Susan Bell captures the Curry Award for 2007

The Curry Award for Faculty Excellence is designed to honor those faculty members who combine excellence in scholarship and teaching with a special dedication to faculty service. This year’s winner, Dr. Susan Bell, has demonstrated that extraordinary balance, combining a stellar record of service on committees and in institutional governance with a genuine commitment to scholarship and to students.

During her years as chair of psychology, Dr. Bell oversaw a full curriculum revision and solicited grant funds to improve the teaching conditions in her department. She served the college as a whole on a dozen different committees, including the Faculty Committee, and she continually works to connect with the community as well.

As a scholar, she is the author of two books and numerous journal articles, and she has made presentations at scores of conferences across the region and around the nation. In addition, she involves her students in research, and has started a research group to give students research credentials that will improve their chances for graduate school.

As a teacher, she handles an extraordinarily large student load without losing touch with the importance of individual attention and support for each student. She works with students on their coursework, but she also supports them outside of the academic environment, attending sporting events, concerts, plays, weddings, and baby showers.

As one nominator commented, “One of Dr. Bell’s most admirable qualities is her positive attitude. She approaches all projects and tasks enthusiastically, including everything related to students. She conveys a sense of true enjoyment for all the work she does related to our... students; her energy is both unending and infectious.”

Faculty Scholarship Update

W.T. Pfefferle (English) read more than 400 full-length collections of poetry this past year in his stint as series editor of the University of North Texas Press’s Vassar Miller Prize in Poetry. He selected five finalists and then consulted with final judge Naomi Shihab Nye to select Richard Carr’s book *Mister Martini* as the winning entry.

Norman Wirzba (Philosophy), author of *Living the Sabbath: Discovering the Rhythms of Rest and Delight* received a “Best Book of the Year” award given by HeartsandMindsbooks.com. Byron Borger, who awarded the book, had this to say: “[We] simply must award this not only as one of our favorite picks of the year, but one of the most important... I could list this in a few categories as one of the best works of cultural criticism, one of the best Biblical studies, one of the most helpful guides to sane lifestyle, one of the best books of theology. When I want to exclaim about it around so many different topics, I realized that it truly is one of the finest books I’ve read.”

Steven Carter’s (English) novel *Famous Writers School* has been nominated for the Kentucky Literary Award in fiction. The United Kingdom edition of the novel is being published this April by Old Street Publishing, and this coming fall it will also be published in paperback in the United States. In December his short story “Convertible” was published serially in *Velocity*, the Louisville alt weekly, and he was also recently awarded a Professional Assistance Grant from the Kentucky Arts Council.

Kitty Dougoud (Art) attended the International Dyslexic Conference in Indianapolis in November. She also had work in the Scott County Art League exhibit, Art of the Heart, at the Scott County Museum and did commission work for the annual Frosty and Friends snowmen exhibit for Bohannon’s Books. She also recently completed some commissioned art work in Whitley Co.
Emily Stow (MCLC) will be presenting a paper, “Dysfunctional Society, Dysfunctional Families: Growing up in the Novels of Carmen Laforet, Ana María Matute and Ana María Moix” at the 15th Annual Midwestern Conference on Literature, Language and Media at Northern Illinois University on March 31. She will also be presenting a paper entitled “Daughters Trapped in Their Mothers’ Shadow: Family Dysfunction in Nineteenth-Century Spanish Novels” at the 27th Cincinnati Conference on Romance Languages and Literatures on May 10. She will be teaching for the Governor’s Scholar Program this year on the Bellarmine Campus from June 10-July 21.

Sonny Burnette (Music) presented a talk titled “A Very Brief History of Rock Music” to the Georgetown Rotary Club in January. His string quartet, Gershwin ... Lost in Tunisia, has been added to the repertoire list of the Ambiance String Quarteto, comprised of section principals from within the Romanian Philharmonic Symphonic Orchestra. The Chesapeake Flute Consort performed a Burnette work on its February 11 concert. His Stained Glass Images was performed in January by the Silver Winds Flute Choir (Knoxville), and by the Cal State Fullerton Flute Ensemble in December. The Space Coast Flute Orchestra (FL) performed his The Night Before Christmas on its December concert. Burnette’s Kaleidoscope for carillon will be performed at The University of Sydney by honorary carillonist Stacey Xiao Yu Yang in May.

Heather Winter Hunnicutt (Music) presented her performance anxiety research at the College Music Society Great Lakes Regional Conference on March 3 in Bowling Green, Ohio. She will also be presenting “Musical Performance Anxiety: Predicting the Unpredictable” at the College Music Society International Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, this July. On Monday, April 16, she will be performing a recital of music from the Romantic era including works by Strauss, Liszt, Meyerbeer and Stephen Foster in Hill Chapel.

Juilee Decker (Art) presented a paper entitled “The Post-Creation Life of John Constable’s The Hay Wain” at the “Art, Literature, and Cultural History” symposium held at the University of Kentucky in January 2007. Earlier in the month, she spoke at Centre College, where she provided a critical view of English art from the nineteenth through twenty-first centuries as a guest lecturer for Dr. William Levin’s course on nineteenth century French art. In February at the College Art Association Annual Meeting, she was elected 2nd Vice President of the Historians of British Art, an international scholarly organization devoted to British art of every medium and all eras, from ancient to contemporary. In addition, the catalog for the Asa Park exhibit, produced by Georgetown Scott County Museum and Georgetown College, has received an Award of Merit from The Historical Confederation of Kentucky and the Kentucky Historical Society. Decker worked with students such as Carrie-Cate Jenkins, Jonathan Ratliff, Stephanie Martin, Josh Howard, Chris Gaither, Jason Colliver, Ashley Ratliff, Rachel May, Amber Tackett, Brittani Bryant, Ashley Gabbard and Megan Parker to produce the catalog.

Homer White (Math) delivered two talks on history of mathematics at the Joint Mathematics meetings in New Orleans in January. They were: “Euler and Honors,” in which he described some of the honors projects that students at Georgetown have undertaken in the history of mathematics; and “An Exploration of the Notion of Indian Upapatti in the Aryabhatiyabhashya of Nilakantha Somayajin.” He is also classroom-testing his chapter for the collection Mathematical Time Capsules (to be published in the MAA Notes series later this year). It is entitled “Classroom Capsules, Courtesy of Leonhard Euler.”

Jennifer Price (Psychology) worked with several students (Sarah Flynn, Brooke Reed, Nicole Williams, and Bethany Roll) to prepare a poster for the upcoming Kentucky Psychological Association’s Spring Academic Conference. The poster is entitled, “Do You Facebook?” and addresses relationships between students’ personality characteristics and their usage of/attitudes related to Facebook. She is also preparing a poster for the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies annual conference as well as working as a reviewer for that conference.

Michael Cairo (Political Science) attended the 48th

Jeff Asher (Religion) published eight book reviews, delivered two papers, published two articles with a third under review, and has continued to work on his new book. The eight book reviews are as follows: (1) Lo, I Tell You a Mystery. Cross, Resurrection, and Paraenesis in the Rhetoric of 1 Corinthians, by David A. Ackerman, in Catholic Biblical Quarterly; (2) Remembering Socrates: Philosophical Essays, ed. by Lindsay Judson and Vassilis Karasmanis, in Choice; (3) The Religion of the Mithras Cult in the Roman Empire, by Roger Beck, in Choice; (4) Religion in the Roman Empire, by James B. Rives, in Choice; (5) Voting About God in Early Church Councils, by Ramsay MacMullen, in Choice; (6) Resurrecting Jesus: The Earliest Christian Tradition and Its Interpreters, by Dale C. Allison, in Perspectives in Religious Studies; (7) Four Gospels, One Jesus?: A Symbolic Reading, by Richard A. Burridge, in Perspectives in Religious Studies; and (8) Jesus A Jewish Galilean: A New Reading of the Jesus Story, by Sean Freyne, in Perspectives in Religious Studies. He also recently delivered two papers: (1) “An Unworthy Foe: Heroic Ethoi, Trickery, and Slander in Eph 6:11,” which was presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in the Disputed Paulines Section, November 2006 in Washington DC; and (2) “Historical Imagination and A Woman’s Place,” which was presented at the Midwestern Conference of the Society of Biblical Literature in the Women and the Bible Section, February 2007 in Illinois. In addition, two articles were recently accepted for publication and a third is currently under review for publication: (1) “Thucydides,” in The New Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible; (2) “Tiber River,” in The New Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible; and (3) “An Unworthy Foe: Heroic Ethoi, Trickery, and Slander in Eph 6:11,” which is under review in the Journal of Biblical Literature. Finally, he is also continuing to work on his new book: The Virtues of Violence. The work on this monograph has significantly progressed in recent months.

Pete LaRue (Music), Director of the Tiger Bands, celebrated his 13th Anniversary as Music Director & Conductor of the Central Kentucky Concert Band on February 25, 2007. The special concert titled “Triskaidekaphobia” celebrated the number thirteen. Featured soloist for the concert was Janis Dellinger Bryant, renowned operatic soprano and choral educator from Asheville, NC. The concert was held in Haggin Auditorium of the Mitchell Fine Arts Building on the campus of Transylvania University.

Barbara Burch (English) delivered the Cawthorne Lecture at Georgetown College on February 27. Her lecture, entitled “Whatever You Say. Say Nothing’: The Art of Retrenchment in the Poetry of Terrorism,” focused on Irish political poetry. Burch received the Cawthorne Award at the commencement ceremony in 2006.

Jim Klotter (History) has given three talks-on a 19th Century political scandal to the Bluegrass Kiwanis Club, on “Kentucky in World War II” to the Lexington Kiwanis Club, and on “Kentucky Family Farms” to members and friends of the UK Anthropology Department. His comments concerning still another political scandal in Kentucky appeared on NPR recently. And finally, during the Kentucky History Awards, his most recent book, Faces of Kentucky, written in collaboration with his wife, Freda Klotter, won an Award of Merit from the Historical Confederation of Kentucky.

Todd Hamilton (Chemistry) and his undergraduate associate, Jeremy Mahlman, will be presenting their research entitled “Nickel and Copper Ions Inhibit the Ortho-Phenylenediamine/Horseradish Peroxidase System” at the 7th Annual Kentuckiana Undergraduate Research
Roger Ward (Philosophy) delivered the Stanley Philosophy Lecture at Augustana College, Sioux Falls South Dakota November 13, titled “Reason and the War on Terror.” He presented his essay “Knowledge and Transformation in Peirce’s ‘Reason and the Logic Of Things’” at the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy, on March 16 at the University of South Carolina. This essay has been chosen for inclusion in a forthcoming issue of the Journal of Speculative Philosophy. Ward has also been asked to serve as a subject editor for the Dictionary of Modern American Philosophers covering early theologians of the Republic. In April, Ward will chair a session at the American Philosophical Association Central Division titled “Peace, Politics, and Pragmatism.” And papers from the Young Scholars in the Baptist Academy seminar in 2006, which Ward directs, will be published next year by Paternoster Press under the title Tradition and the Baptist Academy.

Susan Bell (Psychology), along with the School Psychology Research Group of seven undergraduates (Brooke Reed, Stacey Phillips, Ashleigh Gray, Anna Fraley, Crista Clocker, Josh Taylor, and Brandon Hess), has submitted a proposal to the Kentucky Psychological Association Student Mentoring Conference to be held March 31, 2007, in Lexington, Kentucky. This poster describes preliminary data from a national survey of undergraduate psychology faculty advisors regarding their knowledge of the field of school psychology as compared to clinical and counseling psychology. She also serves as co-author for an invited article on preschool intervention scripts, recently completed and submitted to the Journal of Speech-Language Pathology and Applied Behavior Analysis.

Michael Rich (MCLC) was invited to spend the day at Berea College giving a lecture entitled “From Nepal to Japan: The Adventures of an Accidental Asianist,” sponsored by Asian Studies Program and International Center. He will also lead a seminar discussion on classical Japanese poetry in Jeffrey Richey’s course on “Religion in Early Japan” at Berea.

Dave Forman (Education) has been following the course of a school year at Scott County High School during his sabbatical. As he has attended classes, worked in the library, observed our own student teachers and teaching assistants, and participated in the integration of technology in a real setting, he has gotten involved in documenting certain aspects of this experience through short videos. In addition to working toward producing more of these for specific purposes in his own teaching, he has found opportunities to help promote programs there at SCHS through these video products. Two examples so far include these videos available on YouTube: The Introduction to Engineering class-- “Rapid Prototyper” at SCHS (produced to share a fascinating resource available here--see http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOiAZgD5u60); and The Senior Project elective class at SCHS (see http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fHcgBn3PGmU).

Chris Proulx (Kinesiology) was invited to the Federation of State Massage Therapy Board’s National meeting to sit on the Job Task Analysis Committee to review the national data collected from over 7,800 respondents and review the development of the new national certification examination. On March 11, 2007, he traveled to London, England, where he was an invited guest speaker by Chattanooga Group, Inc. on spinal decompression therapy. On April 1, 2007, he will be in Statesboro, Arkansas, where he will speak to the Arkansas Chiropractic Association on Spinal Decompression Therapy. And on June 16, 2007, he will go to Brooklyn, New York, to speak to the New York State Regional Strength and Conditioning of the National Strength and Conditioning Association on the Effects of Training with Unstable Environments.

Ira (Jack) Birdwhistell (Religion) completed a review for Choice of N. T. Wright, Evil and the Justice of God (InterVarsity Press, 2006); he also prepared a 3500-word manuscript, ‘Campus Ministry at Georgetown College, 1964-1997: A Personal Account’ for presentation to the Georgetown College Archives.