



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wichita State fills three endowed professorships

Wichita State University has named three distinguished scholars to hold endowed professorships in the College of Engineering, College of Health Professions and Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the WSU Foundation has announced.

The professorships were established through the generous contributions of friends and supporters of Wichita State. Endowed professorships are one of the highest academic honors a university can bestow on a faculty member. They are considered crucial to a university's ability to recruit and retain the highest-quality faculty.

Susan G. Sterrett was appointed to the Curtis D. Gridley Professorship in the History and Philosophy of Science in WSU's Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Sterrett's fields of research are philosophy of science, philosophy of mind and philosophy of artificial intelligence. She teaches courses on philosophy of science and has developed and taught courses on issues concerning energy and the environment.

She has taught at Duke University, Carnegie-Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh. Sterrett received her bachelor's degree in engineering science from Cornell University, master's degrees in mathematics and philosophy from the University of Pittsburgh and a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Pittsburgh.

"I'm really happy about holding this endowed professorship," Sterrett said. "It's an amazing opportunity. Among other things, I expect to extend my philosophical work on models in science, probably next to issues in ecology, the earth sciences, energy and the environment."

The Curtis D. Gridley Professorship in the History and Philosophy of Science was established by Curt Gridley, and his wife, Tracy Hoover. Gridley is a 1980 graduate of Wichita State University with degrees in philosophy and mathematics.

"Tracy and I are excited to have Dr. Sterrett named to our endowed professorship," Gridley said. "Her multidisciplinary background, spanning engineering, mathematics and philosophy, uniquely enables her to pursue fresh insights into traditional fields of study.

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We are equally excited that she has a strong desire to connect her research and teaching to the greater Wichita community.”

Michael Papadakis has been appointed as the H. Russell Bomhoff Endowed Professor of Engineering. Papadakis, a long-time professor of aerospace engineering at Wichita State, was selected because of his exemplary research and scholarly achievements.

Papadakis received his bachelor's degree and master's degree in aeronautical engineering from Loughborough University in the United Kingdom. He earned his doctoral degree in aeronautical engineering at Wichita State in 1986. He has worked in the aerospace department of WSU's College of Engineering since then.

Papadakis is the director of the Aircraft Icing Lab at Wichita State. The Aircraft Icing Lab works closely with local aviation companies in providing expertise and research skills in the field of icing and ice protection system engineering. His research interests include aircraft icing, computational fluid dynamics, computational aeroacoustics and experimental aerodynamics.

The H. Russell Bomhoff Endowed Professor of Engineering was established by H. Russell Bomhoff and his wife, Ilene. Bomhoff is a lifelong Kansan who founded Precision Pattern Inc., which became one of the leading suppliers of high-quality aircraft furnishings.

Barbara Morrison was appointed to the Janice M. Riordan Endowed Professorship in Maternal Child Health in the School of Nursing, WSU College of Health Professions. Her areas of expertise are breastfeeding, human lactation, and endocrinology and neural development for mothers and newborns. She is internationally known for her research on the concept of kangaroo care, or the skin-to-skin contact between newborn children and their parents. Kangaroo care strengthens the bond between parent and child, helps facilitate breastfeeding and encourages forebrain and social development in infants.

Morrison received her doctorate in maternal and child nursing/nurse midwifery from the University of Illinois-Chicago. She previously taught at the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University and at the Ursuline College Breen School of Nursing in Pepper Pike, Ohio.

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“We were pleased to be able to recruit a nationally recognized nurse for this professorship,” said Betty Smith-Campbell, chair of the WSU School of Nursing. “Dr. Morrison is a passionate educator whose research on breastfeeding and kangaroo care is nationally recognized.”

The endowed professorship was established by an anonymous donor to honor Janice Riordan, a WSU professor of nursing who also was a noted author, lecturer, researcher and consultant on breastfeeding and lactation management. It was created to focus on breastfeeding education and research in the WSU School of Nursing and to fund clinical research that will help mothers with breastfeeding challenges.

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Media note: Photos of Sterrett, Papadakis and Morrison can be found at www.wichita.edu/foundationphotos.

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