



The 2006 Thompson Staff Excellence Award recipients. Left to right, Kari Bull, Amy Williams, Cindy Welp, Donna Galati, Stacy Weiland, and Cheryl Gamble.

ANNOUNCING THE 2006 THOMPSON AWARD RECIPIENTS

Morningside College awarded the 2006 Thomas S. Thompson Staff Excellence Awards to **Kari Bull 2003**, director of the annual fund; **Donna Galati**, writing specialist and instructor; **Cheryl Gamble**, coordinator for the athletic department; **Stacy Weiland**, custodian; **Cindy Welp 1992**, director of human resources; and **Amy Williams 1998**, senior associate director of admissions. Galati was also named the Staff Employee of the Year. President John Reynders presented the awards at the annual holiday banquet held in December.

The annual awards are funded by an endowment established by Margaret Thompson, wife of the late Dr. Thomas S. Thompson, who served as president of Morningside from 1969 to 1978. He passed away in 1999.

The recipients were selected based upon their demonstration of outstanding dedication, service, and commitment to Morningside and its students during the 2005-06 academic year. Criteria for selection included the nominees' contributions to their respective departments, their representation in campus organizations, and their service and volunteer efforts towards fulfilling the college's mission statement.

Bull, a resident of Sioux City, began working at Morningside in 2003 as a regional development officer and was promoted to her current position this past May. Her duties include designing and implementing the annual fund program of the capital campaign and overseeing all annual giving campaigns, which have shown tremendous growth the past three years. She is a member of the coaching staff for the Morningside track team, a member of the wellness committee on campus, and a member of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

Galati, of Merrill, Iowa, started at the college as an adjunct faculty member of the English department in 1998. In May of 2000 she joined the student services department in her current position. She is responsible for

teaching several courses in the first-year studies program and administers and evaluates reading and writing placement tests. She has built a dedicated staff of student tutors to serve the needs of the student body and helped to ease the transition of the Academic Support Services Center when it was relocated to the Hickman-Johnson-Furrow Learning Center. Off campus Galati enjoys working with children and adults who participate in the Special Troopers Adaptive Riding School (STARS) Program. She holds a bachelor's degree from Westmar College and a master's from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion.

Gamble, of Sioux City, has worked in the athletic department for the past six years. She is responsible for coordinating the daily operations of the athletic department; working with student athletes to ensure their eligibility; managing, planning, and arranging help for athletic events; and coordinating the student work-study program for athletics. Gamble organized all the game management needs for the fall 2005 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) football playoffs hosted by Morningside.

She is a committed volunteer for many NAIA committees, as well as for the Homecoming, Parents' Weekend and M-Club Committees on campus. She is also active within her local church congregation.

Weiland, a resident of Hinton, Iowa, joined the custodial staff in 2001. He currently serves as custodian for the Walker Science Center and is responsible for the safety and appearance of the building. He operates and oversees various types of cleaning equipment, reports maintenance work, and helps cover other buildings as necessary. Many events take place in the Walker Science Center, and he sees that each of the building concerns is promptly addressed. He is known for his helpful and kind demeanor. Weiland and his family participate in Mustang swimming lessons and attend many athletic and theatre events on campus. He holds a bachelor's degree from Iowa State University.

Welp, of Sioux City, came to Morningside in 1999. Her duties include, among others, coordinating all benefits programs for the college, maintaining personnel files for all employees, overseeing payroll, and assur-

ing compliance with all relevant laws and regulations. She played a pivotal role in the development of an employee wellness program and also coordinates the United Way Day of Caring Program for the college each year. Welp is active at Augustana Lutheran Church, and volunteers with the United Way Tour of Homes and the Siouland Y. She also coordinated a "giving tree" during the holiday season for Florence Crittenton Center, Family Services, and Siouland Mental Health.

Williams, a resident of Le Mars, Iowa, has worked in the admissions office for eight years. Her duties include recruiting prospective students from central Iowa, as well as assisting in the development of new publications and the creation and implementation of a direct mail plan. She also conducts training for new members of the admissions team. This past year, Williams met the recruitment goals for her territory and helped increase the average grade point average (GPA) and ACT scores of the incoming freshman class. Williams volunteers her time with the Marcus-Meridan-Cleghorn High School's Fellowship of Christian Athletes organization and is a member of the Le Mars United Methodist Church.

FACULTY NOTES

Daria Bossman, M.L.S., director of library services; **James D. Fisk**, M.L.S., reference and instructional services librarian; **Donna Galati**, M.A., writing specialist in the Academic Support Services Center; and **Robbie Rohlena 1994**, M.A.T., dean of students, were members of a panel discussion at the Iowa Library Association/Academic College Research Libraries' 2007 Spring Conference "Work Worth Doing: The Value of Academic Libraries for the 21st Century" held in March at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa. The panel presented "Transformational Change: From Library to Learning Center – the Morningside College Experience."

David Chobar, Ph.D., associate professor of education, had his review of the book *Future, Inc.: How Businesses Can Anticipate and Profit from What's Next* published in the summer 2006 issue of *Futures Research Quarterly*, a refereed journal for researchers and practitioners involved with the theory, methodology, practice, and use of futures

research. The book, written by Eric Garland, was published in 2006 by AMACOM Books.

Chobar was also selected to present "The Future Ain't What It Used to Be: A Required College Class" at the World Future Society's (WFS) annual conference to be held July 29-31 in Minneapolis, Minn. The presentation will be based on a "Communication and Composition" (C&C) course taught by Chobar. Students from the course have also been invited to attend the conference and will present a brief overview of what they learned during their studies.

Samuel Clovis Jr., Ph.D., professor and chair of business administration and economics, presented a talk on money, the future of money, and what money symbolizes in our society for the High Twelve organization in Sioux City during the group's March meeting. High Twelve is an organization of business, professional, and retired Master Masons and was founded in Sioux City in 1921.

Stephen Coyne, Ph.D., professor of English, has had several short stories selected for publication in several literary journals. *The North American Review* will publish "Jill's Story" in an upcoming issue. *The South Carolina Review* will publish "Still Life" in an upcoming issue. *The New England Review* will publish "The Mercy of the World" in Vol. 28, issue No. 2.

Coyne was the keynote speaker for the 2007 One Book One Siouland community program, which featured the book *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Coyne spoke on "Flappers and Philosophers: The Lives of F. Scott Fitzgerald" in March.

Bruce David Forbes 1970, Ph.D., professor and chair of religious studies, and **Shelley Wiley, Ph.D.**, visiting assistant professor of religious studies, attended the 2006 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (AAR) in November in Washington, D.C. As the then vice president of the Upper Midwest Region, Forbes attended the officers' meeting. Wiley presented the paper "Understanding Haitian Vodou through Marvelous Realism: Avoiding Postcolonial Eurocentrism" for the panel session "Africa in Latin America and the Caribbean." Wiley also attended the meeting for the steering committee of the Religion in Latin America and the Caribbean Group, which discussed topics for panel discussions for the 2007 annual meeting of the AAR.

Forbes, Wiley, and five Morningside students also attended the Upper Midwest regional meeting of the AAR held in April at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., where Forbes was elected to serve a two-year term as president of the Upper Midwest Region of the AAR. He presented his paper "Christmas: Early Methodism's Missing Holiday" during the session "Religions in North America" and presided over the session "More Religions in North America." Morningside student **Cassandra Peck** presented her paper "The Role of Human Sacrifice in the Spanish Conquest of the Aztecs" during the undergraduate session "Issues of Diversity."

Greg Guelcher, Ph.D., associate professor of history and political science, was selected to serve a three-year term as executive secretary for the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs (MCAA) during its annual meeting held in October 2006. In addition, he served as chair of the business meeting of the MCAA during the annual Association of Asian Studies' national conference held in March in Boston, Mass. The MCAA is a regional conference of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) and is the largest and oldest regional Asian studies organization in the United States.

Guelcher is also part of an academic team that received a \$17,600 project grant from the United States-Japan Foundation of New York City to fund the creation of a Japan Studies Network (JSN) within the tri-state region. The JSN is a non-profit, educational organization whose purpose is to actively promote and facilitate programs of learning about diverse aspects of Japanese history, geography, culture, and society.

Guelcher presented his paper "Agents of Uplift: Japan's Agricultural Colonists and the Spiritual Development of Colonial Manchukuo" during the 50th anniversary meeting of the Missouri Valley Historical Conference held in March in Omaha, Neb.

Jane Hey, Ph.D., professor and chair of biology and chemistry, presented the poster "Comparing Anuran Assemblages of Wetlands in the Historic Floodplain of the Lower Missouri River in Iowa" at the 67th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference held in December in Omaha, Neb. The poster presentation included research conducted from 1994 to 2006 by Hey and Eugenia Farrar, associate professor of ecology, evolution, and organismal biology at Iowa State University (ISU) in Ames, along with students from Morningside and ISU. The research looked at changes in aquatic habitat, specifically amphibians, in wetlands located along the lower Missouri River floodplain.

Jan D. Hodge, Ph.D., professor emeritus of English, was the featured guest for a poetry reading and discussion at Morningside College in February. The event, titled "What Poets Do for Fun and Prophet," was part of the Academic and Cultural Arts Series (ACAS) at Morningside. Hodge, an award-winning poet, is perhaps best known for his "carmina figurata" or shaped poems but writes in many forms and genres.

Marty Knepper 1972, Ph.D., professor and chair of English, was awarded one of five Executive Director's Advisor of the Year awards at the national Alpha Lambda Delta (ALD) Leadership Workshop held in October 2006 at Boston, Mass. Knepper was also selected to serve on the executive board for the national ALD beginning in the spring of 2007. In addition, she served as co-facilitator for the conference session "How To Be a Successful Chapter," specifically targeted to small colleges and universities.

Knepper presented the session "Reading Harry Potter: Making Predictions for Book

7" at the Pop Culture Association/American Culture Association's national conference held in April at Boston, Mass. Knepper's presentation stems from research she's conducted on the "Harry Potter" series of books and reader surveys. Morningside students **Stacy Baldus** and **Rachel N. Castillo** also presented at the conference. Baldus presented her paper "A Common Language: Gambling and Hard-Boiled Detective Fiction," and Castillo presented her paper "Christie Meets Adams: The Sci-Fi Mystery Phenomenon." Knepper served as co-chair for the Mystery/Detective Fiction sections of the conference.

Knepper also attended the fall conference of the Iowa Council of Teachers of English held in West Des Moines, Iowa, in October 2006.

Mary Kovarna, R.N., Ed.D., associate professor and chair of nursing, delivered her poster presentation of nursing research titled "Nursing Students' Attitudes Toward People Living in Poverty" at the Seventh Annual Nurse Educator Institute held at Branson, Mo., in March. The theme of the institute was "Educational Strategies for Highly Effective Nurse Educators." Kovarna's research included a survey of nursing students to determine attitudes and related personal attributes or experiences with people living in poverty.

Lorna Leavitt 1995, M.A.T., formerly visiting instructor of education, accepted the position of assistant professor of education. Leavitt joined Morningside's faculty in 2005 and teaches courses in special education, mild-moderate methods, and diagnostic math classes, among others. She received her bachelor's degree in elementary and special education from Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa, and holds a master's degree in teaching multicategorical disabilities from Morningside.

Doug Livermore, Ed.D., and **Pam Mickelson**, Ph.D., professors of business administration and economics at Morningside College, presented the course "Freshman Business Smorgasbord: Major Career Exploration Plus Service-Learning" at The Collaboration for the Advancement of College Teaching and Learning's Fall 2006 Conference, which focused on "Motivating Students for Better Retention, Learning, and Achievement" and was held in November at Bloomington, Minn. The presentation was based on the freshman business course "Discover Entrepreneurship," which was developed by Livermore and Mickelson in 1998.

Terri Parish McGaffin, M.F.A., assistant professor of art, had her exhibition titled "Seeking Solid Ground" on display at Northern Galleries at North Dakota State University in Fargo. The exhibition ran from Oct. 30 through Dec. 15, 2006.

Sean Meehan, Ph.D., assistant professor of English, had his essay "Pencil of Nature: Thoreau's Photographic Register" selected for publication in the spring issue of the journal *Criticism*, published by Wayne State University Press in Detroit, Mich. The essay

explores writer Henry David Thoreau's interest in the technology of photography when it first emerged in the United States, beginning in 1839. *Criticism* is a quarterly publication that provides a forum for innovative scholarship in the humanities.

John Pinto, Ph.D., professor of psychology, served as faculty sponsor for six Morningside students who presented at the 27th Annual Great Plains Student Psychology Convention held in March at Friends University in Wichita, Kan. Two of the students, **Jenny Armstrong** and **Sabrina Higgins**, received first-place awards for their poster presentation "Perceptions of Foster and Adopted Children." **Jennifer Ball** received a second-place award for her poster presentation "The Effects of Sleep Deprivation on Students Ability to Perform Complex Tasks," as did **A. Joelle Stout** for her poster presentation "The Influence of Video Game Playing on Gender Roles and Hypermasculinity."

Heather Reid, Ph.D., associate professor and chair of philosophy, presented a lecture in November 2006 at the Istituto Universitario di Scienze Motore (IUSM) in Rome, Italy. The lecture, based on Reid's book *The Philosophical Athlete*, was given in Italian. IUSM, a vocational university, is the only Italian state university dedicated to sports and movement sciences.

Reid also served as chair of the panel "Teaching Sport-Related Philosophy Courses," which was sponsored by the International Association for the Philosophy of Sport (IAPS) at the annual meeting of the eastern division of the American Philosophical Association at Washington, D.C., in December 2006. Reid is currently the president of IAPS.

She presented the session "Olympic Studies: A Versatile Tool for Inspiring Global Perspectives" at the conference "Transforming Student Learning for a Global Society," sponsored by The Collaboration for the Advancement for Teaching and Learning and held in February at Bloomington, Minn. Reid's presentation focused on how she integrates Olympic studies into college courses as part of an effort to engender attitudes of global citizenship.

James Stroh, Ph.D., associate professor of biology and chemistry, wrote the application for and received a \$12,000 forgivable loan from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Solid Wastes Alternative Program to develop and implement initiatives of the Morningside Recycling and Environmental Committee, one of the first sustainable, comprehensive recycling programs on a college campus for the state of Iowa.

MORNINGSIDE WELCOMED NEW STAFF



Jeanette Frey 1995, B.S., joined the college in the position of accountant in the business office. Frey was previously employed as senior financial analyst at Wells' Dairy in Le Mars, Iowa, and as a seasonal tax preparer for Henjes, Conner,

FROM ONE ROOM OF COMPUTERS TO A CAMPUS-WIDE NETWORK: THANK YOU, STEVE LEIDA



Steve Leida retired as executive director of Information Services, effective May 31, 2007, to answer his calling as a priest with the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church.

In March 2006, after some 20 years of study and preparation, Leida was ordained as a priest in the church. Since his ordination, he has been conducting services and teaching at missions in Fargo, N.D., and Rapid City, S.D. He expects to be assigned to a small mission or parish, hopefully "somewhere south."

Leida has been at Morningside since 1989 and began working in information technology as a PC technician in 1993. That year, he and three work-study students implemented the desktop computer program and installed 635 computers in residence hall rooms and faculty offices in one summer. The most difficult part of the task may have been hauling the computers up and down stairs, for each computer weighed 40 pounds.

Leida oversaw the establishment of the campus Ethernet and data network. When he came to Morningside there was only one room of networked computers, used by computer programming students. There was no e-mail, no Internet, and no World Wide Web. Underground copper wiring connected the computer

that held the AIMS database, located in the Jacobsen Annex, with Lewis Hall offices.

Over the years, Leida often personally pulled the copper and fiber optic cables that would connect the campus. He said, "Building the campus Ethernet was the most rewarding work I've done here. Each time we connected another building to the campus and to the world, it was like magic. It was very exciting."

Most recently, Leida has led the way in creating a wireless campus and making the network more robust. He pointed out that the "uptime" of the network has really improved over the last few years and credited his colleagues in information services for their work and dedication in accomplishing this goal.

He said, "One thing that really stands out is how much we were able to do with very few resources, other than ingenuity. We did some amazing things."

"Many people hate to go to work in the morning, because of the people they work with. I loved to come to the office each morning because I knew I would see my friends—not just my colleagues—and that we would work together to do great things for the faculty, staff, and students."

and Williams, P.C., in Sioux City. She assumed her duties on January 15.



Andy Heiser, M.Ed., returned to Morningside in June as executive director of Information Services and dean of the Learning Center. Heiser previously served as Morningside's educational technologist from 2001-2004. In his new position, he will

oversee the Academic Support Services Center, Educational Technology, Information Technology, Library Services, the Media Center, and the Notebook Computer Program.



Rick Pruett joined Morningside in December 2006 as the Mustangs' new head volleyball coach. Pruett came to Morningside from William Penn University in Oskaloosa, Iowa, where he served as head volleyball coach for the past four seasons. Pruett

was previously the head volleyball coach at Concordia University in River Forest, Ill., and at Midland Lutheran College in Fremont, Neb. He is a 1992 graduate of Dakota Wesleyan University.



Cyndy Scott, B.S., has joined the Public Relations department as coordinator of central scheduling and administrative assistant. Scott began her new duties Jan. 31. Prior to joining Morningside, she was with the New Iowan Center as corporate community developer.

STAFF NOTES

Shari Benson 1982, B.S., assumed new duties in June as director of new students. Benson joined the staff at Morningside in 1989, most recently serving as coordinator of Student Support Services. She will continue her duties as the director of orientation, as well as work with summer registration and conduct entrance interviews with new students and exit interviews with all students.

Mary Leida, Ph.D., currently dean for advising, assumed new duties as dean of advising/associate dean of students. As dean for advising, Leida will continue to handle day-to-day student concerns. Her additional duties will include overseeing the academic mentoring program and the FOCUS program. Leida has been at Morningside since 1987.

Steven Nimmo, Ph.D., professor of mathematical sciences and part-time associate dean for academic affairs, has been promoted to full-time associate dean for academic affairs, effective June 1. Nimmo joined Morningside's faculty in 1988 and previously served as professor and chair of mathematical sciences.

Stephanie Peters 1999, B.S., and **Amy Williams 1998**, B.A., formerly senior associate directors of admissions, assumed new duties

as co-directors of admissions on June 1. Peters joined the admissions office in 2000. She is the athletic liaison for the admissions office and serves as a mentor for student services. Williams joined the staff at Morningside in 1998, working as development officer in the office of Institutional Advancement. She joined the admissions office in 1999 and has served as director of the Student Ambassador program, associate director of admissions, and senior associate director.

Cathee Phillips, B.A., director of external relations, presented "Do-It-Yourself Surveys" at the Counselors to Higher Education (CHE) Senior Summit held in April at Washington, D.C. CHE is part of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) and serves as the national professional interest section representing higher education. Phillips is currently pursuing a master's degree in leadership at Bellevue University in Omaha, Neb.

Robbie Rohlena 1994, M.A.T., dean of students, assumed additional responsibilities as dean of enrollment, overseeing the areas of admissions and retention, on June 1. Rohlena joined the faculty at Morningside in 1987 and previously held positions as math instructor, director of the Achievement Center, and associate dean of students.

Randee Small 1988, B.A., coordinator of graphic design and webmaster, was invited to serve as an external reviewer for the Student Auxiliary Services Creative Marketing department at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. She traveled there in May to conduct interviews with those being reviewed.

Joel Weyand 1997, M.S.A.S., director of admissions, has accepted a development position in the office of Institutional Advancement. He joined the college as development specialist for athletic fundraising in 1998, was appointed associate director of admissions in 1999, and became director of admissions in 2000. Weyand assumed his new responsibilities June 1.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Beverly (Caldwell) Berkstresser, Sacramento, Calif., died Dec. 22, 2006. She was a former member of the Morningside faculty who taught chemistry.

Kay Dull, J.D., North Miami Beach, Fla., died Nov. 13, 2006. Dull was an adjunct instructor at Morningside in the early 1980s.

Gary Gevik 1974, Bronson, Iowa, died Feb. 9, 2007. Gevik was an employee at Morningside for more than 26 years as a financial aid director, comptroller, accounting and economics instructor, and head softball coach.

Dr. John D. Garwood, Mesa, Ariz., died Nov. 27, 2006. He was a former instructor of economics at Morningside.

Winifred Gwinn, Sioux City, died Oct. 27, 2006. She was a former member of Morningside's faculty and past president of the Morningside College Faculty Women's Club.

on separate sides of many issues of curriculum, administration, or academic policies. In time, however, I realized that we argue and disagree not because we are being contrarian or obstinate, but because each of us is fighting for what we truly believe is the best for the students.

No one enjoys arguing over fine points of the definition of plagiarism – well, no sane person at least. But we do it because we want to ensure that a degree from Morningside is worthy of respect and that each person is challenged to become the best they can be. I am pleased to report that like Socrates and his learned friends, faculty members can put their differences behind them and grab lunch together.

Being a professor and living the life of the mind is a privilege, and, in order to maintain that privilege, professors will sacrifice their time for the health of the institution. It may involve making yourself available at odd times of the day to answer student questions. It may mean you give up a weekend to chaperone a trip or to meet with prospective students. It may mean a late bedtime because you have just thought of a perfect way to deliver some troublesome content, but you need to work on it to get the details just right. But it is also recognizing that sometimes you need to be covetous of your time so you can have your intellectual resources at your command and give students your best effort.

Recently, the college granted me tenure. It is an honor that is dearer to me than even my Walker award. It means that the college has put its faith in me that I will be an important member of the college for the rest of my working life.

In return for tenure, professors spend their lives protecting the integrity and health of the college. Both students and administrators will come, make an impact, and then depart in a natural cycle. Faculty influence, however, is constant.

In the end, Morningside faculty members are the stewards of the Morningside College experience. We have inherited a reputation that our predecessors earned with hard work. We recognize that we have been given a gift that we must protect and help prosper. We teach, argue, and sacrifice so that we can give the next generation of Morningsiders the same legacy that the campus community enjoys today.