

THOMPSON AWARD RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

Morningside College awarded the second annual Thomas S. Thompson Staff Excellence Awards to **Gene Ambrosion**, director of Alumni Relations; **Karen Gagnon 1997**, director of Student Financial Planning; **Randy Hansen 1972**, regional development officer; **Vivian Isaacson 1980**, coordinator for Academic Affairs; **Mary Krejci 1999**, coordinator to the vice president of Student Services; and **Mary Peshek**, registrar. Gagnon was also named the Staff Employee of the Year.

The annual awards are funded by a \$500,000 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 2004 recipients were selected based upon their demonstration of outstanding dedication, service, and commitment to Morningside and its students during the 2003-04 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.



Gene Ambrosion

Ambrosion came to Morningside in 1986 as the college's director of public affairs. In 1995, he became director of alumni and community relations and assumed his current title as director of alumni relations in 1997. He also serves as advisor to the Acacia Fraternity and works closely with the Student Alumni Association.

He is a member of the Abu-Bekr Shrine Chanters and a volunteer member of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Committee assigned to the local Army Reserve units. He attended Morningside and is a 1971 graduate of Briar Cliff University. He holds a master's degree in journalism

from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.



Karen Gagnon

Gagnon has been at Morningside since 1988, when she started as an accounting assistant in accounts payable. Six years later, she also assumed duties as director of human resources. In 1996, she

became a financial planning counselor and was promoted in 1997 to assistant director of financial planning. She was appointed to her current position as director of student financial planning in 1998.

Gagnon is a member of the Iowa Student Loan Advisory Council, the Iowa Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (IASFAA), the Midwest Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, and the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.



Randy Hansen

Hansen recently assumed new duties as regional development officer in institutional advancement. He had been director of the college's bookstore since 2001. He will also continue duties as the athletics fundraiser, which he began in 2003. He has served on numerous college committees.

Hansen is an active member of Morningside Lutheran Church of Sioux City and has served as coordinator of the Morningside Days Celebration Carnival and Parade, held in the Morningside neighborhood of Sioux City, for the past 23 years.



Vivian Isaacson

Isaacson has been at the college for 24 years, beginning employment with the college in 1980 as administrator for a special project in data coordination. In 1985 she became administrative coordinator to the vice

president for business affairs, and, in 1998, assumed additional responsibilities as payroll and administrator coordinator. She accepted her current position as academic affairs coordinator in 1999. She serves on the Main Users Group (MUG) and is the Web editor for the academics and academic affairs Web sites. She is the lead organizer for the college's annual spring commencement exercises and related events.

She has volunteered many hours in support of Sioux City East High School's choir and band programs.



Mary Krejci

Krejci joined the college in 1995 as executive secretary to the vice president for enrollment and student services. Her title was changed to administrative assistant to the vice president for admissions

in 1999 and currently is coordinator to the vice president of student services. She serves as the sexual harassment officer for the campus and oversees the Alumni Referral Program. She serves as one of the Web editors for the student services Web pages. She recently completed a two-year term as representative on the Administrative-Staff Council and currently serves as administrative representative to the Finance and Facilities Committee.

She volunteers for United Way of Siouxland and Meals on Wheels in Sioux City and is an active member of the Siouxland Y.



Mary Peshek

Peshek began duties as the college's registrar in 1998. During the past academic year, she served as an ex-officio member of two faculty committees, Academic Standards and Curriculum Policies. She worked

closely with faculty to plan for the implementation of and transition to the new curriculum for the fall 2004 semester. She also worked with 19 athletic teams to determine athletic eligibility of students.

She is an active member of Calvary United Methodist Church of Le Mars, Iowa, and a board member for the Westmar Alumni and Friends Association. She has been a regular donor at the Siouxland Blood Bank for over 20 years and has donated over 12 gallons.

FACULTY NOTES

Gail Ament, Ph.D., associate professor of Spanish, recently had an article published in *Literary Cultures of Latin America: A Comparative History, Volume One*, part of a three-volume work published by Oxford University Press. Ament's article "Mayan Incursions into Latin American Literary Historiography" deals with contemporary Mayan writers of Guatemala. Ament also attended the Latin American Studies Association conference held in Las Vegas, Nev., in October.

Gerry Bouma, Ph.D., professor and chair of music, serves on the advisory board for American Classic Music Festivals in San Antonio, Texas. His article "Technique...Why Bother?" was published in the *National Federation of High Schools Music Association Journal*.

Shirley Bruce, Ph.D., assistant professor of biology and chemistry, has co-authored two papers that have been accepted for publication. She was one of the authors of "RhoX: A New Homeobox Gene Cluster," which appeared in *Cell*, published by Cell Press. The paper reports the discovery of related genes on the X chromosome in male and female reproductive tissues of adult mice and discusses its significance in studying gene regulation and control of reproduction. She is second author of "The Human AKNA Gene Expresses Multiple Transcripts and Protein Isoforms as a

Result of Alternative Promoter Usage, Splicing, and Polyadenylation,” which will appear in the journal *DNA and Cell Biology*, published by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. The paper discusses the relationship between AKNA, a factor in cells that regulates gene expression, and normal immune system development.

Michael “Tug” Buse, M.F.A., assistant professor of mass communications, was awarded a Silver Eddy Award in the Master Freestyle category for his animated film *Space Pirates: The Spiral Arms of Greed* at the Cedar Rapids Independent Film Festival held in April. The 10-minute film, which primarily uses Legos, is the story of a young female spaceship pilot who discovers the location of the treasure of a notorious space pirate and almost succumbs to the call of greed.

David Chobar, Ph.D., associate professor of education, and **James D. Fisk**, M.L.S., reference and instructional services librarian at the Hickman-Johnson-Furrow Library Center, have been invited to present “Teaching and Learning in an Information-Rich Environment in Collaboration with Librarians and Information Technology Staff” at the Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) Transformation of the College Library Workshop, slated for February 2006, in New Orleans, La. Chobar and Fisk will have all their expenses paid and will receive honorariums for their presentation.

Fisk is also co-author of the paper “Got Distance Services? Marketing Remote Library Services to Distance Learners,” which was accepted for publication by *Internet Reference Services Quarterly*, a journal published by The Haworth Press, Inc. The manuscript was simultaneously published as a chapter in the reference book *Improving Internet Reference Services to Distance Learners*, also by Haworth Press, Inc. Fisk’s article examines the findings of a study conducted by Emporia State University, Emporia, Kan. He co-authored the article with Terri Pedersen Summey, associate professor of library services at Emporia State University.

Bruce Forbes 1970, Ph.D., professor of religious studies, has been selected to participate in the 2005-2006 Colloquy on Teaching and Learning for Mid-Career Religion Faculty at Colleges and Universities. The colloquy is sponsored by the Wabash Center at Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Ind. Forbes will attend three colloquy sessions, in June 2005 and in January and July 2006. The center will provide room and board and pay for all travel expenses, as well as awarding each participant a stipend. In addition, participants will be eligible for follow-up grants to initiate creative projects to advance teaching and learning in their particular faculties and guilds.



Marilyn Heilman

Marilyn Heilman, Ed.S., associate professor and chair of the education department, retired at the end of the spring 2005 semester. She had been a member of Morningside’s faculty since 1978, including

three years as director of the Learning Resources Lab from 1983 to 1986. Throughout her tenure, she has served as an academic advisor and as director and supervisor of student teachers. She has served on many boards and committees, among which were faculty committees, the advisory board for the Regional Center for Teaching and Learning at Morningside College, and two state accreditation review teams with the Iowa Department of Education. She also served twelve years on the Eastwood Community School Board. She is a faculty member and chapter advisor of Kappa Delta Pi, an international honor society in education. She was Morningside’s institutional representative to the Iowa Association of Colleges of Teacher Education (IACTE) and other education associations.

In 2003, she was awarded the Lucille and Charles Wert Faculty Award for excellence in teaching. The annual award, established in 1996, recognizes the faculty member judged by his or her peers to best exemplify the ideas of the academic profession at Morningside. Heilman also received the Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK) Faculty Person of the Year Award in 1988.

Before coming to Morningside, Heilman had been an elementary teacher at Eastwood Community Schools, Battle Creek Community Schools, Cushing Consolidated Schools, and Ida Grove Community Schools in Iowa.

Jan D. Hodge, Ph.D., professor emeritus of English, continues to write and publish poetry. His prize-winning shaped poem “Carousel” will appear in the 5th edition of the poetry textbook *Western Wind: An Introduction to Poetry*, edited by David Mason and published by The McGraw-Hill Companies. His shaped poems “The One That Got Away” and “Genesis” appeared in issue 30.2 of the *New Orleans Review*, published by Loyola University in New Orleans, La. His poem “Good Question” appeared in the winter 2005 issue of *The Classical Outlook*, the journal of The American Classical League. His double-dactylic poem “Jack Sprat” recently appeared in the anthology *Kiss and Tell*, edited by Gail White and published by Doggeral Daze this year. He continues to do readings and programs for local classes and civic groups and was invited to participate in the 2005 Des Moines Poetry Festival in Iowa.

Robert Jewett, Ph.D., former professor of religious studies, has been guest professor of New Testament at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, since 2000. In November, he was honored at the Society of Biblical Literature Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, with the book

Celebrating Romans: Template for Pauline Theology. Essays in Honor of Robert Jewett, edited by Sheila E. McGinn and published by Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, Mich. According to the publisher, the “book brings international Christian scholars together to celebrate Robert Jewett’s lifelong interest in Romans by reviewing — and significantly advancing — five fruitful approaches to Paul’s most influential work.”

Marty Knepper 1972, Ph.D., professor of English, presented her paper “Miss Marple’s St. Mary Mead: A Geographical Exploration” at the national conference of the Popular Culture Association (PCA)/American Culture Association (ACA), held in March at San Diego, Calif. Her paper unveiled a new theory about the location of St. Mary Mead, the fictional English home of author Agatha Christie’s popular detective character Miss Marple. She also chaired the panel discussion “Mystery and Detective Fiction: A Sense of Place.”

John S. Lawrence, Ph.D., professor emeritus of philosophy, was the recipient of the 2005 American Culture Association (ACA) Governing Board Award for Contributions to Scholarship on American Culture. The award, according to the ACA, “recognizes academic excellence in research and writing as it relates to popular American culture and the society we live in.”

Mary Leida, Ph.D., dean for advising, and **Steve Nimmo**, Ph.D., associate dean for academic affairs, presented “Lessons Learned During a Successful Self-Study” at the Pre-Conference Workshop on Self-Study for the 110th Annual Meeting of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) held in April at Chicago. The two were co-chairs of the college’s self-study steering committee during its recent HLC accreditation review in 2004.

Sean Meehan, Ph.D., assistant professor of English, has been awarded the 2005-2006 Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association Fellowship for the Study of Emerson and his Circle from Houghton Library at Harvard University. The fellowship will allow Meehan to spend one month at Houghton Library, the principle rare book and manuscript library at Harvard. Meehan will research material for a book he is writing titled *Emerson’s School*. The book is a study of Emerson’s philosophy of education and its relevance for a secondary school curriculum. He will also include the research in a course he will teach about Emerson at Morningside.

Pam Mickelson, Ed.D., professor of business and economics, presented the case study “Entrepreneurship in the Arts Program: A Startup Story” at the national Self Employment in the Arts (SEA) Conference held this spring in Naperville, Ill. Mickelson’s presentation reflected her work as the director of the Center of Entrepreneurship Education at Morningside, which began in 2002 with a grant from The Coleman Foundation.

Peter Wood, D.M., assistant professor of music, had his article "Gunther Schuller's Concerto for Trumpet and Chamber Orchestra: A Hidden Treasure" accepted for publication in the January issue of the *International Trumpet Guild Journal* and also was named editor of the "Recording Reviews" column for that journal.

STAFF NOTES

Ron Allen, M.S., has been hired as the new head men's and women's swimming coach. He was previously the head men's and women's swimming coach at the University of South Dakota.

Duane Benson has assumed duties as director of the bookstore. Previously, he worked as a business consultant at Iowa Office Supply in Sioux City.

Janet Chobar, B.S., began duties as licensure officer for the education department last fall. She came to Morningside from Graceland University in Lamoni, Iowa, where she was a graduate assistant in the master program. She has completed graduate work at Colorado State University in Greeley, Colo.

Bonnie Cray is the new administrative assistant for the student financial planning department. Previously, she had been director of the education department's resource center since 1997.



Fred Erbes

Fred Erbes 1962, B.S., director of gift planning, retired in May, after nearly 40 years of service to Morningside. He joined the college in 1967 as an admissions counselor and was promoted to admissions

director in 1978. He next served as director of alumni development from 1985 to 1990, when he was promoted to director of gift planning. He implemented the W.S. Lewis Heritage Roll of Honor, a program recognizing those who include the college in their estate plans and named after Morningside's second president. For the last 15 years, he served as the college's editor for *Horizons*, a quarterly publication about estate planning.

Erbes was co-founder and is a member of the Planned Giving Council of Siouxland and one of three who started a Leave A Legacy chapter in Sioux City. He is a past president of the Siouxland Estate Planning Council.

Julie Flannery, M.L.A., has begun duties as degree auditor in the registrar's office. She came to Morningside from Unique Fabrique in Le Mars, Iowa, where she had been assistant manager, sales associate, and bookkeeper.

Aaron Nelson, M.S., is the Mustangs' new head volleyball coach. He comes to Morningside from South Dakota State University, where he had been an assistant coach.

Kelly Schmidt is the new head men's and women's golf coach. He had been the head golf professional at Whispering Creek Golf Club in Sioux City.

IN LOVING MEMORY

Sibyl W. Betts, Sioux City, died Dec. 20, 2004. Betts was a former staff employee.

JoAnn C. Davis, South Sioux City, Neb., died Dec. 19, 2004. She was a former staff employee and received the college's Order of Morningside award in 1997.

Gary Ham 1992, Sioux City, died unexpectedly from a sudden illness on March 1, 2005. Ham had worked part-time in the college's mail room since 1992 and was a teacher at the Winnebago Middle School in Nebraska.

Peter R. Langlois, Sioux City, died Dec. 18, 2004. Langlois was a former public relations director.

William F. Nutt, Sioux City, died Nov. 1, 2004. Nutt received the Order of Morningside award in 1976.

Carlyle S. Petronis, Sioux City, died Dec. 14, 2004. Petronis was a former director of campus security from 1990 to 2000.

REID CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

in 2002 by Carolina Academic Press, Durham, N.C.

Most recently, she has had two book chapters and two journal articles published, among which were "Athletics as Medicine for the Soul" in the journal *Skepsis XIII-XIV* and "Socrates at the Ballpark" in the book *Baseball and Philosophy: Thinking Outside the Batter's Box*, published by Open Court, La Salle, Ill. She has served on the editorial board of review for the *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport* since 1998.

She had also given several presentations at such conferences as the International Association for the Philosophy of Sport in Cheltenham, United Kingdom, and The International Conference on Greek Philosophy in Athens, Greece.

She holds a doctorate and master's degree in philosophy from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a bachelor's degree in philosophy and English language and literature from the University of Virginia.

COYNE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

He has published work in several literary magazines, among which were his short story, "Hollowed Be Thy Name," which appeared in the March-April 2004 issue of *The North American Review*, and his poem, "Living Down Jersey," which appeared in *The Potomac Review* this past summer.

He is the creator and coordinator of The Sioux City Readings Series, which brings nationally published poets, novelists, and short story writers to Sioux City to give readings and to talk to students about the business of writing.

Coyne holds a doctorate in creative writing and American literature from the University of Denver, a master's degree in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a bachelor's degree in English from Catawba College in Salisbury, N.C. He also studied at the University of Iowa Graduate Program in Writing.

BURNS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

published in the *Journal of Social Distress* and in *Social Development*. She has been selected to write a chapter on "Inviting Students to Become Research Collaborators" for the *Handbook of the Teaching of Psychology*, published by Blackwell Publishers. She authored the content for the companion Web site for the newly released textbook *An Introduction to Statistics and Research Methods: Becoming a Psychological Detective*, published by Prentice Hall. She is also a consulting editor and reviewer for the *Journal of Psychological Inquiry* and the *Psi Chi Journal of Undergraduate Research*.

Burns holds a doctorate in personality and social psychology with an emphasis in child development from Kansas State University. She received her master's degree in experimental psychology and her bachelor's degree in psychology from Emporia State University in Kansas.