russia for a group through WSC and the International Fine Arts Institute. The tour group was the first sponsored by the Russian Ministry of Culture, a designation that allowed the group to see and experience events and attractions not always available to tourists. Hansen received a bachelor's degree from WSC, a master's degree from Kansas State University, and a doctoral degree from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. She has taught at WSC since 1978.

Siobhan Kelly was the recipient of the 2000 Balsley Whitmore Excellence in Teaching Award, presented annually to a tenured member of the WSC English faculty. The award recognizes faculty members who exemplify the teaching

mission of the College by engaging in innovative and challenging classroom teaching; enhancing critical thinking; promoting independent learning; and contributing to the intellectual life of the campus community. The award is funded by the Balsley Whitmore Endowment, honoring the late Howard and Irol (Whitmore) Balsley. A portion of the award is provided as cash, with the balance used to support teaching by funding travel, materials and books, released time, or other endeavors/activities.

As part of the award Kelly presented a Balsley Whitmore lecture, "Consuming the Book," on campus in March. In addition she took four WSC English majors to England for a week in June. While there the group toured places of literary and historical interest, including Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey, Kew Gardens, Bloomsbury, the new Globe Theatre for a performance of "King Lear," the Queen's birthday celebration, the British Museum, the Tower of London, and Oxford—for a tour of the colleges, and the Bodleian Library.

Janet Schmitz was awarded the STAR Award by the Nebraska Department of Education in November.



The Star Award is given to foreign language teachers to have excelled in all areas of teaching within and beyond the classroom. To receive the Star Award foreign language teachers must meet requirements in the areas of study, travel, achievement and recognition of professionalism.

Schmitz holds membership in the American Association of Teachers of French, Nebraska Foreign Language Association, Phi Delta Phi language honorary, Alpha Mu Gamma language honorary, and the Society for Narrative Literature. She has made numerous scholarly presentations for professional meetings and has been a grant recipient from the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities. Other awards include the Burlington-Northern Faculty Achievement Award for Excellence in Teaching, four institute awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities, a Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Award, and a Scholarship Award jointly from the American Association of Teachers of French and the government of France. Schmitz has organized and led nine study trips with students to Quebec and to France, and has taught at Wayne State College since 1971. She holds a B.A. degree in French, English, and Music from Avila College, and an M.A. degree in French from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She completed additional studies at Universite Laval, Universite de Paris, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Universite d'Avignon.

Deborah Whitt was selected as the 2001 Teaching Excellence Award recipient by the Nebraska State Colleges' Board of Trustees. The award, which has been given annually since 1985, recognizes innovation and leadership in teaching, and includes a \$3,000 stipend, which is funded through an endowment. The award is a system-wide honor, and each state college—Chadron, Peru, and Wayne— forwards one candidate each year for consideration by the Board of Trustees.

A graduate of Columbus Lakeview High School and Wayne State College, Whitt earned her master's and doctoral degrees in speech communication from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. During her tenure at WSC Whitt has been the Faculty Club Coordinator, an associate forensics coach, chair of the Communications Arts Assessment

Committee, coordinator of the Principles of Human Communication course, chair of revisions of the language arts program, and chairperson for the Department of Communication Arts. She has been intensely involved in curriculum development through working to reformat general education courses and through developing new courses. Her innovative teaching most recently led to the incorporation of service-learning components into her classroom. Students in one class organized a fund-raising campaign for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and participated in a walk-a-thon to raise money. They also developed an advertising campaign and organized a press conference to present foundation executives with the money raised. Another class was recently invited to present the results of a research project on communication patterns of couples at the Undergraduate Research Conference, held at St. Thomas University in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Other awards received by Whitt include a WSC Teaching-Learning Grant, and a Distinguished Service Award from South Sioux City Schools. Whitt has taught at Wayne State College since 1987.



Janet Schmitz



Dr. Deborah Whitt, left, is congratulated by Dr. Sheila Stearns, right, president of Wayne State College.



Facility Renovations Underway

During the 2001-2002 year significant renovations to the Ramsey Theatre and the Humanities Building will be accomplished, providing significantly enhanced educational opportunities for Wayne State College students.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held in July for the Ramsey Theatre renovation and addition project. The \$3 million project includes the complete renovation of Ramsey Theatre. It includes new seating, carpeting, acoustical treatments, lighting, sound system, and stage equipment. The project also includes a two-story, 10,800 square-foot addition that will house a scene shop, green room, design studio and loading dock on the upper level. It will also feature a hallway that will serve as a stage crossover area. On the lower level will be a black box theater, costume shop, and an oversized elevator that can be used to move large equipment and musical instruments. It will feature a ground-level entryway and greatly improved handicap-accessibility.

The Ramsey Theatre renovation is being funded in part by a \$547,000 grant from The Lied Foundation Trust. In recognition of that gift the west portion of the building encompassing the foyer, Ramsey Theatre, and the new addition in

the Val Peterson Fine Arts Hall will be named The Lied Performing Arts Center. Completion of the work is projected for fall, 2002.

In addition, during the 2001-2002 year the fourth floor of the Humanities Building will receive extensive renovation, allowing for the facility to subsequently house all student media (the *Wayne Stater* newspaper, the KWSC-FM radio station, and the KWSC-TV television station). The new facilities will feature an editing suite, expanded production rooms with digital audio workstations, and new lighting instruments. Other planned improvements include additional non-linear editing systems and an integrated wireless newsroom system for teleprompting and closed captioning.

The Fine Arts Building basement has been home to the broadcasting studios since 1976, and the new space has been designed to reflect the current trend of convergence in the mass media. Through the sharing of resources, instructors, and equipment, Wayne State College electronic media students and journalism students will benefit greatly from being in the same facility. The renovation of approximately \$300,000 began this spring, with completion planned to be prior to summer.



Department of Music Hosts Regional Conference

The Wayne State College Department of Music hosted the 2002 annual meeting of the Great Plains Chapter of the College Music Society on March 22-23. Highlights of the conference included presentations, discussions and performances by CMS members from Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa and South Dakota. In addition the Paul Revitt Memorial Award was awarded to the best paper presented by a student scholar from the region, and a special recital was presented which featured compositions by regional CMS-member composers.

The College Music Society is the primary organization of college, conservatory, and university musicians and scholars interested in all disciplines of music. Its mission is to promote music teaching and learning, musical creativity and expression, research and dialogue, and diversity and interdisciplinary interaction.

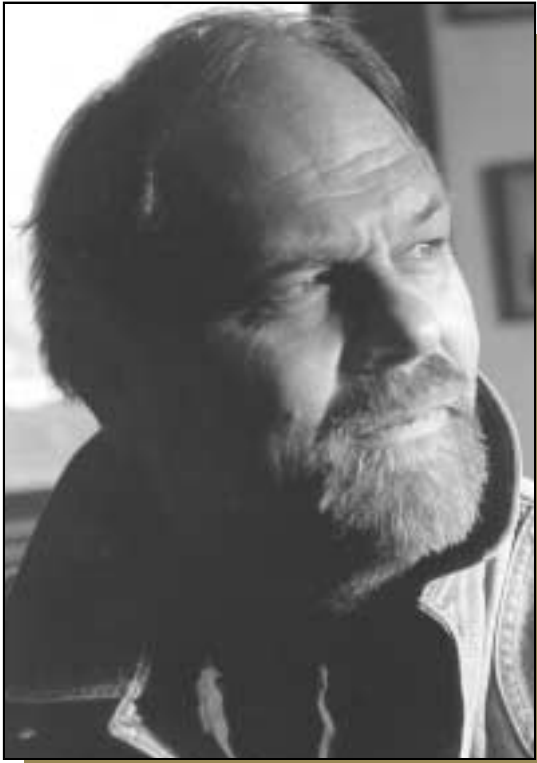


Symphonic Wind Ensemble Performs at State Convention

On November 17 the Wayne State College Wind Ensemble performed at the Nebraska Music Educators Convention held in Lincoln. This was the first occasion that an instrumental group from WSC was selected to perform for this annual convention; it was one of 16 groups from Nebraska selected from a pool of more than 50 applicants. The Wind Ensemble is the select auditioned instrumental group at WSC and is conducted by Director of Bands Michael Gillan.

En route to the convention the Wind Ensemble and Concert Choir conducted a tour, performing at South Sioux City High School, Osmond High School, Hooper Logan View High School, and Lincoln Southeast High School.





Sydney Lea

Department of Language and Literature hosts Pulitzer Prize Finalist

The Department of Language and Literature hosted a visit to campus by Pulitzer Prize finalist Sydney Lea on Wednesday, January 23.

Sydney Lea is author of *A Place in Mind* (a novel), and *Hunting The Whole Way Home* (a collection of personal essays). He has also published seven collections of poetry, the latest of which, *Pursuit of a Wound*, was one of three finalists for the 2000 Pulitzer Prize, and the preceding of which, *To The Bone*, won the 1998 Poets' Prize. Founder and longtime editor of the *New England Review*, Lea has held fellowships from the Rockefeller, Guggenheim, and Fulbright Foundations. His work appears in over forty anthologies across genres. He has taught at Yale University, Wesleyan College, Middlebury College, Vermont College, and the national university of Hungary. He is currently on the faculty at Dartmouth College.

Mr. Lea's appearance at Wayne State College was sponsored as part of the 2001-2002 Plains Writers Series. Other events for the year included a reading to celebrate *The Logan House Anthology of 21st Century American Poetry* on Nov. 8. Among the readers were Barbara Schmitz (Wayne State alumna); Neil Harrison (WSC alumnus and former faculty member); WSC faculty member J. V. Brummels; and WSC students Scott McIntosh, Jon Martin, Amy McGeorge and Dade. Recently published, *The Logan House Anthology* was edited by Trenton Muth, a Wayne State graduate student. The anthology includes the work of 44 poets from across the United States from ages 21 to 78.

On Nov. 15 a number of Omaha-based poets visited campus to read their works and to interact with WSC students and faculty. These poets included Matt Mason, Monica Kershner, Michelle Mitchell, and Sara Lihz.

Established as a means for bringing contemporary poets and writers to campus for readings and workshops, the Series has brought over 90 noted poets to Wayne State College to share their work and interact with students and faculty. Previous guests have included Pulitzer Prize-winner Rita Dove, Nebraska State Poet William Kloefkorn, Utah Poet Laureate David Lee, William Matthews, Cary Waterman, Lyn DeNayer, William Kittredge, Barbara Schmitz, David Long, Dan Chaon, Ron Block, CarolAnn Russell, Albert Goldbarth and Matt Mason. In addition, the Series often focuses on the work of promising poets and writers near the beginning of their careers.

Wayne State College Department of Music Receives In-Kind Gift

During the Fall 2001 semester, a Sabathil & Sons harpsichord valued at approximately \$5000 was donated to the Department of Music, by Larry and Linda Eliason of Oskaloosa, Iowa. The single-manual instrument features a contemporary style in a high-tech, double-sided, closed-box design. The action includes metal sliders, durable plastic jacks and delrin plastic plectra. The instrument was first performed on at WSC during the December Madrigal Dinners, and will remain housed in the Department of Music where it will receive frequent use by students and faculty.



Raising Money for a Good Cause

Department of Communication Arts interim chairperson Deborah Whitt recently directed a class of over 40 Wayne State College students involved in a service learning project. The project, a 6.2-mile (10K) walk-a-thon took place to help raise funds for finding a cure for cystic fibrosis. The walk began at WSC's Willow Bowl. Participating students utilized communication skills learned in the course in their efforts to promote the event. Over half of the students were also involved in a linked physical education class with WSC professor Barb Engebretson. The group raised more than \$1,800 in this project. Whitt has been involved with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for 20 years.



Faculty News

Wayne Anderson (Art and Design) spent July 2001 in an intensive workshop at the University of Iowa to study experimental approaches to the collograph, a printmaking medium comprised of materials adhered to a base which is then inked and printed. The workshop attracted printmaking specialists and students from several states and included the use of a number of high-tech polymers and techniques in this printmaking process.

As regular members of the Sioux City Symphony Orchestra, **Christopher Bonds** and **Jay O'Leary** (Music) recently performed with the orchestra for the grand opening of the renovated Orpheum Theatre in Sioux City featuring soloist Van Cliburn. Along with department chairperson Linda Christensen they presented a faculty recital on campus during fall 2001, which also featured Bonds' daughter Erin (violin) and O'Leary's son Jed (cello).

Adolfo Cacheiro (Language and Literature) recently presented a paper at the "Where Choice is Born: Caribbean Voices and Vision" conference held at Northeastern Illinois University.

Linda Christensen (Chairperson, Department of Music) recently published an article about technological needs in the music studio and classroom, in the Autumn 2001 issue of *Keyboard Companion*. Christensen also chaired the Committee on Future Trends in Piano Pedagogy at the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy held in Oak Brook, Illinois.

Katja Hawlitschka (Language and Literature) made paper presentations at the annual conference of the Far West Popular and American Culture Association, held in Las

Vegas, Nevada; the National Popular and American Culture Association meeting in Philadelphia; and the Second Annual Conference on Food Representation in Film, Literature, and the Arts, held in San Antonio, Texas.

Ed Johnson (Communication Arts) made a paper presentation at the National Communication Association Conference held in Atlanta, Georgia.

Siobhan Kelly (Language and Literature) recently presented papers at the annual conference of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing held in Williamsburg, Virginia; at the Universe/Victorian Exhibitions Conference held in Santa Cruz, California; and at the second Conference on Food Representation in Literature, Film and the Other Arts at the University of Texas, San Antonio.

Richard Keenan (Communication Arts) recently presented papers at the national meeting of the Popular Culture Association held in Philadelphia; an international meeting of the Popular Culture Association held at Cambridge University (England); and at an additional meeting of the Popular Culture Association held in Toronto.

Ronald Lofgren (Music) recently conducted choral clinics for Boyer Valley Conference High School, and Southern Nebraska Conference Clinics located at Sutton, Geneva, Heartland, Hebron, and Sandy Creek; and adjudicated festivals hosted by Norfolk High School and Wayne State College. In June Dr. Lofgren attended the "Richard Miller in

continued on next page



Professor Andre Sedriks

Professor Andre Sedriks Dies in August

Andre Sedriks, humanities professor and director of the WSC theater program, died on Aug. 12 at an Omaha hospital after suffering heart failure the previous day.

Sedriks, 60, was born in Latvia in 1941. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Kansas, and his doctorate from Southern Illinois University. He came to Wayne State in 1985 as a professor and member of the humanities faculty, and was named director of the theater program.

"Andre was a very creative person with a lot of heart," said Dr. Sheila Stearns, WSC President. She cited as an example that when one of the lead characters in a play directed by Sedriks earlier this year, Patrick Reichenbach of Lincoln, was killed in an auto accident, Sedriks presented this year's annual children's play, "The Honorable Urashima Taro," in memory of Reichenbach. Reichenbach had been cast for a part in the play prior to his death.

"Andre Sedriks was a much-respected and beloved professor of humanities at Wayne State," said Dr. Stearns. "This is a tremendous loss to his family, of course, but also to his friends and colleagues, to his students and to our theater program. He will not be forgotten, and he will be missed. He was a really significant cultural leader in the region."

Sedriks is survived by his wife, Joanne; one daughter, Baiba who currently lives with her mother after spending a year in Japan; and two sons, Alexander of Austin, Texas and Zem and his wife Jill of Lincoln. He is also survived by his mother and a sister, both of Canada.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, memorials should be directed to the Patrick Reichenbach Memorial Endowed Scholarship through the Wayne State Foundation.

the Midwest” clinic hosted by Concordia College (River Forest, Ill.) and in July he attended a Wingert-Jones new music reading session held at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Marlene Mueller (Art and Design) was one of 44 artists selected to participate in *Local Perspectives 2001*, a juried show at the Sioux City Art Center. Mueller’s entry was an acrylic painting entitled, *Hammering Man*, a work from her series dealing with domestic spaces.

James O’Donnell (Dean, School of Arts and Humanities) recently performed as a member of the O’Donnell-McCarthy Trumpet and Organ Duo on concert series presented by The Lakeside Concert Association (Lakeside, Ohio), and Emory and Henry College (Emory, Va.).

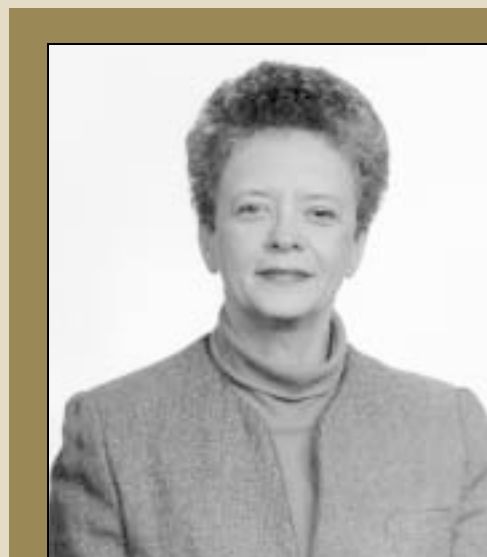
Vic Reynolds exhibited digital prints and work in traditional media in a month-long show at the Norfolk Arts center in November 2001.

Gretchen Ronnow (Language and Literature) recently presented papers at the Flint Hills Literary Festival hosted by Kansas State University, the 150th Moby Dick Anniversary Celebration Conference held at Hofstra University, the Red River Conference on World Literature hosted by North Dakota State University, the “Redefining the American West” symposium held at New Mexico Highlands University, and the American Culture Association conference held in Toronto, Canada. She also attended the annual Nebraska Literature Festival, hosted by Peru State College, in September.

Catherine Rudin (Language and Literature) recently chaired sessions at meetings of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic Languages held in Chicago, Ill.; the Chicago Linguistic Society; the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas; and the Comparative Siouan Syntax Workshop held in Boulder, Colo.

Janet Schmitz (Language and Literature) attended the national annual conference of the American Association of Teachers of French in Denver, Colo., July 5-8. She was one of the official representatives of the Nebraska Chapter of the AATF, and focused especially on sessions featuring the teaching of film. She also attended the Fall Conference of the Nebraska International Language Association held at the St. Benedict Conference Center in Schuyler, Nebraska.

William Slaymaker (Language and Literature) was a recent participant in a workshop sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, entitled “Cultures of Authority in Asian Practice” held in Seattle, Washington; and was a panel member at the National Modern Language Association Conference held in New Orleans, Louisiana.



Dr. Priscilla Ramsey

School of Arts and Humanities Joins Multicultural Scholar Program in Hosting Visit by Priscilla Ramsey

On March 18 the Department of Language and Literature joined with the WSC Multicultural Scholar Program in hosting a visit by Howard University professor Priscilla Ramsey. During her visit, Dr. Ramsey met with an American Literature class and presented a public lecture on the work of the novelist, John Edgar Wideman.

As a professor at Howard University Ramsey is currently completing a postmodernist critical text on the fiction of John Wideman. She has published in *The Dictionary of Literary Biography*, *MaGills Annual Review*, and *The College Language Journal* on such topics of African American Literature as Richard Wright, John A. Williams, Maya Angelou, Charles Chesnutt, Colleen McElroy, Marcus Garvey and many others.

Dr. Ramsey has lectured for the Modern Language Association, the Popular Culture Association, Mid Atlantic Writers Conference and for other scholarly groups throughout America.

Ramsey has held elected positions in the Modern Language Association and was appointed co-Chair of Washington, D.C.’s Arena Stage Theatre program honoring actress Ruby Dee, Eleanor Holmes Norton and Marion Wright Adelman. She lectured recently for the Washington D.C. Arts Commission and the Maryland Commission on the Arts. She is listed in *The Dictionary of American Scholars*, *Who’s Who*, and *Two Thousand Notable Women*. She holds several awards from community groups for community service related to the arts.

Ramsey’s appearance at Wayne State College was initiated by Assistant Professor of English Jeffrey Howlett, and was supported with funds from the office of the School Dean as well as funds from the WSC Multicultural Scholar Program.

Student News

Student members of the Wayne State College chapter of the **Music Educators National Conference** recently hosted a show choir clinic with Clay Blackman. In October the organization continued in the tradition of co-sponsoring the annual Haunted House for the Wayne community.

SLAM 6 was held at CT's Grill in downtown Wayne the evening of November 15. Twenty-three poets competed before a standing-room-only audience for cash prizes. After four rounds the winners were **Scott McIntosh** (first place), **Mitch Tracy** (second place), and **Chris Brandon** (third place). Judges for the event were Steve Coyne (English professor from Morningside College), Jeffrey Howlett (WSC Language and Literature professor), and Wayne State graduate student Trenton Muth.

An essay by **Heather Bausch** was recently awarded third place in a student essay competition sponsored by Dickinson State University. The award was recognized at the Conference on Great Plains Population, held October 15-17 in Bismarck, North Dakota.

The third annual Wayne State Cavalcade of Bands took place in October featuring high school bands from Wayne, Stanton, Winside, and Pierce. The annual Honor Band weekend attracted over 300 high school students from throughout Northeast Nebraska. Clinicians this year included John Madden (Michigan State University) and Terry Hanzlik (Abraham Lincoln High School, Council Bluffs, Iowa).

During Fall 2000 the **Wayne State Concert Choir** was invited to participate in performances of Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem* with the Sioux City Symphony in Sioux City and at the Iowa MENC Convention in Ames. "It is one of the most

challenging works I have prepared," said Director Ronald Lofgren, "but it was an exciting opportunity for the students and myself."

More than 20 Art and Design students recently traveled by charter bus with department faculty members on a field trip to Minneapolis. Organized by department chairperson Pearl Hansen, the group visited the Minneapolis Institute of Art, the Walker Art Center and Sculpture Gardens, and the Frederick Weisman Museum. Opportunities included experiencing first-hand the work of many contemporary Minnesota-based artists and an important exhibit from Japan, as well as ancient and classical works of art.

Students in a Family Communication course taught by Deborah Whitt were recently invited to present the results of a research project on communication patterns of couples at the Undergraduate Research Conference held at St. Thomas University in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Neihardt Scholars had the opportunity during the first half of fall semester to learn more about the visual arts. Art and Design faculty hosted the honors seminar which approached art from a variety of perspectives. Wayne Anderson discussed 20th century modern art, Marlene Mueller focused on critical approaches to evaluating art, Vic Reynolds conducted a hands-on computer graphic design workshop and Ray Replogle demonstrated sculpture techniques. As coordinator of the seminar Pearl Hansen took the students on a field trip to the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery. As a capstone to the seminar the students' last meeting was spent discussing how their perceptions of the museum trip had been impacted by what they had experienced in the faculty presentations.

WSC Student Receives National 'Tutor of the Year' Award

Wayne State Student Jeff Child was awarded the "Tom Pasternack Outstanding Tutor Award" by The College Reading and Learning Association (CRLA). The annual award is given to an outstanding tutor from one of the over 400 colleges and universities across the United States and Canada that have their tutor programs nationally certified through the CRLA.

A native of Salt Lake City, Utah, Child is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Speech Communication with minors in Mathematics and Computer Science. After graduating from high school, he served as a missionary in Brazil for two years before beginning his studies at Wayne State College in 1998. During his time as a tutor at WSC, Child has worked with over 500 students in individual tutor sessions and workshops. "It has been an incredible experience for me to be able to connect with so many of my peers through tutoring over the last five semesters at Wayne State College," Child said. "Not only have I received immense joy through helping others learn and succeed, but the variety of ways that Wayne State College has provided me to grow and learn is something that I would not have been able to duplicate anywhere else."

Nominees for the CRLA award must write an essay on tutoring and its role as an integral part of learning, submit college transcripts, and receive letters of recommendation from faculty members. Child was presented the award at the CRLA national conference held in Spokane, Wash., in October.



Jeff Child, center, with his father, Craig, of Draper, Utah, and Dorothy Weber, director of the WSC Learning Center.

