

# ARTS & HUMANITIES

Wayne State  
College



## U.S. Poet Laureate Visits Wayne State

On March 29 U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser visited WSC, providing a reading of his works for a special Black and Gold event as well as a workshop for WSC writing students. Appointed the United States poet laureate by the Library of Congress, Kooser is the first poet from the Great Plains to hold the position. He is the author of 11 full-length collections of poetry, including the 2005 Pulitzer-Prize winning "Delights & Shadows." Born in Ames, Iowa, in 1939, Kooser holds a bachelor's degree from Iowa State University and a master's degree from the University of Nebraska. He is a former vice-president of Lincoln Benefit Life, where he worked as an insurance representative for many years. Following his Black and Gold reading, Kooser was honored at a special reception hosted by the Wayne State Foundation.

## Wayne Stater is "Newspaper of the Year"

The Wayne State College student media programs received a number of honors at the 2006 Nebraska Collegiate Media Association's Golden Leaf Awards presentations held in April. For the first time since 1996, the *Wayne Stater*, the WSC student newspaper, earned the overall excellence award for the best small-college newspaper. The judges found the *Stater* to contain "a good mix of campus news and sports with features and editorials" and a "consistent use of graphic elements across issues. This is an excellent example of a newspaper that serves the entire campus community." *Wayne Stater* staff members won first place in 10 of the 22 categories, along with nine second-place, three third-place and three honorable mentions. "I want to thank the staff and everyone else on campus who have contributed to our

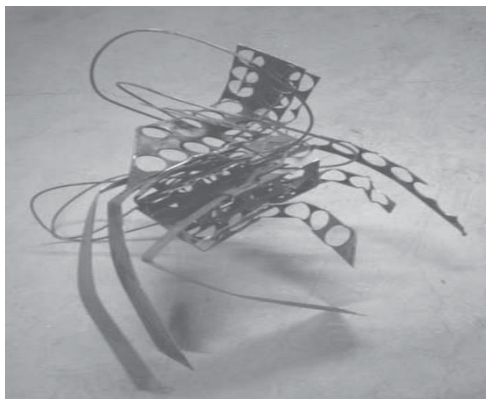
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## Works By WSC Assistant Professor And Student Selected For Contest Auction

Assistant professor of Art and Design Steven Elliott and studio arts student Corbin Sharer were selected by the Sioux City Growth Organization (SCGO) to include work in the first Sculp Siouxland Auction at the Orpheum Theater in Sioux City, Iowa after a year-long exhibit that began in April 2005. "Locust" by Sharer and "Cryptograph" by Elliott were among 13 sculptures selected and auctioned through Sioux City's first annual sculpture contest. Sharer was the only student artist with work selected by the contest judges.

"This event was an excellent opportunity for arts promoters to be exposed to Wayne State's sculpture program," Elliott said. "The success with Sculp Siouxland has been a tremendous motivator for keeping my creative processes going strong," Sharer said. "I created the work for an artist statement by bending rusted metal into the representation of a locust. I enjoy working with metal because it is forgiving."

In April Elliott was also a guest of the Visual Artist Series at the Plattsburgh State University of New York, where he displayed work and presented public lectures, workshops, demonstrations and critiques.



"Locust" by Corbin Sharer



"Cryptograph" by Steven Elliott

## Highlights of this issue:

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

Volume 5, Summer 2006

- U.S Poet Laureate visits WSC
- *Wayne Stater* is Newspaper of the Year
- ArtsWalk 2005
- FCC Licensure Renewal
- Study Abroad in Costa Rica
- Student Sculpture Wins Award
- Guest Scholars, Performers, and Musicians
- Student News
- Faculty News
- Alumni News

I am delighted to share with you news of some of the outstanding activities and accomplishments by our students and faculty during this past year. These recent highlights include awards and recognition coming to students in *each* of our four departments this year, many of which you will read about in these pages.

In addition, I am happy to report continued technological upgrading of our classrooms with three additional classroom conversions this year. The “smart classrooms” in the School of Arts and Humanities combine Internet access with PC computing, effective projection and complete audio/video capability, allowing professors to enhance classroom learning through innovative use of technology and media. I can also report that we have now completed a cycle of select classes being taught on-line for the first time by some of our most experienced tenured professors—these experiences have been rewarding for learner and instructor alike! These accomplishments continue to demonstrate our assertion that the School of Arts and Humanities takes seriously the obligation to provide the most current tools for our professors to utilize, and to help ensure that our students acquire all of the skills needed in order to successfully work in the modern marketplace.

A growing trend in internationalization has begun on our campus as well. These activities have included recent educational trips and scholarly presentations by Arts and Humanities students and faculty members to a number of countries including Ireland, France, England, Azerbaijan, China, and Croatia. The current year also included two exploratory visits to institutions in Greece and a strong study abroad program in Costa Rica led by two Arts and Humanities professors. International activity in the coming year will include an experimental and innovative course in the Department of Communication Arts that will provide WSC students with video conferencing experiences with other students from around the globe. I am confident that these initiatives in internationalization will serve to continue the broadening of academic programming and technological sophistication in all of our departments, which in turn will greatly enhance the learning experience for our talented students.

I do hope you enjoy reading *Spotlight on the Arts and Humanities*, and I look forward to staying in touch with you through sharing more exciting news as it develops. I hope to see you on campus!



## Message from the Dean

**James O'Donnell**  
Dean, School of Arts and Humanities

### **Newspaper...continued from page 1**

success this year,” Dr. David (Max) McElwain, the Wayne Stater faculty adviser, said. “Also, the NPA was very gracious in hosting us and supporting many activities.”

WSC student broadcast media, KWSC-FM radio (K92) and KWSC-TV, also received awards. The radio station earned honors in eight of the 11 awarded categories, including six first-place awards, three second-place and one honorable mention. Two entries from KWSC-TV also received first- and second-place awards. The Nebraska Collegiate Media Association promotes journalism and electronic media studies to foster a closer relationship between mass communication programs at member colleges, encourage high standards of media ethics, and to recognize outstanding student achievement.



*The Wayne Stater, the WSC student newspaper, earned the overall excellence award for the best small-college newspaper at the Nebraska Collegiate Media Association's Golden Leaf Awards presentations held in April.*

## Wayne State Hosts Modern Language Day

The Department of Language and Literature held the 37th annual Modern Language Day for high school students on April 7. Utilizing the theme of “Discover the Future, Discover Languages,” the event attracted 165 high school students and their teachers. Activities included Latin, Greek, and African dance lessons, a French “boules” game competition, sidewalk chalk designs, face painting, “tattoos” and caption writing all with a language theme, karaoke and video viewing, and a blindfolded mousse feeding contest in the Student Center Atrium. In addition guest performers Ballet Folklorico XIOTAL presented a program of Mexican folk dancing, followed by student performances of skits, songs, and poetry in various languages.

The 2006 Modern Language Day was coordinated by language faculty Janet Schmitz and Catherine Rudin; event judging was provided by Wayne State faculty and staff members Alan Bruflat, Adolfo Cacheiro, Suzanne Penn, Leo Medal, and Christa Habrock. In addition a number of WSC international students provided native speaker mini-lessons for participants in Portuguese, Swahili, Turkish, and French. The successful event concluded with awards, certificates, and a prize drawing.

## Slaymaker Honored, Creates Scholarship

William Slaymaker was the recipient of the 2006 *Balsley Whitmore Excellence in Teaching Award*, presented annually to a tenured member of the WSC English faculty. The award honors faculty members who exemplify the teaching mission of the College by engaging in innovative and challenging classroom teaching, 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. The award is used to support the recipient's teaching by funding travel, materials and books, released time, or other endeavors/activities.

As part of the award ceremony in April, Slaymaker presented a Balsley Whitmore lecture about Derek Walcott, winner of the 1992 Nobel Prize for Literature. Walcott is also the focus of a chapter in an upcoming book by Slaymaker, regarding environmental writers of African descent from 1950-present.

Slaymaker earned his undergraduate degree at Western Michigan University in English and German and his Ph.D. at Indiana University in Comparative Literature. He joined the WSC faculty in 1989 and teaches courses in world literature and world philosophy as well as courses regarding nature and environmental writers.

Slaymaker has utilized the Balsley-Whitmore Award funds to begin an endowed scholarship for WSC students majoring in languages, literature, writing or philosophy, with the goal of fully endowing the scholarship by the year 2010. Contributions to the scholarship endowment are welcome; to contribute to the Slaymaker Endowed Scholarship please contact the Wayne State Foundation.



*William  
Slaymaker*



## Study Abroad in Costa Rica

Wayne State College returned to Costa Rica in June 2006, with an intensive study abroad program for WSC students. Communication Arts chairperson and professor Deborah Whitt, and Language and Literature associate professor Adolfo Cacheiro led 23 WSC students in a month-long journey of education and exploration, taking courses in Intercultural Communication and Spanish language at the Costa Rica Spanish Institute, a prestigious language institute located in San José. Students also had excellent opportunities to make new friends and experience Hispanic culture firsthand by living with Costa Rican families. Additional highlights of this year's program included a three day visit to the Pacific coast (where trip participants visited the internationally famous Manuel Antonio National Park), a visit to the Britt Coffee Farm, and guided tours to historic sites.

## Students Participate in National Cybercast; KWSC-FM Receives FCC Licensure Renewal

The students of KWSC-FM at Wayne State (K92), were at the controls for a national cybercast from Kansas City on October 27. The two-hour broadcast via Internet-streaming audio was a highlight of the National College Media/College Broadcasters International convention. "Wayne State College was one of only six colleges and universities across the country to be invited to participate in this cybercast," said KWSC-FM adviser Mike Marek. "This honor is a tribute to the diverse, award-winning programming of K92." The K92 cybercast featured compressed versions of K92's "All Things Indie" show with Shaun McCabe, "Get Local" with McCabe and Casey Daehnke, "The Punk Show" with Daehnke, and "Top 40" with Tina Kokoruz and Liz Daehnke. Pre-produced program elements from several other K92 students were also heard.

Over 3,000 students, college media advisers and media professionals from around the country attended the convention. A group of approximately 20 Wayne State College mass communication students attended the convention, including staff of KWSC-FM and TV, as well as student staff of the *Wayne Stater*.

In the fall semester KWSC-FM also received a renewed license from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The license renewal authorizes the radio station to continue to broadcast until 2013. The station broadcasts 24 hours a day during the academic year on 91.9 mhz in the Wayne area, and is available worldwide by Web streaming audio at <http://wildcat.wsc.edu/k92>. It will celebrate 35 years of service to the Wayne State campus and Wayne community in 2006.



## ArtsWalk Was Everywhere

The annual ArtsWalk event, sponsored by the School of Arts and Humanities, took place throughout campus Oct. 5-6. Consisting of applied Arts and Humanities activities taking place in public settings not normally thought of as venues, the event highlighted poetry readings, musical ensembles, theatre performances, individual musical performances such as Spanish guitar, and the public creation of a large painting.

"We see this as a great opportunity to celebrate the arts and humanities, and create greater campus awareness of art, literature, language, communication arts, and music activities at Wayne State College," said Dean James O'Donnell.

## Visiting Scholars, Artists, and Musicians Interact with the Campus Community

Guest Choreographer **Scott Gessford** came to WSC for a one-week residency, working with students in preparation of the 2006 WSC production of *Guys and Dolls*. Gessford's work as a choreographer has been seen throughout the country including productions of *Picnic*, *Revealed*, *South Pacific* and *The Music Man*. Also a performer, Gessford has appeared in productions of *Footloose*, *Grease*, *Evita*, and *California Dreamin'*. He directed, choreographed, and performed in his original revue *Seasons of Love* at the Farber Hall Theatre.

The 2005-06 Visiting Artist schedule for the Nordstrand Visual Arts Gallery included work by alumna **Leslie Iwai**. The exhibition, entitled "Cordblood," explored the forming of space as an experiential event, through scale or internal complexity.

After graduating from WSC in 1994, Iwai pursued a master of architecture degree at Virginia Tech University in Blacksburg, Va. After graduating in 1998, she returned to Omaha and began working in the architectural profession. In 2001, she made a decision to continue her artistic and design work in her own studio. In 2005 she was the first recipient of the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art's Community Art Fellowship. While at WSC Iwai also met with students, and presented a Brown Bag talk about her experiences working with child soldiers in Sierra Leone, Africa in the latter part of 2005.

Also included in the 2005-06 Nordstrand Visual Arts Gallery schedule was work by Kansas sculptor **John Hachmeister**. An associate professor at the University of Kansas, Hachmeister presented a slide show and lecture session, describing his work in ceramic, cast metal, wood and mixed media sculpture. He has exhibited art in well over one hundred shows including a mid career retrospective at the Leedy-Voukos Art Center in Kansas City, Mo. and a liquid steel performative piece at Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, NJ. His exhibit at WSC included a piece from his "Jupiter's Trees" series, made of wood with an exterior skin of tar-like encaustic and an interior lighting system powered by solar cells.

The United States Air Force Heartland of America Band presented a concert by the **Offutt Brass**, in Ramsey Theatre on Wednesday, November 4. Following the concert the group conducted a clinic for WSC students.

Yamaha performing artist and clinician **Thomas Bacon** presented a clinic entitled "Practice Smarter Not Harder" on April 5. The clinic provided musicians with techniques to improve practice habits and maximize the effectiveness of practice time. Bacon has held principal horn positions with the Detroit, Berlin Radio, and Houston symphonies.

The WSC School of Arts and Humanities, Department of Language and Literature, and Office of Multicultural Affairs sponsored a visit by **Ricardo Garcia** on Sept. 13. Born in Swastika, N.M., Garcia has published four books of fiction, two textbooks in the field of multicultural teacher education, as well as numerous monographs, book chapters, and articles. He has also served as a consultant to the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Ford Foundation, and many others. While on campus, Garcia visited classes and presented a public presentation entitled "The Art and Practice of Hispano Storytelling." Garcia's visit was organized and hosted by Gretchen Ronnow, professor of English.

## Department of Language and Literature and U.S. Conn Library Host Language Arts Festival

The first annual Language Arts Festival was held at Wayne State College March 31- April 2. Festival activities included competitions in various categories for children in grades 7-12 and a Young Authors' Conference for grades two through six. Award-winning author Kate Klise was the guest author for the 2006 Language Arts Festival. Other guests included authors Robert Reed and Randa Garden, and artists John and Denise Garner.

Parents and teachers were also invited to participate in the conference, which was made possible through a grant from the Nebraska Humanities Council and funding from the School of Arts and Humanities.

## WSC Honors Program

Since the fall of 2003 the Wayne State College Honors Program has been housed in the School of Arts and Humanities. According to Dean O'Donnell, who also serves as Honors Program director, "The WSC College Honors Program is designed to nurture talent by providing opportunities for students to delve further into an academic discipline. By combining specialized General Education courses with substantive research projects in the student's major, our Honors Program allows our best-prepared students at WSC to demonstrate genuine intellectual curiosity and develop their independent working skills."

According to Robert McCue, WSC Vice President for Academic Affairs, "The Honors Program has a very broad interdisciplinary scope involving students from many different majors. The Honors Program supervision was moved to the School of Arts and Humanities because it was a natural fit with the liberal arts focus of the school." Since becoming housed in the School of Arts and Humanities, the number of new Honors students on campus has increased, and the program has become a member of the National Collegiate Honors Council.

# Student News

## Poetry Slams

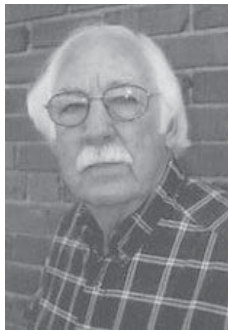
WSC **Department of Language and Literature** students and alumni were well-represented at Poetry Slams in Vermillion, S.D. and Kearney. At the Vermillion Poetry Slam WSC students Marci Broyhill, Tegan Clark, Brian Finn, Angela Haglund, Jessie Kai, Katie Kai, Bonnie Sue Johnson-Haddix, and Kathy Reuter, and alumnus Scott McIntosh, competed. Prizes were won by students Tegan Clark (third place), and Jessie Kai (second place). The annual Kearney short fiction and poetry slams included WSC student and alumni entrants Tim Black, Cynthia Torczon, Jesse Kai and Sarah Wingett (Black placed third in the poetry slam).

## Cardinal Key Member Elected to National Post

WSC Cardinal Key member Lindy Fler was elected to the national secretary position when she attended the National Cardinal Key conference in Atlanta. Fler, a junior and vice president of WSC's Cardinal Key chapter, will serve in the position for two years. Cardinal Key membership is extended to juniors or above-standing students who have a 3.3 grade point average or higher and have demonstrated sound scholarship, outstanding leadership and service to the college. The WSC chapter advisor is Department of Communication Arts chairperson, Deborah Whitt.

## Plains Poetry Festival Featured Nebraska State Poet Kloefkorn

The Plains Poetry Festival was held Nov. 17, in the Humanities Building lounge. Coordinated by professor J.V. Brummels, readings were sponsored by several Nebraska literary publishers including Lone Willow and The Backwater Presses, Logan House, and the newly-formed WSC Press. Readings included those by Nebraska State Poet William Kloefkorn, Marjorie Saiser, Roberta Engstedt, Matt Mason and many others, and the Festival concluded with SLAM XIV held in downtown Wayne.



William Kloefkorn

## Plains Writers Prose Festival Featured Award Winning Authors

This year's selection of authors invited to read at the Prose Festival held in February includes a diverse group of writers who come from a wide cross-section in both the geographical and literary sense. Featured was award-winning fiction by Steve Coyne, Briar Cliff University professors Jeanne Emmons and Tricia Currans-Sheehan, Downtown Omaha Literary Festival Director Timothy Schaffert, Nebraska Book Award winner Barbara Schmitz, New Orleans writer Michael Green, and Northeast Community College professor Neil Harrison. The festival concluded with a Fast Fiction Slam in downtown Wayne.

## KWSC-FM Raises Funds for Haven House

In April **KWSC-FM**, "K92," presented a check for \$534 to Haven House in Wayne. The funds represented gifts made by local businesses and members of the public during a special event April 20-21 broadcast by the station. Haven House is a non-profit agency that provides crisis intervention and support services for domestic violence and sexual assault victims in a five county area surrounding WSC.

## Musical Ensembles Tour

During the spring 2006 semester the **WSC Wind Ensemble**, **Concert Choir**, and **Madrigal singers** completed a concert tour of public schools which culminated with a visit to Chicago. The four-day itinerary began with a performance for the Allen (Nebraska) schools, followed by concerts at Millard West High School, Blair High School, and Abraham-Lincoln High School (Council Bluffs, Iowa). Following the performance in Council Bluffs, the participating students and faculty traveled to Chicago. Chicago activities included the Sears Tower, Shedd Aquarium, Field Museum, Adler Planetarium, Navy Pier, Art Institute, performances of *Spamelot* and *Wicked*, a concert by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and a Chicago White Sox game. The 2006 tour was action-packed and provided positive exposure for the performing groups, while presenting students with the finest aspects of the Chicago culture. In addition, during the spring 2006 semester the **Wayne State College Concert Choir** was invited to participate in performances of Verdi's Requiem with the Sioux City Symphony Orchestra.

## Department of Art and Design Trip

The fall 2005 semester trip by the **Department of Art and Design** to Minneapolis, Minn. included museum visits, gallery walks, and guided tours. A total of 24 WSC art and design students attended the trip, which included tours of the Purcell-Cutts House, The Walker Art Center and Sculpture Garden, the Minneapolis Institute of Art, the Franconia Sculpture Park in Shafter, and galleries throughout the city.



The WSC Department of Art and Design's fall trip to Minneapolis, Minn. included museum visits, gallery walks, and guided tours.

# Faculty News

**Andrew Alexander** (Language and Literature) attended the Conference on Undergraduate Education and Research at the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

**Wayne Anderson** (Art and Design) exhibited prints in the exhibition "Lloyd Menard and His Printmaking Alumni," at the Dahl Art Center in Rapid City, SD, and attended the annual meeting of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design in Philadelphia, Pa.

**Judith Berry** (Art and Design) exhibited a work entitled "Framing Nebraska" at the California State University-San Bernardino Juried Alumni Show, attended the annual Critical Thinking Workshop in Berkeley, Calif., and continues her work as a member of the *Editorial Board* for the National Art Education Association.

**David Bohnert** (Music) appeared as guest conductor for the Nebraska Masonic All-Star Marching Band and the Lewis and Clarke Conference Honor Band; adjudicated at the Abraham Lincoln Jazz Festival, Norfolk Junior High Music Contest, Nebraska District III Music Contest, and the Lavitsef Parade and Field Competition; presented clinics at numerous high schools including Madison, Allen, Pierce, Laurel-Concord, Logan View, Stanton, and Coleridge; and published recording reviews in the *Journal of the International Trumpet Guild*.

**Christopher Bonds** (Chair, Music) attended the annual Critical Thinking Workshop in Berkeley, Calif., and the annual meeting of the National Association of Schools of Music in Boston, Mass.

**Alan Bruflatt** (Chair, Language and Literature) attended the Conference on Undergraduate Education and Research at the University of Nebraska-Kearney, and served as a Spanish AP Exam Reader for the Educational Testing Service.

**J.V. Brummels** (Language and Literature) published poems in the *Talking River Review*, *The Iowa Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Puerto del Sol*, and *South Dakota Review*; and did readings at the Nebraska Book Festival.

**Katherine Butler** (Language and Literature) attended the annual meeting of the Modern Language Association.

**Adolfo Cacheiro** had articles published in *Confluencia*, and the *International Journal of the Humanities*, and he presented a paper at the Red River Conference on World Literature (Fargo, N.D.). He also traveled to the University of Thessaly (Volos, Greece), where he was a member of the WSC delegation charged with exploring the potential for a new student and faculty exchange agreement.

**Maureen Carrigg** (Communication Arts) won the *Honorable Mention* award for Short Film as producer at the American Film Institute/Discovery Channel Silverdoc Festival for the film, *Flag Day*; served as a judge for the Spring College Media Advisors National Broadcasting Contest

in New York, NY, and at the Kansas Broadcasters Association College Broadcasting Awards; presented at the annual College Broadcasters Inc. National Conference in Kansas City, Kan., and began service as an education consultant for Kodak Inc.

**Linda Christensen** (Music) published an article in *Keyboard Companion*, presented papers at the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy and the Music Teachers National Association Convention; performed at the University of Little Rock, and continued to serve as pianist with the Sioux City Symphony Orchestra. She also served as Competitions Chair for the Nebraska Music Teachers Association, and as an adjudicator for the Nebraska District III Music Contest.

**Steven Elliott** (Art and Design) exhibited at the Soho Gallery in Lincoln, Neb.; the *18<sup>th</sup> Annual Downtown Sculpture Exhibition* in Lawrence, Kan.; the *Sculpt Siouxland Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition* in Sioux City, Iowa; the *City of Olathe Downtown Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition* in Olathe, Kan.; presented as a panel member and guest artist in the Visiting Alumni Program at the University of Kansas; and served as a juror for art shows at the Nebraska State Scholastic Art Exhibition and the University of Nebraska-Omaha Student Art Exhibition (both in Omaha).

**Frank Gazda** (Music) performed with the *William Cramer Memorial Trombone Choir* at the International Trombone Festival in New Orleans, La.; published a music review for the *International Trombone Association Journal*; performed with the Sioux City Symphony Orchestra and the Sioux City Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet; and adjudicated the district contest at South Sioux City High School.

**Janet Gilligan** (Language and Literature) presented a paper at the Northern Plains Conference, and prepared an award winning brochure for the Language Arts Festival.

**Pearl Hansen** (Chair, Art and Design) exhibited a Sabbatical Show at WSC; created an exhibition during the annual Wayne Chicken Show event; exhibited work at the L'eglise Art Gallery (Aurora, Neb.); juried district art shows at high schools in Laurel, Norfolk, Elgin, Walthill, and Creighton; and continued service on the Nebraska Safety Center Advisory Council.

**Gwen Jensen** (Communication Arts) presented a paper at the American College Theatre Festival in St. Louis, Mo.; adjudicated the Region V Irene Ryan Scholarship competition, the UNL ACTF production of "Fires in the Mirror," and District High School One-Act play competitions, co-hosted the Intercollegiate WildHawk Forensic Tournament, and served as a visiting lecturer at the Academy of Dramatic Arts in Zagreb, Croatia and the J.J. Strossmayer University in Osijek, Croatia.

# Faculty News

**Richard Keenan** (Communication Arts) presented papers at annual meetings of the Popular Culture Association at San Diego, Calif. and Atlanta, Ga.

**Ronald Lofgren** (Music) attended the Madison Early Music Festival (Madison, Wis.), hosted the Lewis & Clark Chapter of NATS Student Auditions, published an article in the *Nebraska Music Educator* magazine, served as an adjudicator for the Nebraska All-State Honor Choir and Nebraska District III Music Contest, and served as a guest conductor for the Mid States Conference Choral Clinic.

**Michael Marek** (Communication Arts) produced numerous reports that were subsequently broadcast on NET Radio during the 2005-2006 academic year, attended the Fall College Broadcasters International convention in Kansas City, Kan., and served as a judge for the 2006 Kansas Broadcasters Association College Broadcasting Awards. On campus he presented a paper at the annual Willycon conference entitled "The dynamics of Science Fiction on TV: Why it tends to fail on networks while succeeding on cable." He is also chairing a committee for the Air Force auxiliary, the Civil Air Patrol, producing new public relations guidance for members.

**Max McElwain** (Communication Arts) conducted book signings for his recent book, *The Only Dance in Iowa*; was featured on Nebraska Public Radio's "Live From The Mill" broadcast; and hosted the 2005 Golden Leaf Awards.

**Marlene Mueller** (Art and Design) gave a slide presentation of her work at the popular Bemis Slide Jam at the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art (Omaha, Neb.) and had solo exhibits at the Norfolk Art Center and Gallery 72 (Omaha, Neb.). She also had a Sabbatical Show at WSC and exhibited in a competitive show at the Haydon Art Center (Lincoln, Neb.). She continues to serve as a member of the Visual Arts Exhibition Committee at the Norfolk Art Center

**James O'Donnell** (Dean, School of Arts and Humanities) learned in February that a recording by the O'Donnell-McCarthy Trumpet and Organ Duo was featured in a nationwide broadcast of National Public Radio's weekly *Pipe Dreams* radio show. In April he performed as a member of an assembled brass ensemble at Ridgefield First Presbyterian Church in Ridgefield, Conn.

**Jay O'Leary** (Music) continued service as principal oboe with the Sioux City Symphony Orchestra and additionally performed at Buena Vista University, at Briar Cliff University, the Cathedral of the Epiphany, and with the Sioux City Municipal Band. He also attended the Chicago Mid-West International Band and Orchestra Clinic.

**Gretchen Ronnow** (Language and Literature) presented papers at the ACA/PCA Conference (San Diego, Calif.); participated in a Willa Cather teleconference; and attended the "Leaves of Grass" Walt Whitman Interna-

tional Conference (Lincoln, Neb.), the Nebraska Conference on Russian Frontiersman History (Lexington, Neb.), and the Conference on Undergraduate Education and Research at the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

**Catherine Rudin** (Language and Literature) published a book chapter co-authored with Steven Franks in *Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics* (Michigan Slavic Publications), a book chapter co-authored with Kathleen Shea in the *Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics* (Elsevier Publishers), and a review in the *Journal of Linguistics*. She presented papers at the National Slavics Association annual meeting (Washington, D.C.) and the Siouan and Caddoan Languages Conference (Ponca City, Okla.); and attended meetings of the Linguistic Society of America, the American Dialect Society, and the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas.

**Lisa Sandlin** (Language and Literature) published a short story entitled "Fairlane" in *New Texas*, and an essay entitled "Be All Right" in the *Writing on the Wind* anthology. In addition her 2004 book *In the River Province* was selected as a finalist for the "Best Book of Fiction" award by the Texas Institute of Letters. She also served as a panelist at the Associated Writing Programs convention in Austin, Texas, did readings at Briar Cliff University and the Norfolk Arts Center, and served as a judge of the *Kay Cattarulla Short Story Award* for the Texas Institute of Letters.

**Janet Schmitz** (Language and Literature) led a study trip with students to Northern France, presented a paper on Mona Neihardt at the Neihardt State Historic Site (Bancroft, Neb), and attended annual meetings of the Nebraska International Language Association and the Nebraska chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French.

**William Slaymaker** (Language and Literature) presented papers at the African Literature Association Conference (Boulder, Colo.), the International Philosophy Conference (Helsinki, Finland), and the Modern Language Association Meeting (Washington, D.C.).

**Deborah Whitt** (Chair, Communication Arts) presented papers at the National Communication Association Conference (Boston, Mass.), the Central States Communication Conference, and the Midwest Consortium for Service Learning in Higher Education. She also attended the National Education Association "Dimensions of Diversity" Conference (San Antonio, Texas), and continued service as an Executive Board Member of the Nebraska Speech Communication and Theatre Association.

**Ronald Whitt** (Communication Arts) presented a paper at the University of Thessaly (Volos, Greece), where he was also a member of a WSC delegation charged to explore a new collaborative student and faculty exchange program.

# Alumni News

**Chad Bring** (Communication Arts, 2000) recently authored a novel entitled "Left Standing." The novel is available at online bookstores including amazon.com, Borders, and Barnes & Noble.

**Brad Evert** (Broadcast Communication, 1998) recently had a film selected for a public screening at the Stockstock film festival in Seattle, Wash.

**Stacy Schumake-Henn** (English Education, 1995) reports that she is teaching English, speech, and journalism (and coaching volleyball) at Boone Central Schools in Albion, and with spouse Marty Henn reports the birth of son, Blake Joseph Henn.

**Jennifer Gaesser** (Music Education, 2005) is teaching elementary general music and Grade 6-8 choir at Winterset School District (Iowa), where she is also teaching some woodwind lessons with band students as well.

**Chris Rosenbaum** (Theatre, 2001) continues designing sets for the Home Shopping Network, and reports his Halloween set this year was 100% built by him, as well.

**Jim Reese** (English, 1996) has accepted an assistant professorship at Mount Marty College (Yankton, S.D.), beginning in the fall of 2006.

## Danielson Recipient of Alumni Award

Wayne State College English alumna Dr. Lana Danielson was named one of four Outstanding Alumni for the 2005-06 year at a special Award Banquet held on September 30, during the annual WSC Homecoming activities, where she was presented the award by James O'Donnell, dean of the School of Arts and Humanities.



*Lana Danielson*

Danielson graduated from WSC in 1972 with a major in English and a minor in home economics. She began her teaching career in Columbus, Neb., where she taught high school English for 15 years. She was named Columbus Distinguished Educator in 1985 and was a Nebraska Teacher of the Year finalist in 1986. She then attended The University of Iowa from 1987-1992 where she received a master's degree in curriculum in 1988 and a Ph.D. in English education with emphases in composition and reading in 1992. She received the University of Iowa Council on Teaching Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award in 1989 and 1991.

Danielson was a faculty member at the University of South Dakota from 1992-2002, where she received the Belbas-Larson Excellence in Teaching Award in 1997. In 2002 she became a faculty member at the University of Nebraska-Omaha and currently serves as Chair of Teacher Education and where she most recently received the Hollie Bethel Professorship in Education in 2005. In addition to her many awards, Danielson has also published over two dozen scholarly articles, and made over 60 conference presentations.

### Alumni -

*We Would Like to Hear From You!*

You can now e-mail your recent news and activities to:

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