



Fairmount College of  
Liberal Arts and Sciences  
Wichita State University  
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*Dean, continued from page 2*

Although the number of students in the college decreased compared to last fall at this time, continuing students are enrolled in more hours and credit hour production has been maintained. We continue to exceed our goal of 75,000 credit hours for the fall semester.

As we continue with the Kansas Board of Regents program review, we will carefully consider the needs of our students and the future of Fairmount College.

I thank you for your support.

**Social work programs receive accreditation**

The national Council on Social Work Education has accredited Wichita State's undergraduate and graduate programs in social work. The master of social work program achieved initial accreditation, and the accreditation of the bachelor of social work program was reaffirmed.

"The site team members were very impressed with the quality of our students, their level of interest in the accreditation process and their commitment to social justice, which is the cornerstone of our curriculum," said **Cathleen Lewandowski**, director of the School of Social Work and assistant professor.

The MSW accreditation is retroactive to include the graduating class of 2000. The BSW program achieved initial accreditation in 1976.

*JASON, continued from page 2*

Moore answered essay questions, summarized her JASON experience and gathered recommendation letters from her teachers in hopes of securing a coveted spot on the expedition team.

When she was notified this summer that she was one of 22 Argonauts — and the first from Kansas — she says she was "really happy. I really wanted to go to the rainforest. It's the sense of going to another country and seeing something that's really different from Kansas."

The Fairmount College newsletter is published two times a year. For information, contact Cheryl K. Miller, coordinating editor, (316) 978-7900 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  
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# Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

A PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

## NEWS

### Uncovering local history



J.R. Mead, Wichita State University  
Department of Special Collections.

James Mead, one of Wichita's founders, left a trail of history in and around Kansas. **Craig Miner**, history, and **Don Blakeslee**, anthropology, are unraveling more of the story.

About twenty years ago Miner was researching documents for his book "Wichita: The Early Years" when he came upon information about one of Mead's trading posts. It was one he opened on the Whitewater River in the spring of 1863 near what is now Towanda. Mead indicated in his memoirs that it had been used as a trading point, trade crossing and camping area for thousands of years. Intrigued, Miner hoped to learn more about the site and considered the possibility of an archaeological dig.

Enter **Schuyler Jones**, adjunct professor, anthropologist, Wichita native and grandson of Mead. Jones had first hand knowledge of the location, having visited it in his youth. His mother, Ignace Jones (Mead's daughter) inherited copious records of Mead's business dealings, ledgers, personal communication, and written impressions of the natural history and native peoples of the area. The Special Collections of Ablah Library and the Sedgwick County Historical Museum hold many of these artifacts today.

"We were in the fortunate position of having contact with someone who had been to the actual site and also having access to authentic documentation, making the project researchable from an historical aspect," said Miner. "Involving the archaeologists in the project was the first step."

**Bill Ard** expressed interest in financing the project and Miner and Blakeslee submitted an acceptable proposal. Blakeslee located and began excavation of the site involving his 2003 summer class of "Introduction to Archaeology" students. So far they've found evidence of the trading post, Mead's ranch, a stagecoach station, church, school and hotel.

"Unfortunately, these buildings were destroyed by a tornado in 1892 and what is left from the trading post consists of materials blown up against a line of trees," said Blakeslee. "Nevertheless, we will continue at the site, focusing on other structures mentioned by Mead in his journals."

"Mead had several trading posts, all within the Osage reservation area," said Miner, noting sites on the Cowskin Creek and near the confluence of the Arkansas Rivers. "Several settlements preceded Wichita, beginning in the 1850s. Studying the trading posts gives us the opportunity to interpret changes in the environment, settlement and Indian trade."

### Faculty Profile



Craig Miner

**Craig Miner**, the Willard W. Garvey Distinguished Professor of Business History and department chair, began teaching at Wichita State in 1969. A prolific writer, he is the author of more than 30 books on regional and Kansas history.

Miner collects rare books and has a passion for sports cars and historic landmarks. He owned a 1965 Alfa Romeo Giulia Spider -Veloce and an early model Porsche 914 but now holds title to a 1958 Mercedes 190SL. He also owns historic Hillside Cottage, the first clubhouse of the Wichita Country Club. It is a National Historic Landmark on the National Register of Historic Places.

Miner earned his bachelor's and master's of arts degrees from Wichita State University and his PhD from the University of Colorado. He is married and has two adult sons.

## DEAN'S MESSAGE



Dear alumni and friends:

I am delighted to share good news on many fronts.

We have continued success with fundraising for the college. We raised \$137,000

through the telephone campaign (above the goal of \$129,000). The Foundation's annual fund drive raised almost \$2.9 million (above the goal of \$1.3 million). Thank you for your generous support!

Our research grant activity is remarkable. During this past academic year, ninety-five proposals were accepted and received combined funding of \$7.86 million.



L to R: George Bousfield, biological sciences, David McDonald, chair, biological sciences, Michael VanStipdonk, chemistry, Dennis Burns, chair, chemistry, and Bill Bischoff, dean.

The Kansas Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network recognized **George Bousfield**, biological sciences, and **Mike VanStipdonk**, chemistry, as Faculty Scholars. The National Institutes of Health funds K-BRIN for the purpose of strengthening biomedical research and training researchers in Kansas.

Our graduate programs continue to evolve. The PhD program in human factors psychology received certification from the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society. (The 50th doctorate degree in psychology will be awarded at the December commencement ceremony). The master of arts in liberal studies degree is being reorganized to better meet student needs, and the physics, geology, and environmental science faculty are working together to create an interdisciplinary program for the master of science degree.

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## Asmat public opening planned



Several drums are part of the Asmat collection. The handle of the center drum in this photo is crafted in the likeness of a man.

More than two years after its arrival at Wichita State, a selection from the Downing Collection of Asmat Art soon will be on exhibition.

The Lowell D. Holmes Anthropology Museum and the Ulrich Art Museum will hold jointly the public opening and reception at 6 p.m., Friday, April 23, 2004. The Holmes exhibition will present cultural artifacts within a cultural context, whereas the Ulrich exhibition will emphasize the artistic achievements of the Asmat. **Jerry Martin**, director of the Holmes Museum, and **Patti Seery**, Asmat expert, are co-curators for the Holmes exhibition.

Students under **Martin's** supervision will reconstruct a man's house used for a mask ceremony and another house for the household activities and goods of the Asmat women. The exhibition will include video of the Asmat people and photographs taken by the expedition team members.

"Visitors will get a feel for the daily life of the Asmat and how they live," said Martin.

The Asmat exhibition selections are part of a Wichita State collection of approximately 1100 pieces valued in excess of one million dollars. The collection, one of three large holdings in the United States, will be the basis for research, comparative studies and publications. Asmat art is highly sought after and renowned for its beautiful carving, spectacular artistry and grand scale.

**Paula and Barry Downing**, expedition benefactors, and **Donald and Shirley Beggs** will host the opening and reception. A shuttle will carry patrons between the two museums. The exhibitions will be on display for several months. "Spirit Journeys: Ritual and Art Among the Asmat" may be viewed through August 2004 at the Holmes Museum. "Spirit Journeys: Art of the Asmat" will be exhibited at the Ulrich Museum through August 1, 2004.

## Local Wichita student chosen for JASON Project expedition



By Amy Geizerler-Jones

Audacia Moore, an eighth-grader at Stucky Middle School in Wichita, has been chosen from thousands of students worldwide to join an elite team of researchers on a JASON Project expedition to Panama.

The JASON Project, a hands-on interactive science education program founded by prolific deep-sea explorer Robert Ballard, is offered to Kansas schoolchildren through WSU's Fairmount Center for Science and Mathematics Education.

Moore is one of 22 students, called Argonauts, who will travel to Panama in January as part of JASON XV: Rainforests at the Crossroads. Moore will accompany top-notch scientists and teachers on the expedition team as they explore Panama's tropical rainforest ecosystems, its geological and human history and its regional culture to examine the various technologies and techniques used in real scientific research.

Students around the world "join" the expeditions through satellite broadcasts at various JASON Project sponsoring sites.

Watching such a broadcast is what inspired Moore to apply to become an Argonaut. She had come to WSU's campus last year with her fellow seventh-graders from Coleman Middle School to see the expedition broadcast from the Channel Islands.

"I just wanted to be where they were at," she says. "It looked like they were having fun and I thought 'that's not fair.'"

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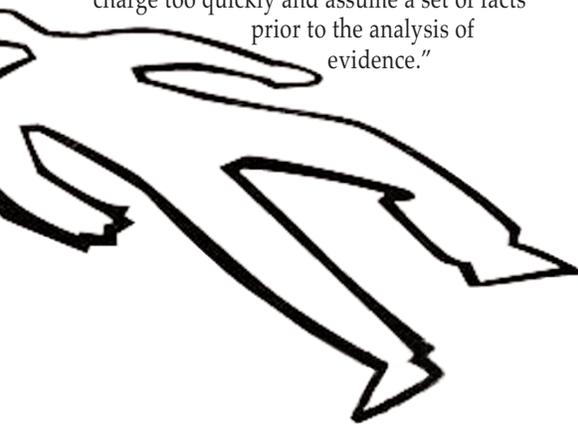
## The “killer” is

Students in **Brian Withrow’s** CJ 517, Homicide Investigation class solved the “murder” of Dean Bischoff during the spring 2003 semester. Students in Withrow’s class played the roles of investigators, media corps, trial lawyers, judge and jury.

“James Schmidt,” a WSU Physical Plant employee, changed a light in Bischoff’s office shortly after he completed individual afternoon meetings with two upset men. Schmidt accidentally dropped a tool on the dean’s head. Bischoff said he was fine and Schmidt left the office. A staff member found Bischoff “dead” at his desk the next morning.

Investigators charged Schmidt with negligent homicide. They lost much of the evidence they collected at the scene and did not properly document and store the remaining items. During the trial, the recently graduated coroner and an experienced independent forensic scientist (hired by the defense) disagreed on the cause of death. The jury “acquitted” Schmidt.

“I think the students learned the importance of documentation and follow-up,” said Withrow. “More importantly, they learned investigators must approach cases with open minds. In doing so they resist the urge to charge too quickly and assume a set of facts prior to the analysis of evidence.”



### NEW FACULTY

**Maria Akrabova**, assistant professor, MCLL

**Li Jia**, research assistant professor, biological sciences

**Joanne Levine**, assistant professor, sociology

**Jodie Hertzog**, assistant professor, social work

**Curtis Proctor**, assistant professor, social work

## Spencer retires



LaVona Spencer

After 32 years of working with students with undeclared majors, **LaVona Spencer** has retired.

The daughter and mother of teachers, Spencer intends to

continue the “family business” in retirement. She will move to Florida to live with her daughter Kirsten and teach courses on career exploration, women’s issues and African-American history.

### STUDENT ACCOLADES

**Michele Battiste**, English graduate student, is the author of “A Delicate Toxicity” which appears in the August/September issue of *The Pedestal*, at [www.thepedestalmagazine.com](http://www.thepedestalmagazine.com).

**Amber Harrison**, anthropology graduate student, is researching human variation in the morphology of the bony pelvis. She completed a summer internship with the Smithsonian Institution where she examined hundreds of skeletal remains.

Two political science students benefited from the Washington/Topeka Internship Program this past academic year. The program, initiated by professor **Mel Kahn**, sponsors students for a semester to gain practical experience in public and quasi-public agencies. **Chris Frank** (Kansas House of Representatives Majority Leader’s Office) and **Brea McCorkle** (Executive Office of the President) participated in the program.

**Laurice Miller**, biological sciences, is conducting research, “Examining clinical isolates of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureas and Methicillin-Sensitive Staphylococcus aureas strains to determine their MICs to benzalkonium chloride,” and **Dan Tran**, biological sciences, is undertaking a project, “Measuring the effects of endocrine disrupters on ovarian senescence.” Both are recipients of grants from the Kansas Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network.

### FACULTY ACCOLADES

**Pedro Bravo-Elizondo**, MCLL, used a summer grant to research “Oral History in the Nitrate Era in Chile.” He writes a weekly column on this subject in *Estrella de Iquique*, a daily newspaper in Iquique, Chile.

**Gary Toops**, MCLL, received a Fulbright-Hays grant from the American Council of Teachers of Russian to participate in the six-week Summer Russian Language Teachers Program at Moscow State University.

**Lynne McCraw Schall**, public affairs associate, and **Maggie Flanders**, graduate assistant, Hugo Wall School of Urban and Public Affairs, conducted research on governance and leadership development in nonprofit agencies and developed a “game plan” for use in recruiting leadership for governing boards.

**Jeffrey May**, biological sciences, received a two year \$146,000 National Institutes of Health grant for “Neonatal Endocrine Disruption and Ovarian Senescence,” to research the impact of fetal/neonatal exposure to environmental chemicals and the effect upon premature reproductive failure. **Bill Hendry** is the co-investigator.

**Dennis Burns**, **William Groutas**, and **Michael VanStipdonk**, chemistry, are among 100 researchers at four universities in the region who will participate in a planning grant for a future Regional Center of Excellence in Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research. The National Institutes of Health grant will focus also on areas important to strengthening the infrastructure that will respond to bioterrorism threats and infectious diseases.

**Susan Huxman** is the new interim director of the Elliott School of Communication and **Les Anderson** is the associate director. **Patricia Dooley** is the new director of the Graduate Studies, Master of Arts in Communication Program.