

## WSU'S GYTHIEL HAS BECOME A TOP THEOLOGICAL SCHOLAR

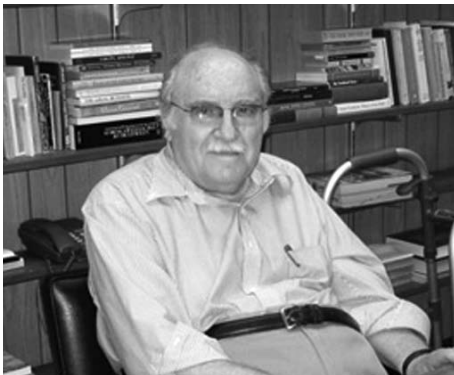


There are many words used to describe **Anthony Gythiel**: scholar, teacher, mentor. And by all accounts, it seems Gythiel has earned each title.

Gythiel is a professor of history at Wichita State, where he has taught since 1971. He started in the English department, but was courted by the history department in 1992, in part because of his background in medieval studies and theology.

Gythiel's knack for history also had a bit to do with his own past. Growing up in Belgium during World War II, Gythiel saw and experienced things few people he knows today have dealt with.

In 1940, his mother was killed during the Nazi bombardment of Belgium. One of six children, and only 10 years old, Gythiel was left to help pick up the pieces and start over. "We helped each other and survived," he said.



After the war, Gythiel stayed in Belgium and eventually went to college. He received a bachelor's in philosophy in 1953 and a master's in theology in 1958. It was then that Gythiel decided to become a Catholic priest, and he was subsequently sent to work as a missionary in Zaire.

In 1963, Gythiel decided to leave Zaire, which was in the middle of a revolution. After losing everything he had there, Gythiel once again found himself starting over.

Although Gythiel went through many hardships in his young life, he said they helped make him what he is today.

"They made me more intimately aware of evil in the world," he said.

That, he said, is something he hopes he won't see repeated again in his lifetime.

After Zaire, Gythiel came to America, where he had received a scholarship to attend the University of Detroit. From 1966-1971, he earned a master's in English and a Ph.D. in medieval studies.

He then landed in Wichita, a city he said slowly grew on him, and became an assistant professor at WSU. During his early years at Wichita State, Gythiel worked with what he calls great teachers who inspired him to be better.

"I said to myself, 'I want to imitate them and be a good teacher,'" he said.

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Gythiel has since won three teaching awards, including the John R. Barrier Distinguished Teaching Award from the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 1993. He was the first person to win the award.

Aside from teaching, Gythiel has dedicated his career to translating historical theology works by world-renowned scholars. So far he has translated 10 works and is in the middle of his eleventh.

For his efforts, Gythiel was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree by the trustees and faculty of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary in Crestwood, NY, in May.

**Keith Pickus**, associate provost at WSU, said the painstakingly detailed work involved in the translations requires phenomenal linguistic skills and an immense knowledge of history.

He calls Gythiel's work a great contribution to the English-speaking Orthodox world and says he has established himself as a pre-eminent theological scholar.

"I discovered (years ago) that God had given me the great gift of language, but I had never used it," said Gythiel, who is fluent in five languages and has studied 13, including some that are no longer spoken.



**KEITH PICKUS, ASSOCIATE PROVOST**

"So I decided to do that in His honor."

At 77, Gythiel is in phased retirement at WSU and plans to stay another two years. He still teaches half-time and said he'll continue to translate works for as long as he can.

Once retired, Gythiel plans to relax with his wife, Dana, and stay in Wichita.

Pickus said he has been blessed to be friends and colleagues with Gythiel and is constantly impressed with his contributions to Wichita State.

"He is a wonderful human being and a highly accomplished scholar," Pickus said. "He is a real Renaissance man—a true scholar's scholar."

— written by *Lainie Rusco*



**ANTHONY GYTHIEL, CENTER, IS SURROUNDED BY ACADEMIC, CATHEDRAL AND SEMINARY REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE ACADEMIC CONVOCATION AWARDING HIM THE HONORARY DOCTOR OF DIVINITY DEGREE FROM ST. VLADIMIR'S ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, CRESTWOOD, N.Y. THE CONVOCATION TOOK PLACE MAY 21, 2008, AT ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL, WICHITA. PHOTO BY ZE BERNARDINELLO.**

# WSU FIELD STATION RIPE WITH RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

As the Ninnescah River gently rolls past WSU researchers' survey areas and vegetation plots, fundraising and planning for the Ninnescah Field Station and Experimental Tract are under way.

In early 2007, **Don Distler, Chris Rogers, Leland Russell, Mark Schneegurt** and **Art Youngman**, all faculty in biological sciences, learned the National Science Foundation approved their grant application to build a research and classroom center at the field station.

The 3,000-square-foot building should be completed and research functional by September 2009, according to **Sharon Miles**, senior development director for the WSU Foundation. The center will include a library and seminar room, wet and dry research labs, classrooms, a storm shelter and two offices. The center will serve three parcels of land totaling 510 acres: the 330-acre central tract, a 20-acre site nearby and the recently acquired 160-acre site near Waterloo in Kingman County.

## RESEARCH AND OUTREACH WILL EXPAND

The creation of such a center will support and broaden the research and education outreach scientists have desired to undertake.

"There is a research community of five or six professors plus graduate students doing research out there now," says Russell. "I see that number expanding as we have a facility and resources that can attract more people externally. We may eventually be able to offer a slate of summer courses on site."

Ideally, Russell envisions faculty and students from regional institutions engaging in long-term research projects and creating an intellectually stimulating environment of ecologists and evolutionary biologists. There are many reasons why individuals outside of WSU might want to use the facility.

Teaching opportunities nears the top of the lists of strengths. Although WSU is the primary user of the station, Friends and Newman universities, as well as local school districts, have used it for classes, long-term research and field experiences. This educational aspect was highly regarded by the NSF committee that reviewed the grant application.

"Don Distler and Art Youngman have provided a successful outreach mission for a long time now," says Russell. "Activities at the field station provide opportunities for kids from urban settings to experience nature."

Each of the six Regents institutions in Kansas has a field station, but Wichita State's is unique because of its location. This will attract scientists with specific research needs, Russell says.

"In the context of the other field stations, we provide a climactically and biologically valuable data point. Biologically we're different," he says. "Kansas, like some other Great Plains states, has really neat opportunities for ecological research because there is such a strong climactic gradient from east to west. We're considerably drier than KU's field station and probably somewhat drier than Konza, Kansas State's property. We're centrally located so we have dry and wet areas on the site."



**CHRIS ROGERS IS THE RESEARCH COORDINATOR FOR WSU'S FIELD STATION.**  
*PHOTO BY SHARON MILES.*

In addition to the climactic features, the soil types will appeal to scientists.

"One of the great things about the Ninnescah tract is the soil diversity: sand, clay, loam and shale areas provide contrast for ecological research," Russell says. "That the field station has sandy areas means that we have some of the more dry conditions under which there are university field stations in Kansas. If you are going to be looking at things along the precipitation gradients, having research points not only in the moist areas but also the dry areas is critical."

Another strength, he says, are the aquatic resources.

"Don has done so much work with restoring wetlands, plus we have the river, two creeks that come in and join on the station, and a diversity of ponds. The Waterloo tract includes Smoots Creek and seasonal areas, and the 20-acre tract has considerable frontage on the Ninnescah River."

Another feature researchers will appreciate is the field station's mission. Such properties are

# EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

an important resource for a university because the mission of the land is research and education rather than agriculture or recreation. It is accessible primarily to researchers.

"The level of confidence one can have increases the probability a project, which may be grant-funded, will be completed," Russell says. "You don't have to worry about people destroying an experimental infrastructure you've put a lot of time into; you don't have to worry as much about having your areas burned or mowed."

Field stations also provide avenues for building long-term data sets. Areas that are supported long-term, says Russell, allow scientists to put their fingers on the pulse of the planet.

"You have a historical context of long-term data sets for interpreting what you see currently. The ability to interpret your experiments and design meaningful experiments is strongly influenced by what you know about the history of the site in the context of the data that already exist."

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT CONTINUES

To reach the \$500,000 needed for a robust facility, the WSU Foundation is raising \$260,000 in community funds in addition to the \$240,000 NSF grant WSU biologists received. As of mid-October, \$435,000—87 percent—of the goal had been raised and several proposals were pending.

"We're continuing our fundraising efforts," says Miles. "We are greatly appreciative of all those who've contributed, including the **K.T. Wiedemann Foundation, Curt Gridley and Tracy Hoover, Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Roy and Pat Beckemeyer, Betty Christian, Betty Homer, Martin Homer and Jo Moore and Pat Butin.**"

In addition to financial support, many volunteers have come forward to assist with projects related to the functioning and productivity of the field station.

**Lowell Wilder**, a well-known local wildlife videographer and retired eye surgeon, plans to create a year-in-the-life video of the field station featuring Distler and some of the research conducted there. **Curt Gridley**, IT specialist and entrepreneur, has strong interest in the possibility of Web cam monitoring of the site.

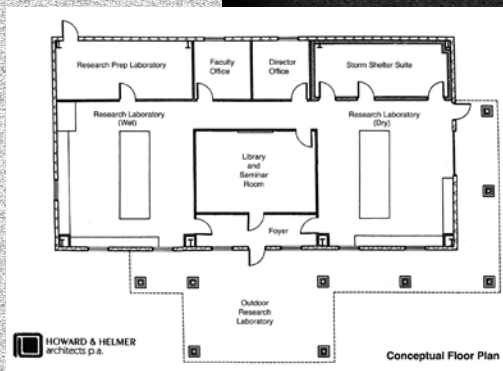
A ground-breaking ceremony in early spring 2009 and an open house the following October are planned. Naming opportunities are still available for the building.



THE NINNESCAH RIVER IS THE MAIN WATER FEATURE OF WSU'S FIELD STATION. PHOTO BY SHARON MILES.

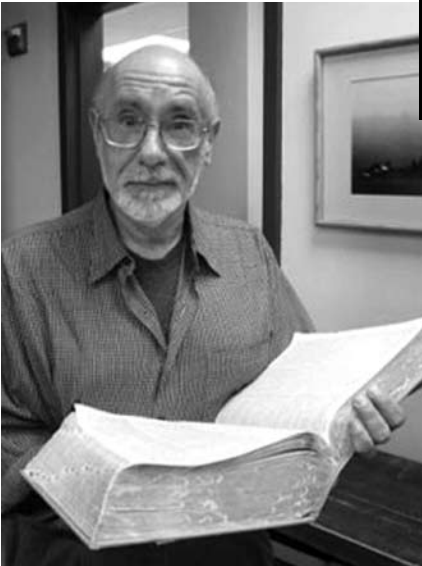
## CURRENT RESEARCH AT THE FIELD STATION

- Investigating the role of plant-herbivore interactions in limiting populations of tall-thistle and weedy plants in general;
- Investigating plant-plant interactions and food chain interactions as they relate to prairie restoration;
- Studying winter fat-storing strategies in wild birds;
- Study of West Nile virus in wild bird populations;
- Researching the life history of dragonflies and robber flies;
- Describing the community and activities of carrion beetles.



THE CENTER FOR THE FIELD STATION WILL INCLUDE LABORATORY AND CLASSROOM SPACE.

If you are interested in financially supporting projects such as the field station or other opportunities involving WSU faculty and students, please contact Sharon Miles, senior development director, at (316) 978-3945 or [sharon.miles@wichita.edu](mailto:sharon.miles@wichita.edu).



## GOLDBARTH RECOGNIZED FOR HUMOROUS POETRY

**Albert Goldbarth**, Adele B. Davis Distinguished Professor in the Humanities-English, is the 2008 recipient of the Poetry Foundation's Mark Twain Poetry Award. The award recognizes Goldbarth for his contribution to humor in American poetry. The \$25,000 prize is given in the belief that humorous poetry can also be seriously good poetry. Goldbarth is the third recipient of the award.

Stephen Young, program director of the Poetry Foundation, says, "It may have been William Blake who urged us 'to see a world in a grain of sand' and 'hold infinity in the palm of [our] hand,' but it is Albert Goldbarth who has stepped in as our lively tour guide on these imaginative adventures. In his marvelously expansive work, the comic and the profound become the kind of friends who glow in one another's company."

Goldbarth is the author of 25 collections of poetry, including "The Kitchen Sink:

New and Selected Poems 1972-2007," five essay collections and a novel. He has twice won the National Book Critics Circle Award in Poetry—in 1991 for "Heaven and Earth" and in 2002 for "Saving Lives"—the only poet to win the award more than once. In 2002, he also won the PEN Center USA Creative Nonfiction Award for his book "Many Circles: New & Selected Essays."

Goldbarth's work has appeared regularly in *Poetry* since 1971, and, in 2005, he received the Frederick Bock prize from the magazine. Graywolf Press will release his newest book, "To Be Read in 500 Years," in May 2009.

Goldbarth joined the WSU faculty in 1987 and has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation. He holds a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Illinois and a master of fine arts degree from the University of Iowa.

## IN MEMORIAM

Peter S. Bartel, 87, assistant professor emeritus of physics, died May 26. A memorial has been established with Lorraine Avenue Mennonite Church, 655 S. Lorraine St., Wichita, KS 67211.

Jeneva Joy Brewer, 82, retired associate professor, mathematics, died Oct. 3. The Jeneva J. Brewer Memorial for the WSU department of mathematics and statistics has been established through the WSU Foundation.

Arthur J. Crowns Jr., 86, retired professor and former chair, administration of justice, died Oct. 13. Memorials may be sent to the Wichita State University Libraries.

James N. Gundersen, 82, professor emeritus of geology, died April 1, in El Paso, Texas. A memorial has been established with the Alzheimer's Association of New Mexico, 101 N. Alameda, Las Cruces, NM 88001.

## FACULTY & STAFF

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**Jim Bann**, chemistry, won the 2008 Kansas IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence Award, which recognizes faculty scholars for excellence in research, teaching and service.

**Elizabeth Behrman**, physics, finished her third year as a Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics Scholar. The world-renowned institute is based at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Seattle Pacific University commissioned **Jeanine Hathaway**, English, to write a poem, "Biopoiesis," for its MFA commencement ceremony.

**Bill Hendry**, biological sciences, recently assumed the position of vice president and president-elect for the Wichita Medical Research and Education Foundation Board of Directors.

The Association for Budgeting and Financial Management named **W. Bartley Hildreth**, Kansas Regents Distinguished Professor of Public Finance, the 2008 recipient of the Aaron Wildavsky Award for lifetime scholarly accomplishments. **Glenn Fisher**, Kansas Regents Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Urban Affairs, received the award in 2006.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius also appointed **Hildreth** to the Transportation-Leveraging Investments in Kansas task force to craft a new strategic transportation approach that positions Kansas for the future.

**Jeffrey May**, biological sciences, joined the Reproduction, Andrology and Gynecology Subcommittee for the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, part of the National Institutes of Health.

**Cheryl Miller**, LAS dean's office, was a national winner in the 2008 National Federation of Press Women communications contest. Miller won third place for "The Birds of Sedgwick County and Cheney Reservoir" in the category of "Book Edited by Entrant." She won a first-place award in the same category in the state affiliate, Kansas Professional Communicators.

**Miller** also was promoted to assistant dean this summer.

**Daniel Russell**, philosophy, is spending the fall semester as a visiting research fellow at the Social Philosophy and Policy Center at Bowling Green State University, Ohio.

**Niall Shanks**, Curtis D. Gridley Distinguished Professor in the History and Philosophy of Science, is president of the Southwestern and Rocky Mountain Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

**Deborah Soles**, philosophy, is president-elect of the WSU faculty senate this academic year. She will preside over the senate in 2009-2010.

## GRADUATE STUDENTS

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**Raghu Chitta**, chemistry, won the 2007-2008 Dora Wallace Hodgson Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award.

**Luke Geddes**, English, has had two stories accepted for publication. "Be Quiet Then" will appear this fall in *Quick Fiction*. "Pet People" will appear in the spring in *REAL: Regarding Arts & Letters*.

**Kyle Little** won the 2008 "New Voice Award" given at the Salina Spring Poetry Reading Series. **Alex Arcone** took second place and **Lindsey Ayres** third. All are in the creative writing program.

**Samuel Ofei-Dodoo**, public affairs, is the 2008 recipient of the Lee Holder Award for Excellence in Graduate Education awarded by the Alpha Eta National Allied Health Honor Society.

Zondervan will publish **Tony Woodlief's** spiritual memoir "Somewhere More Holy" in 2010. Woodlief is in the creative writing program.

**Nathan Law** and **Samuel Ofei-Dodoo**, public affairs, won second place in the banner competition for Wichita State's fall convocation. Advised by **Marché Fleming-Randle** and **Shaunda Jones**, both of the LAS dean's office, the group won \$250.

Twenty-eight master of social work students donated their time to building a house for Habitat for Humanity. The Social Work Organization of Graduate Students organized its members to work at the Habitat Village near 33rd and Broadway in north Wichita. Two social work faculty members and three undergraduate students also volunteered.



WILLIAM D. BISCHOFF

Dear alumni and friends,

Expansion and reorganization of academic programs is an expression of the growth and health of Fairmount College. I am pleased to announce that we have reconfigured the international field major to better address educational needs for students pursuing this program. We continue planning for a Ph.D. program in biological sciences. We will also embark upon accreditation with the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education this year.

As part of our reorganization, the computer science department moved to the College of Engineering this fall. Fairmount College is retaining the 100-level workshops and personal computing courses, and we've reorganized them under the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In these uncertain economic times for Kansas, my priorities are to preserve the academic integrity of our programs and encourage growth of the college. I place my confidence in the competence of our faculty and staff in supporting me in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

William D. Bischoff, dean

## NEW FACULTY & STAFF

Adam Anthony, mathematics  
 Angela Demovic, anthropology  
 Doug English, chemistry  
 Michael Hall, political science  
 Kyle Hardy, mathematics  
 Melanie Haspels, Elliott School of Communication  
 Greg Houseman, chemistry  
 Bill Ingle, mathematics  
 Mary Liz Jameson, biological sciences  
 David Kamerer, Elliott School of Communication  
 Sabina Low, psychology  
 Tianshi Lu, mathematics  
 Gayle Martin, Hugo Wall School of Urban and Public Affairs  
 Holger Myers, physics  
 Rui Ni, psychology  
 Lisa Parcell, Elliott School of Communication  
 Jennifer Pearson, sociology  
 Heather Perkins, Center for Community Research and Support  
 Elizabeth Philson, Center for Community Research and Support  
 Margaret Rabb, English  
 Sandy Sipes, Elliott School of Communication  
 Yelando Wilcoxson, School of Social Work  
 Hyeyoung Woo, sociology  
 Paul Wooley, biological sciences  
 Shang-You Yang, biological sciences

## SELECTED GRANT ACTIVITY

**Deborah Ballard-Reisch**, Elliott School of Communication, is using a \$19,084 grant from the Gridley-Hoover Pilot Research Program for "Promoting Health Independence: Rural Kansas Seniors and Effective Health Promotion."

**Francis D'Souza**, chemistry, received a \$374,867 National Science Foundation grant for the project "Supramolecular Nano Assemblies for Energy and Electronic Transfer."

**Mary Liz Jameson**, biological sciences, is part of a trans-disciplinary team awarded \$1,370,000 by the National Science Foundation for the project "An Extensible Semantic Bridge between Biodiversity and Genomics."

The Fairmount College newsletter is published two times a year. For information, contact Cheryl K. Miller, coordinating editor, (316) 978-6659 or [cheryl.miller@wichita.edu](mailto:cheryl.miller@wichita.edu)

Donald Beggs, president, Wichita State University  
 William Bischoff, dean, Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences  
 Photos: Sharon Miles and Ze Bernardinello

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