

Humanities Happenings

A Newsletter of the Division of Humanities

M
MORNINGSIDE
C O L L E G E

ENGLISH—FOREIGN LANGUAGES/ESL—HISTORY/POLITICAL SCIENCE
INDIAN STUDIES—PHILOSOPHY—RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Sioux City, Iowa

Vol. 3, No. 1 (1988)

ENGLISH

Professor Robert Conley continues to write novels at an extraordinary rate. *The Actor* was published by Doubleday as part of their Double D Western series and his novel *Wilder and Wilder* has been sold to Crown Publishers. In order to pursue his interest in writing, Mr. Conley has been granted a two-year leave of absence for 1988-1990.

Dr. Marty Knepper, Chair of the English Department, has been busy traveling to Mapleton, Iowa, to talk about mystery and detective fiction as part of the "Let's Talk About It" series sponsored by the Iowa Humanities Board. Dr. Knepper continued her interest in mystery/detective fiction when she organized a panel on the topic at the 1988 Popular Culture Association meeting in New Orleans. She also presented a paper on Dorothy L. Sayers for the 1988 University of South Dakota Women's Research Conference. Knepper and Dr. John Lawrence will team-teach a May Interim seminar on American popular culture from 1957-1987.



Kim Johnson and Melissa Hill present a session on "Coca Cola" to the American Popular Culture class.

Dr. Ed Mazeika has been awarded a sabbatical in the spring of 1989 during which time he will research developmental psycholinguistics. He recently taught a new interdisciplinary seminar, "The Self and Its Brain".

Dr. Jan Hodge has been busy chairing the search committee for Robert Conley's two-year replacement. His poem, "Where Can I Go to Have my Child?", was published in *Liberal and Fine Arts Review*. Jan has read his poetry at Dakota Wesleyan, East High School, and Sunnyside grade school. Hodge also appeared at a confer-

ence on the Spanish Civil War at East Lansing, Michigan, and another on Flannery O'Connor at Conception Seminary.

In January the Center for Women and the Iowa Humanities Board sponsored a series of lectures celebrating Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. The series, which followed the Guthrie's production on campus of a new adaptation of *Frankenstein*, featured talks by Dr. Rita Swan, Dr. Ed Shane, and Dr. Marty Knepper from Morningside and Dr. Adam Frisch from Briar Cliff College.

Recent English graduates are continuing their educations at several universities. Paul McCallum ('87) is at the University of Nebraska working on an M.A. program in literature. Julie Stehr ('87) is also in an M.A. program in literature at Kansas State University. Beth Quade ('87) is in the M.A. program in linguistics at the University of Texas-Austin.

Other graduates are pursuing degrees in other disciplines. Shannon Robinson ('86) is in the M.A. program in religion at the University of Chicago. Harvey Flewelling ('87) is in law school at the University of Iowa. Carol Sutton ('87) is in the M.F.A. in theater at the Ohio State University and Kim Ruby Helmick ('87) is at United Seminary in St. Paul.

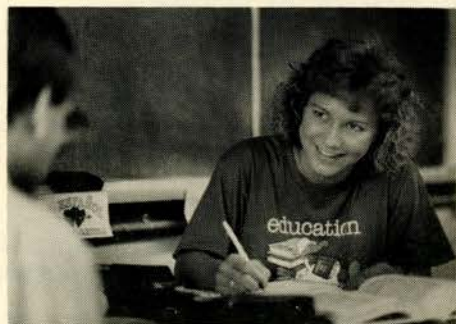
The English Department has also been busy changing its requirements for secondary and elementary teacher certification to meet the new state of Iowa guidelines. Their writing across the curriculum requirement is now in effect and represents hours of consideration on what constitutes good writing.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES/ESL

Dr. John Doohen, Department Chair, served again this year on the national Alpha Mu Gamma scholarship selection committee. He has been active as Chair of the College's Convocation Committee during the last academic year and taught an introductory course in Russian. In the fall the French Department will join the Spanish Department in adopting the "Natural Approach" methodology in beginning and intermediate level courses. Doohen is working on qualifying for oral proficiency testing certification in French after completing an intense training session at the University of Northern Iowa in October.

Dr. Dave McAlpine was appointed to the Governor's Commission on Foreign Languages and International

Education by Governor Terry Branstad. The Commission will meet every-other-month until its report is ready for the Governor. Dave will edit the 1989 edition of the Central States Conference Reports to be published by National Textbook Company in April.



Jodi Dorn, Sioux City, transcribes oral literature to print during a May Interim course on Hispanic Oral Literature.

McAlpine presented a paper on the status of small college language departments at the Central States Conference in Denver and will be presenting a paper at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in Monterey, California, in November. McAlpine received his oral proficiency testing training in Spanish at UNI and received his national certification in April.

Mrs. Carol Ragan completed her M.S.S. degree with emphasis in reading and linguistics at the University of South Dakota in May. Besides teaching courses in English as a Second Language, she is the advisor to the international students and to the International Students Club. In her duties through the office of Student Services she coordinated activities for Commuter Awareness Week.

Dr. McAlpine and Mrs. Ragan will be working together to prepare a summer workshop for graduate credit for teachers of Spanish and ESL who wish to update their methods and language skills.

PHILOSOPHY

Dr. John Lawrence's *American Monomyth* was released in its second edition by University Press in December. He has just completed a sabbatical during which he finished the second edition of *Fair Use and Free Inquiry*. It will be released by Ablex this year. John continues to work intensively on a still unnamed history of the captivity/hostage story in America. In April he chaired a panel on the Indian captivity story at the western Social Sciences Association in Denver. Lawrence plans to give two lectures on that subject at the University of Graz in early June.

Dr. Charles Ess will be leaving Morningside after teaching in the Philosophy Department for a two-year period. Dr. Ess has been busy writing several articles. Among them are "Electronic Scholarship: Programs and Resources", "The Complete Academic Toolbox: Nota Bene 2.0", and "Small is Beautiful: Integrating New Technologies into Traditional Teaching". He has also been active in presentations at Clark College in Dubuque, Iowa, an Iowa Humanities Board presentation in Creston and Sioux City, Iowa, and another Humanities Board presentation at the University of Northern Iowa. We

wish Charlie the best of luck as he moves on to Drury College in Springfield, Missouri!

Dr. Tom Gilbert will be returning to the Morningside campus after a two-year leave of absence. He has been working at the Dornon Psychiatric Hospitals in Houston, Texas. Welcome back to Morningside Dr. Gilbert!

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Dr. Bruce Forbes, Chair of the Religious Studies Department, has spent the last academic year as the Upper Midwest Regional President of the American Academy of Religion. He served as a convener and presenter at their meeting in Minneapolis in April. His paper was entitled "Television and Religion: Deeper Challenges". He continues to serve as a book review editor for the Religious Studies Review, where he is in charge of books pertaining to nineteenth century American religion.

Dr. Steve Plymale, Campus Minister and department member, also presented a paper at the same meeting in Minneapolis. His paper was entitled "Luke's Theology of Prayer". Steve was on sabbatical during the fall semester while he worked on a book on Christian Discipleship. It is about 90% complete and editors are reviewing chapters from the book. He also spent time writing three scholarly articles "Speaking of God", "Prayer as an Act of Recollection", and "The Lucan Lord's Prayer as an Act of Remembrance".



Terri Fischer, Wabasso, MN, presided over the Honors Convocation as President of Omicron Delta Kappa.

Terri Fischer ('88), a double major in Religious Studies and Psychology, has served as president of Omicron Delta Kappa and has been nominated as ODK Leader of the Year. Joel Higgins ('88), a pre-ministerial student, has just completed his second consecutive year as student body president at Morningside. Other former graduates continue their study at institutions around the country. Craig Wansink of Sioux City was ordained in the Presbyterian Church this past summer and is currently on scholarship studying in Germany. He plans to return to the University of Chicago to work on a Ph.D. in New Testament. Crystal Oberheu ('87), a Religious Studies and Spanish major, is attending Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. Garrett will also be the seminary home of Laurie Riley ('87) in September. Kim Ruby Helmick graduated at mid-year and will attend Luther-Northwestern seminary in the fall.

HISTORY/POLITICAL SCIENCE

Dr. Rudy Daniels, professor of history, developed the United States Constitution Bicentennial Celebration through grants from the National Endowment and Iowa Humanities Boards. The evening event included speeches by a law professor and Congressman Grandy, awards to students, a flag ceremony, and choral music. It was an exciting and well-attended event. Dr. Daniels and Dr. Al Sellen, Department Chair, made several presentations on the Constitution's Bicentennial to groups in Sioux City.

The departure of Dr. Gary Koerselman brought personnel and course changes. Ms. Kathleen Green, part-time instructor for several years, became a half-time member of the department and teaches twentieth century America along with the US survey courses. Ms. Green made extensive use of the Iowa caucuses in assignments in US History courses. Students attending their first caucuses found their experiences to be positive while learning about the political system. Both she and Dr. Sellen chaired caucuses on February 8.

Glen Sussman began his second year at Morningside with a new Ph.D. in political science from Washington State University. His persistence and hard work paid off and the department again has all full-time members with a doctorate. Glen has been regularly interviewed on TV in Sioux City during the campaign season. He also revitalized the Young Democrats and Young Republicans and those organizations have participated in the politics of the presidency. Three students have had internships with the staff of a presidential candidate or in Congressman Grandy's office.

Dr. Al Sellen made a slide presentation on Colorado mining history at the Great Northern History Conference in October. He used both pictures he has taken and old photographs from the Denver Public Library and the Colorado Historical Society.

INDIAN STUDIES

The Indian Studies department is offering an interesting interdisciplinary seminar and study tour during the May Interim. "Exploring the Health Care of the Southwest Native American" will enable students to tour the

Navajo reservation, the largest Indian reservation in the United States, in Arizona and visit several pueblos in New Mexico. Seminar content includes historical, cultural, and philosophical aspects of the Navajo and Pueblo, as well as their religion and traditional healing systems. The integration of traditional health care with that of the modern western health care model will be examined. Students will enhance their awareness of Southwest Native Americans, learn and experience the psychological and sociological aspects of cross-culturalism between Native Americans and western culture.

The Indian Studies Department is also enjoying new office and teaching areas located on the third floor of Lewis Hall.

HUMANITIES STUDENTS WIN HONORS

Several Humanities students won departmental and college awards at the spring Honors Convocation. The Montford and Gertrude Knepper Award and the Margaret Coleman Crary Scholarship in English were both awarded to Perry Rasmussen. Terri Fischer was awarded



Cristine Stalzer and Bob Werkmeister receive the First Annual Bodine Prize in Writing.

the Robert Jewett Senior Book Award in Religious Studies and was also announced as the ODK Student Province Leader of the Year. The American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese presented its Medal award for Excellence in Spanish to Lori Ludwig. Patti Besch received the Alliance Francaise for Civilization Award and the Henry Kanthleiner Romance Language Award

Alumni Update

Name _____	Class _____
Address _____	
Undergraduate Major(s) _____	Year _____
Advanced Degrees _____	School _____
Recent Employment _____	
Honors _____	
Activities and items of interest _____	

Clip and mail to Dr. Dave McAlpine, Chair, Division of Humanities, Morningside College, Sioux City, IA 51106

went to Steve Blenderman. Philosophy awards were given to Mike Thornsberry, the Socratic Prize, and Bob Werkmeister and Christine Stalzer, the first annual Bodine Prize in Writing.

Omicron Delta Kappa, the College's National Service Honorary, initiated several Humanities students among its seventeen new members. They are: Marla Geary, History/Political Science, Hinton, Iowa; Christopher Rants, History/Political Science, Sioux City; Lanette Pollock, Religious Studies, Denison, Iowa; and Dr. Dave McAlpine, Associate Professor of Foreign Languages and Chair of the Division of Humanities.

DIVISIONAL DOODLES

This is the third year for the production of *Humanities Happenings* and, as you can see, we have a new look! Previously, the newsletter was designed and run on a dot matrix computer. Our new appearance brings us typeset quality and the addition of photographs. We hope you like the improvement!

We would very much like to feature more articles or information about alumni of our division. Would you please take time to fill out the Alumni Update elsewhere in this issue. Your accomplishments make us proud and we want to share them with others.

Last August I was asked to present a capsule view of the Humanities Division to a large segment of the College's employees. To prepare for that talk, I spent some time looking up information about the Division and its staff. I think you'll agree with me that the strength of the Division lies in its people, the faculty. Here are some impressive facts:

- 13 of 15 members of the Division hold doctorate degrees for 87%
- 9 have had experience traveling, teaching, or living abroad
- 77 scholarly presentations have been given recently by members
- 66 published articles have been produced by the Division faculty

- 20 books have been written by Division members
- Since the program began in 1960, of the 26 faculty members chosen to receive the Faculty Member of the Year Award, 14 have come from the Humanities Division or 54%
- The Division has had 3 recipients of prestigious NEH grants

Leaders in education, the professions, and business agree on the value of a degree in the Humanities as preparation for satisfying and effective service in many professions. The Division aims to give a rich cultural background and to awaken the intellectual and spiritual powers of individuals so that they may bring to their lives intelligence, resourcefulness, judgment, character, and sympathetic understanding of human problems. We hope this describes you and that your experience here better prepared you for life!

Until next time...

Dr. Dave McAlpine
Chair, Division of Humanities



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*Dr. Knepper
English*