

FAIRMOUNT COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

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MATSON RECOGNIZED FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

One can feel **Ron Matson's** warmth and energy before class begins. He greets students with a broad smile and words of recognition in his sonorous baritone voice.

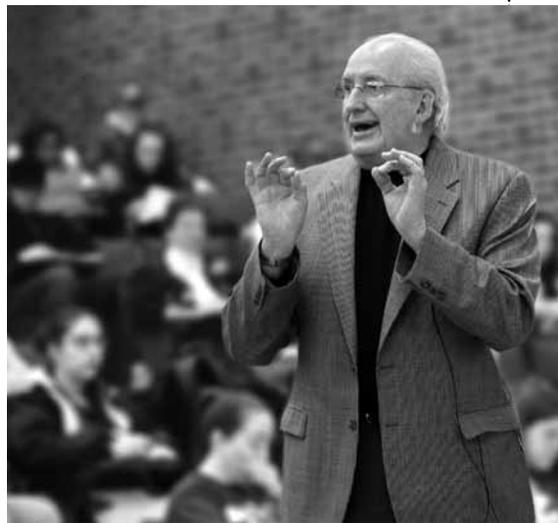
Through the years, Matson, an associate professor of sociology and department chair, has honed his teaching technique to be engaging and effective with classroom sizes of more than 200 students. Such an enrollment load is usual for his introductory class, Sociology 111. However, his students don't seem to notice the size because of his connections with them.

"In most large classes, the professors talk at students," said **Kristen Rains**, a sophomore studying early childhood education. "I feel he's genuinely interested in this subject and is involved with us."

Her classmate **Curtis Fischer**, a sophomore majoring in political science, agreed. "His enthusiasm echoes how good of a teacher he is."

Recently Matson was presented with the Kansas Professor of the Year Award. Given by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement of Support of Education, it is the only nationally competitive award to recognize excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring. A recipient of several awards for his teaching skills and abilities, perhaps this is the most meaningful recognition of all for him.

"It's very affirming, very humbling. It's scary because it makes me want to be better than I am and it encourages me to stretch beyond limits of comfort," Matson said of the award. "It makes me feel lucky to do what I love to



do every day and then have my students and colleagues honor me for it. What could be better than that?"

At a recent meeting of his introductory class, Matson paced and gesticulated energetically at the front of 208 Hubbard Hall, a tiered lecture room with 481 seats. In the span of 75 minutes, he asked for feedback on a recent exam (was it fair?), answered questions about finding grades on the online course management system (BlackBoard), and touched on several unrelated but sensitive sociological issues within the general topic of groups: skin color within the African-American community, sex addiction, bureaucratic structure, workplace relationships and deception on the Internet. He spoke of his wife, Linda, and of colleagues on campus.

Students throughout the lecture hall locked eyes on Matson, asked questions and took notes.

"He gives us lively examples to illustrate his lectures," said **Kristyn Opat**, a freshman

- continued inside

majoring in criminal justice. "He tells personal stories which allow us to know him and the subject."

Matson has reached thousands of students and influenced many educators through his teaching. It wasn't part of his life plan, though.

Matson had no early aspirations to become a teacher.

"I was raised in a family of teachers knowing I would never teach," he said. "One of the persons I was closest to was my Aunt Lucy. She was a college professor at a normal school (a teaching college) and also taught fifth grade. I loved her to death and she treated me beyond special, but I was never ever going to be a teacher. I just didn't have any inclination for doing that."

However, things changed when he started his graduate coursework at the University of Colorado Boulder. He held a graduate teaching assistantship and taught six recitation sections each week during his master's program. He also fulfilled a teaching fellowship when he started working on his doctoral dissertation. His desire about teaching shifted.

"I fell in love with the classroom, I fell in love with working with students," said Matson. "I think I learned my favorite metaphor from a student who said, 'You lead us through the class material to an open door, but you won't hold our hand while we go through it.' It's about opening doors."

Because of Matson's ability to teach sensitive subjects such as romantic relationships and men and issues of masculinity, students feel comfortable sharing their ideas and questions in his classroom. Alumnus **Andy Blakemore** wrote one of the letters supporting Matson's nomination as Professor of the Year.

"It takes a masterful teacher to draw students out and help them teach each other, and Dr. Matson is such a teacher. His classes are a safe space to experience deep learning; they are laboratories of social life, and I am fortunate to have been a part of several," wrote Blakemore. "He is simply the best teacher I have ever known, and is well-deserving of praise and recognition for his abilities."

Matson humbly shares the recognition with his students: He embraces peer-to-peer education as part of his teaching philosophy.

"My most memorable moments in the classroom are the learning experiences students provide each other. I don't know that I do that as well as students do for themselves," Matson said.

"I really want to pull students into that mix of educating each other, learning from each other. I think when I do that and do that well, those are the best classroom experiences."

LEARNING OUTSIDE OF THE CLASSROOM

It's not just the in-class experiences Matson's students benefit from. They have participated in projects at prisons and women's crisis shelters, becoming exposed to the broader world and social issues. Matson acknowledges strong university support of these opportunities over the years, which in turn inspired more creativity in his teaching.

"Wichita State University, Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, **Dean Paul Magelli** and several other deans gave me a lot of freedom and support," Matson said. "When you are encouraged to be creative and when someone will support you and give you money for that, it's pretty hard not to appreciate."

His work in the 2000s with the Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center involved a violence prevention project. Male students in his Men and Masculinities class learned about gender issues and mentored young males considered at risk for violence toward women. He and his students also worked with Catholic Charities Harbor House, a domestic violence shelter, on a four-year project focusing on preventing relationship violence among youth. A school violence prevention project, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, led USD 259, Wichita Public Schools, to change the district's sexual harassment policy and create new training programs for teachers, staff and students.

MENTORING COLLEAGUES

Not surprisingly, educators and university colleagues seek Matson to learn from his teaching expertise. **Jennifer Pearson**, Matson's fourth-year tenure-track colleague, looks to him for advice in a variety of situations.

"I value his experience and perspective in all areas of teaching, and I regularly seek his advice in engaging students, dealing with problems in the classroom and making my courses more valuable to students," said Pearson, assistant professor of sociology. "I really couldn't ask for a better mentor."

One of the principles Matson frequently refers to is "Ahimsa," the primary directive of yoga, which means "do no harm."

"Learning is a gift to be given, with great care. My framework for student learning is tied to equality and justice and fairness and respect.

You shouldn't disregard people or be negative because what it does is add garbage to their trip as learners," Matson said. "I'm not opposed to cynicism in personal contexts, but not in the classroom. It squelches the learning. I think we ought to be hopeful and optimistic about the possibility of a better world, as difficult as that might be."

He is dismayed by some colleagues' perception that the quality of teaching decreases as the size of course enrollment increases.

"Teaching is very personal business," he said.

He recommends all teachers read **Parker Palmer's** seminal book, "The Courage to Teach."

"Every day is a new day and every classroom is a new classroom," Matson said, paraphrasing Palmer. "You're only as good as your last lecture."

He also believes that faculty should follow what **Friedrich Nietzsche** recommended: Do the necessary archaeology to know who you are. Know your strengths and your limitations. As **Karl Marx** proposed in his philosophy of work, Matson also recommends all teachers take their essence, the best of what is inside of them, and put it into their work.

"Everything you touch has your name on it, so do it well and do it with quality," Matson said. "Fully invest yourself knowing that every breath is part of your legacy."

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: RON MATSON

Ron Matson approaches his work a little differently from many people.

"I like change and I like newness. I've got to have some freedom," he said. "Teaching is very spontaneous, not highly scripted. I don't want it to be cut and dried and predictable."

It is partly his love for change that led him from studying juvenile delinquents and criminology to understanding relationships.

"In my own personal search for fairness and justice around gender issues, I decided to develop courses that had to do with gender, men and masculinity and the effect of gender on intimate relationships," said Matson. "If good relationships can buoy the spirit and make a better world, imagine the destructiveness of poor relationships and violent relationships. When you learn to stop the pain in relationships, the growth, the energy and the positives can just multiply."

It is through teaching that he hopes to have a positive impact on the world.

"Teaching is my modus operandi for changing the world. Teaching is my bully pulpit," Matson said.

He is married to **Linda Matson**, who mentors athletes for WSU's Intercollegiate Athletic Association. A new chapter in their lives begins July 1, when Matson starts his two-year term as interim dean of Fairmount College. When not working on the WSU campus or cheering on student athletes, they enjoy reading, gardening, cooking, traveling and learning. They have four grown children and eight grandchildren.

Matson earned his bachelor of arts degree in sociology with minors in psychology and philosophy from the University of South Dakota. He enrolled at the University of Colorado Boulder and pursued a master of arts in sociology (focusing on corrections) and a doctorate in public sociology (studying juvenile delinquents and criminology). He began teaching at Wichita State in 1970.



LINDA & RON MATSON

MATSON'S MAXIMS ON TEACHING

- Teaching is very personal business.
- Teaching is composed of two essential ingredients: content and process.
 - Content is the material we transmit and interpret to our students.
 - Process is the actual presentation itself, the dynamism and feeling of the presentation.
- The art of teaching is balancing content with process.
- When in doubt, error on the side of content.
- Great teachers don't just give lectures, great teachers become the lecture.
- Each of us will be the best teacher we can be when we are able to be our "self" in front of a class. "To thine own self be true."
- Teaching is dialogue.
- Teaching is spontaneous and fun. It is a place where all who participate can have fun.
- Learning is a gift, something to be given with care.
- Ahimsa, the first principle of yoga life, is "do no harm."

BISCHOFF TO STEP DOWN AS DEAN

When it comes to college leadership, five years is the average length of service for deans. **William D. Bischoff** has surpassed this, serving Fairmount College 10 years as dean and one year as interim dean. While his length of service is impressive, he will be remembered most for his many special qualities.

"Bill has provided stable, trusted leadership for his entire tenure as dean of Fairmount College," said **Keith Pickus**, interim provost and former associate dean for Fairmount. "He cultivated extremely positive relations with faculty and staff and he exercised his authority in a judicious manner that helped nurture faculty and student excellence."

Bischoff is now ready to return to the classroom full-time. He is stepping down as dean of Fairmount College on June 30.

ADVANCING THE COLLEGE

During Bischoff's 11 years of leadership, many positive things took place in the college. While looking back, he recalls two successes proudly: the addition of the faculty of distinction program and the development of the WSU Biological Field Station.

"Not only do these accomplishments benefit faculty, but also students," Bischoff said.

While dean, he oversaw the development of six distinguished professorships for the college, and procured the award of two university-wide distinguished professorships to Fairmount College faculty.

"This highlights our ability to bring such great faculty members to campus and to honor existing faculty," Bischoff said.

The completion of the WSU Biological Field Station facility was the culmination of many years of multi-constituent meetings, fundraising and planning. Discussions for developing the field station began when Bischoff was an associate dean. The college celebrated the grand opening of the research and classroom center in September 2010.

Bischoff spent much of his tenure as dean focusing on budget issues. Every year there were cuts, but a turning point came in 2009 as Kansas foundered under a statewide budget crisis that deeply affected public universities.

During the leanest budget years, Bischoff announced at faculty assemblies that his priorities were to preserve the academic integrity and quality of programs and services while nurturing the growth and development of the college. That having been accomplished, the main challenge for his immediate



SOMETIMES REFERRED TO AS THE MOST PHOTOGRAPHED MAN IN WICHITA, DEAN WILLIAM D. BISCHOFF HAS CONGRATULATED MORE THAN 5,300 STUDENTS AT COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES OVER THE YEARS.

successor will be to provide adequate staffing without sacrificing the student educational experience.

"The new dean will have to meet the needs of a growing student body under a flat budget," said Bischoff.

If it were a better budget year, Bischoff said, he would hire more faculty members and resolve the staffing issues facing the new dean.

"We have faculty shortages in nearly all areas," he said.

ADVICE TO SUCCESSORS

Bischoff has two pieces of advice for deans who follow him. The first suggestion is to learn what is important.

"Nearly everything portrayed as an emergency is not," he said.

Associate Dean **Chuck Koeber** saw firsthand that Bischoff took his own advice to heart.

"I learned from him that a good leader listens and responds thoughtfully rather than responding quickly with an emotional response. If that means pausing a few seconds or even telling someone that he needs a day or two to think it over, that is what Bill did," said Koeber. "As a result, I never saw Bill make a decision that was based on a knee-jerk reaction. That is no small accomplishment, especially given the intense and emotional nature of some situations that a dean must manage."

Bischoff's second piece of advice to his successors is related to the first and centers on the importance of listening.

"Always be willing to listen," said Bischoff. "I think listening is the most important part of being a dean."

It's a skill many of his colleagues have appreciated. Across the college and campus, Bischoff is known for his quiet manner and calm demeanor.

"Despite an impossibly hectic schedule, Bill listens carefully and patiently to faculty, administrators, staff, community members and students," said **Eunice Myers**, associate dean. "I have seldom seen him ruffled, despite his having faced some very difficult decisions and situations."

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS UNDER BISCHOFF'S LEADERSHIP

- Development of six distinguished professorships for the college and the procurement of two with the university designation
- Grand opening of the WSU Biological Field Station research and classroom facility
- Establishment of the college mission statement
- At the undergraduate level, design and implementation of the forensic science program and global studies field major; and revival of the international studies field major
- At the graduate level, creation of a new master's degree in earth, environmental and physical sciences

Bill Woods, M.V. Hughes Distinguished Professor in English, also remarked upon Bischoff's listening skills.

"Bill is one of the best listeners I have ever seen in administration. He quietly and intently absorbs every part of what you have to say and, at the end of it, responds directly to your concerns," said Woods. "(He) has been unceasingly informed and fair in his dealings with my department. He was generous when he could be, and clear and straightforward when he could not. I always felt that I could turn to him if I needed advice or support."

Although she finds it humorous now, **Rhonda Lewis**, professor of psychology, initially misinterpreted his quietness.

"At first I thought he didn't like me," said Lewis.

Soon she learned of his interest in her professional path.

"Every time I have needed his advice and guidance, he has always been supportive of my career," said Lewis. "He also encouraged me to apply for full professor as soon as I could. I love Dean Bischoff. He will be missed as dean."

AN ENVIABLE MEMORY

One quality Bischoff has that will be difficult for successors to emulate is what is sometimes referred to as his "freakishly good memory."

"It would be very hard to pull the wool over Dean Bischoff, thinking that he might forget or overlook some detail, because he doesn't," said Koeber, associate dean. "I remember witnessing his memory and, in comparing myself to him, being afraid that I might be suffering from premature memory loss. I finally became at ease when others told me that his memory is incredible. His memory both of minute details and his decade-long institutional memory is a huge asset."

Bischoff modestly acknowledges this attribute.

"I've always had it and never really worked to develop it," Bischoff, an Ohio native, said of his remarkable memory. "The only time I worked on it was to memorize the (Kansas) counties, and part of why I did that was to know where tornados were."

Sharon Iorio, dean of the College of Education and former associate dean of Fairmount College, also remarked on Bischoff's titanium-strength memory and how it has benefited the college and university.

"Bill possesses a masterful memory with almost flawless recall, and this is extremely helpful when administering a wide range of issues within a large college such as LAS," said Iorio. "After my coming to the College of Education as dean, Bill has continued to be a deeply knowledgeable source of university policy interpretation and institutional history that has helped me in my current work as it did when I served as associate dean."

Iorio believes his consensus building is a large part of Bischoff's legacy.

"I think Bill's greatest contribution as a dean is his approach to leadership as a partnership that fully respects not only faculty governance but supports each faculty member as an individual," Iorio said. "He created an atmosphere where the arts and sciences flourish."

Associate Dean Myers agreed.

"He believes in and practices shared governance," said Myers. "He consults with chairs and directors of programs."

RETURNING TO THE FACULTY

Upon leaving his decanal responsibilities, Bischoff will return to the geology department. A geochemist by training, he is looking forward to teaching undergraduate and graduate courses on geochemistry and mineralogy. The geology faculty are looking forward to his arrival.

"We are delighted Bill will be returning to full-time teaching, research and advising in the geology department," said **Will Parcell**, associate professor of geology and department chair. "We thank Bill for his leadership in Fairmount College, but look forward to having him back with us in the department working with students and conducting research."

Outside of university commitments, Bischoff plans to garden, read for pleasure and spend time at his cabin on the lake. He will spend much of next year consulting with **Ron Matson**, interim dean, and structuring plans for his research agenda.

- Initial accreditation of the Master of Social Work and Master of Public Administration degrees and the doctoral program in psychology for human factors and community/clinical emphases
- Reaffirmation of accreditation for the Bachelor of Social Work
- Support of the College of Education's successful reaccreditation with the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education
- Involvement with university reaccreditation through Higher Learning Commission-North Central Association

ANDERSON REMEMBERED FOR BREADTH OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Les Anderson, professor, Elliott School of Communication, died Nov. 12 from a heart attack. He was 62.

A lifelong Kansan, Anderson was well known nationally through his roles as journalist, mentor, teacher and friend. He began teaching at Wichita State in 1977, regularly offering courses in reporting, writing, editing and community journalism. Once described as having "a fan base stretching from The New York Times to some of the smallest newspapers in the country," Anderson was known for his engaging teaching, warm personality and sincere dedication to his students.



LES ANDERSON

In recent years, Anderson created community journalism projects for his students, ranging from coverage of Symphony in the Flint Hills to the rebuilding of Greensburg after the F5 tornado to documentation of the lives and history of Broadway Avenue in Wichita. He was the recipient of several teaching honors, including the 2010 John R. Barrier Award for Distinguished Teaching, and the 2004 WSU Board of Trustees Excellence in Teaching Award. He was a finalist for The Freedom Forum Journalism Teacher of the Year Award in 2001, 2002 and 2006.

As a reporter, Anderson filed stories with The Wichita Eagle, The Wichita Beacon, The Wichita Sun, The Ark Valley News, The Hays Daily News and The Columbia Missourian. His contributions to journalism were recognized with the Kansas Press Association's 2009 Clyde M. Reed Jr. Master Editor Award for lifetime contributions to the newspaper industry and the 1989 Victor Murdock Award for Excellence in Kansas Journalism for a series he wrote on teenage suicide. In 2007, the Kansas Professional Communicators named him Communicator of Achievement in recognition of his contributions to the communications industry.

Anderson was as active off campus as he was on. He and his wife, Nancy Anderson, owned The Ark Valley News, a weekly newspaper, for 28 years and were partners in Valley Offset Printing for a short time. Anderson also co-owned The Old Feed Store in Valley Center for a few years and edited and published a second weekly newspaper, Maize This Week, from 1975 to 1986. Additionally, the Andersons raised five children; ran a small farm with sheep, llamas and fowl, and participated in community activities and organizations.

A few weeks before he died, "Beyond Casual," a fundraiser to endow the Les Anderson Fund for Students, celebrated his contributions to students' success in the field of journalism. In February, the WSU Alumni Association posthumously presented his family with the University Recognition Award to honor Anderson's accomplishments and contributions to the university.

Memorials may be made to the Les Anderson Fund for Students, WSU Foundation, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita, KS 67260-0002, or the Valley Center Library Building Fund, c/o Friends of the Library, 321 W. First, Valley Center, KS 67147.

IN MEMORIAM

John D. Born Jr., 80, associate professor emeritus, history, died Oct. 26 at home in Waxahachie, Texas. Memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church, 505 W. Marvin, Waxahachie, TX 75165 or Salvation Army, 620 Farley St., Waxahachie, TX 75165.

Rushworth M. Kidder, 67, former English professor; journalist for The Christian Science Monitor; founder of the Institute for Global Ethics; book author, died March 5 in Naples, Fla. Memorials may be made to the Institute for Global Ethics, PO Box 39, Rockport, ME 04856-0039; the World Ocean School, PO Box 701, Camden, ME 04843; or Daystar, Inc., 800 S. Flamingo Rd, Davie, FL 33330-1699.

Charles G. Pearson, 90, professor emeritus and former chair, journalism; former editorial page editor, The Wichita Eagle, died Nov. 2 in Louisville, Ky. A memorial was held Dec. 10 in the Commons area of Wilner Auditorium, the former home of WSU's journalism program.

Richard M. "Dick" Cottam, 81, journalism instructor; KAKE-TV television journalist;

retired Spokane Police Department spokesman, died Dec. 23 in Wichita. Memorials may be made to the University of Missouri School of Journalism, 103 Neff Hall, Columbia, MO 65211.

Dorothy S. Froning, 97, professor emeritus, Spanish, died March 9 in Wichita. Memorials may be made to College Hill United Methodist Church, 2930 E. 1st, Wichita, KS 67214.

Robert Lawless, 74, professor, anthropology, died Feb 2, in Wichita. Tributes may be made to The Robert Lawless Memorial Fund, c/o Rev. C. Pace-Adair, PO 48045, Wichita, KS 67201-8045, to support Lawless' interests in diverse academic and social issues.

Robert Meyers, 88, professor emeritus, English, and founding minister of University Congregational Church, died Jan. 8 in Bellingham, Wash. Memorials may be made to Outreach at University Congregational Church, 9209 E. 29th St. North, Wichita, KS 67226, or Whatcom Hospice Foundation, 800 E. Chestnut St., No. 1A, Bellingham, WA 98225.

ACCOLADES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FACULTY & STAFF

Dinorah Azpuru, associate professor of political science, was invited to participate in the Quality of Peace project, based at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame. The project is associated with a grant from the National Science Foundation.

Deborah Ballard-Reisch, Kansas Health Foundation Distinguished Chair in Strategic Communication, won the Top Paper Award in the Feminist and Women's Studies Division of the 97th Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, held recently in New Orleans. "In the Transition from Childhood to Womanhood: Constructing Coming of Age Rituals in Contemporary U.S. American Culture" was co-authored by **Jackie Silveria-Sater**, Mountain View Montessori

School and **Alyssa Ballard-Reisch**, Andover Central High School.

Alex Chaparro, professor and chair of psychology, has been named a 2011-2012 Coleman Faculty Entrepreneurship Fellow, a program sponsored by the Coleman Foundation to increase and build support for entrepreneurship education across the Wichita State University campus.

Mel Kahn, professor of political science, was re-elected to the Kansas Democratic State Committee. He and **Ken Ciboski**, associate professor of political science, were invited panelists at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum. They spoke during a forum on the Tea Party on Oct. 28.

Marie Patterson, instructor of psychology, was presented the Kansas Association of School Psychologists' Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual KASP Conference in Manhattan, Kan.

Paul Rillema, professor of chemistry, was inducted as a 2011 Fellow of the American Chemistry Society, recognizing his outstanding achievements in and contributions to science, the profession and ACS.

Mark Schneegurt, associate professor of biological sciences, and **Nick Solomey**, director, professor of physics, were presenters for the 2011 Galaxy Forum at the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center, as part of the Ad Astra Kansas Initiative's ongoing SCIENCE in KANSAS – 150 Years and Counting sesquicentennial project. Schneegurt is working with NASA to study microbes living in salty environments on Earth that may be similar to those on Mars. Solomey gave an update on Kansas' involvement in the Auger North Cosmic Ray Observatory, whose control center is at Wichita State.

Carolyn Shaw, associate professor and chair of political science, secured a Catalytic Workshop Grant from the International Studies Association for a workshop, "Think Globally, Teach Locally? Active Teaching and Learning in Cross-National Perspective." Participants from four countries will collaborate on a future book project.

Debbie Wadman, Fairmount lecturer, German, was elected president of the Kansas Association of Teachers of German in September 2011.

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY AWARDS

Elizabeth Behrman, professor of physics, Academy for Effective Teaching Award

Kimberly Engber, assistant professor of English, John R. Barrier Distinguished Teaching Award

Natalie Grant, assistant professor of social work, Academy for Effective Teaching Award

Carolyn Shaw, associate professor of political science, Leadership in the Advancement in Teaching Award

Mark Schneegurt, associate professor of biological sciences, Excellence in Research Award

PRESIDENT'S DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Barbara Chaparro, associate professor of psychology

Helen Hundley, assistant professor of history

Maria Martino, unclassified professional, biological sciences

STUDENT ACCOLADES

Brian Bix and **Matt Munday**, WSU Debate team, competed in the National Debate Tournament. The team lost to Gonzaga University in the quarterfinals.

Katie Le, **Chai Fang Tan**, **Michelle Dreiling**, **Jack Brand**, **Eric Robinson**, **Yashodhara Ranade** and **Dustin Wiens**, all graduate students from the Elliot School of Communication, presented research papers at the Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association convention in February.

Katie Le and **Jack Brand**, both graduate students in the Elliott School of Communication, and **Deborah Ballard-Reisch**, Kansas Health Foundation Distinguished Chair in Strategic Communication, participated in the 7th Annual Universities Fighting World Hunger Summit. Held at the Universidad Nacional de Agricultura in Catacamas, Olancho, Honduras, in March, they gave the presentation "Unpacking the Invisible Problem of Campus Hunger: The Hunger Awareness Initiative at Wichita State University."

Students participating in the Spring 2012 Midwest Model United Nations returned home with several recognitions. **Danny Cooper** and **Katherine Rodriguez** earned Honorable Mention on the 2nd Committee, representing Cuba. **Valerie Brockman** was named Outstanding Delegate on the Commission on Sustainable Development, representing Saudi Arabia. **Michael Leblanc** earned the Delegate's Choice award on the Commission on Sustainable Development, representing Cuba. **Lauren Hoch** and **Spencer Nelson** received the Outstanding Position Paper on the 6th Committee, representing Cuba. **Aaron Larcade**, **Darren Beckham**, **Danny Cooper**, **Katherine Rodriguez**, **Michael Brinkman**, **Spencer Nelson**, and **Lauren Hoch** were named Outstanding Delegation, representing Cuba. **Carolyn Shaw** is the advisor.

STUDENTS EARN SARACHEK AWARDS

Science faculty members know how hard students work to understand their disciplines, and which of their students show promise as future researchers.

Former WSU faculty members **Alvin** and **Rosa Lee Sarachek** created annual awards to recognize outstanding student scientists in undergraduate programs at Wichita State. **Alvin Sarachek** retired from Wichita State in 1992 as Distinguished Professor of Natural Sciences and former chair of the biological sciences



WILLIAM D. BISCHOFF

Dear alumni and friends:

As a scientist, and especially as a geologist, I appreciate that longevity has its place. However, I also know that nothing remains static and circumstances must change.

I am stepping down as dean of Fairmount College on June 30. I have enjoyed my work in this position immensely and, in particular, creating many new opportunities for students and faculty. The support from the college and community members has lifted me and at times buoyed me. It is impossible for me to express the depth of my gratitude, but I owe many of the successes in my leadership to all of you. Thank you.

It is an exciting time to be at Wichita State. We are on track to install a new president by July 1, and the search for a new provost likely will commence shortly thereafter. I am confident that my initial successor, **Ron Matson**, will provide the college with equal measures of support and growth during his two-year interim term.

Although I am looking forward to returning to the classroom, I am also enjoying the prospect of providing transitional support to Dr. Matson during this next year. I know he will do many good things during his deanship; you'll find several articles about him in this issue of the college newsletter.

Thank you most sincerely,

William D. Bischoff, dean

ACCOLADES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

department. His wife, **Rosa Lee**, was also a career biologist and served as the first chairperson of Wichita State's medical technology program. Both shared research interests in microbiology.

The Saracheks' generous gift allows for a first place award of \$2,000 and an honorable mention award of \$500 each in life sciences and in physical sciences. Undergraduate majors in the Fairmount College of Liberal Arts and Sciences performing research with a faculty mentor in the natural sciences who also participate in the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Forum are eligible for the awards.

Students recognized with the 2011 Alvin and Rosa Lee Sarachek Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Natural Sciences Research were:

LIFE SCIENCES

Timothy Eberl, first place, biological sciences, "Isolation and characterization

of microbes from Hot Lake, WA, an environment with high magnesium sulfate concentration." **Mark Schneegurt**, associate professor of biological sciences, was his advisor.

Ashley Lida-Venegas, honorable mention, biochemistry, "Toward understanding the physical basis of interactions between CMg2 and collage." **Jim Bann**, associate professor of chemistry, was her advisor.

PHYSICAL SCIENCES

Andrew Hart, first place, physics, "Charged pion multiplicity below 1.0 GeV/c from MIPP experiment."

Nick Solomey, professor of physics, was his advisor.

Ramon Nola, second place, chemistry, "Synthesis of donor-acceptor Thiopene-C60 derivatives for organic solar cells." **Francis D'Souza**, a professor of chemistry now at the University of North Texas, was his advisor.

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Wichita State University
William Bischoff, dean,
Fairmount College of
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**WICHITA STATE
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