CPACS Happenings (April 1979 Newsletter)

College of Public Affairs and Community Service, University of Nebraska at Omaha

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Dr. James Thorson has been selected as the new director of the Gerontology Program, subject to final approval by the Board of Regents later this month. Dr. Thorson has served the program for the past two years as academic coordinator, and he is featured in the "personnel profiles" of this issue of "Happenings."

Contemporary Chicano poet, Alurista, is currently at UNO as a guest of the Goodrich Scholarship Program and the College of Public Affairs and Community Service. While on campus, he will meet with Goodrich and other CPACS classes, consult with the Center for Applied Urban Research, and conduct a creative writing workshop.

Alurista is author of three collections of poetry: Floricanto en Aztlan, UCLA Aztlan Pub., 1971; Nationchild Plumaroa, Tolteca Pub., 1972; and Timespace Huracan, Pajarito Pub., 1976. He also authored a collection of children's stories, Tula Y Tonan, Tolteca Pub., 1972, a play titled Dawn and several literary essays of literary criticisms. He has edited several major poetry collections and anthologies and contributed to numerous magazines and journals.

Currently a lecturer in Chicano Studies at San Diego State University, Alurista's previous teaching experience includes courses in creative writing, Chicano literature, thought and culture, history, and psychology, pre-Columbian literature, and history and sociology of racism.

Alurista will offer a recital, free and open to the public, on Friday evening, April 27th at 8:00 p.m. in the UNO Writer's Workshop, Annex 21. Interested individuals are invited to contact the Goodrich Program about Alurista's other scheduled activities and availability by calling 554-2274.

Among the first groups to visit mainland China since normalization of relations between the U.S. and China, was a group of American educators. Dr. Leo Missinne, Gerontology, was among 38 people who accompanied NU President Ronald Roskens on the tour of five Chinese cities from February 13th to March 5th.

The tour included the cities of Peking, Nanking, Wushi, Shanghai and Kwangshow (Canton), where the group visited universities, middle schools, elementary schools, factories, hospitals, and communes. At the College of Education in Nanking, he was able to talk with a psychology professor, through an interpreter, and make some comparisons between the teaching of psychology in China and in the western world.

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Dr. Missinne also had the opportunity to lecture on gerontology, again through a Chinese interpreter, at the medical school at the University of Kwangsho. It is common for older people in China to live with families and to work as much and as long as possible, he says. A few homes for the elderly do exist, but are generally for people without children. Such Chinese institutions are called "Houses of Respect."

While the Chinese were very cordial hosts, and Dr. Missinne says that he admires many aspects of their way of life, he thinks he and most westerners would find it very difficult to live there. Nevertheless, the visit was both very educational and most memorable.

Volunteers are needed to welcome people, serve as guides, and register people for health tests at the 1979 Senior Citizen Celebration Days. Sponsored by the Gerontology Program, this annual festival for older people will take place May 15-17 in the UNO Student Center, and will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day.

...is to love them. For your interest and reading pleasure allow us to introduce yet a few more of the CPACS faculty and staff.

Since October 1977, Carole Stephens has been secretary in the Criminal Justice Department. She provides secretarial services for the department head and six faculty members. Although she says she wouldn't have chosen a criminal justice career for herself she finds the work of the department's professors fascinating.

Carole has a B.A. from Nebraska Wesleyan University and a teaching certificate from UNL. Although she has done some substitute teaching, she opted for a career as a full-time homemaker until recently. Before coming to UNO, she was a teacher aide at Underwood School.

Historical novels, biographies and autobiographies are Carole's special reading interests. She also enjoys movies and loves to play bridge -- anyone need a "fourth?" She and her husband George have two children at home, Sharon, 18, and Michael, 10.

Wilda Stephenson is associate professor and director of the Goodrich Scholarship Program. After 15 years of teaching experience in the Omaha Public Schools, she was loaned by OPS to the UNO Center for Urban Education, where she worked for the Teacher Corps Recruitment Program. In 1972, she joined the Goodrich staff as a tutor in the social sciences, and three years later became director.

Wilda's professional interests center on education, especially on civil rights and racial justice as those concerns affect the education of minorities. She is now formally extending her knowledge of the minority elderly as a student in the Gerontology Specialization program.
Since teaching in Africa during the summer of 1962, Wilda has hosted many African students in Omaha. "Hosting" is enjoyable for Wilda and husband Steve, who often relax by entertaining friends at home. Wilda is also active in the United Presbyterian Church, serving on local, synod and national boards. She is national secretary of Black Presbyterians United, and locally serves on the Wesley house board, the Head Start Parent Council and the Christian Urban Education Service.

Gerontology Community Service Assistant, Kathy Sullivan, came to UNO in December 1976 after graduation from Creighton University with a B.A. in journalism. Kathy is responsible for the public information function of the Gerontology Program. Specific responsibilities include the editing of research reports, newsletters and other publications, the design and development of brochures, and production of slide-tape presentations. In the past, she has been called upon to assist with a variety of special projects. Currently working only half-time, Kathy finds she must restrict her activities to the public information function. Kathy's number one interest professionally is writing and editing, and she dreams of one day editing a small newspaper. Personal enjoyments include musical theater, redecoration of their house, a "long-term" quilting project, and, of course, being the mother of five-month-old Danny.

Professor Peter Suzuki came to Omaha in 1973 from Munich, Germany, where he taught in the University of Maryland overseas program. He had also taught for Maryland in both Crete and Turkey prior to joining the CPACS Urban Studies faculty. He currently serves the department as chairperson. Urban Studies is the major category describing Peter's professional interests, and the current focus for his teaching and research. With a professional background and interest in anthropology and sociology, he conducted research fieldwork while in Europe. Since coming to Omaha, he has done a study of the jitney system in the black community, and some study of Omaha's Japanese community. Personally active in the community, Peter recently wrote a proposal for the Omaha Children's Museum which made possible a teaching exhibit of Japanese games, toys, and leisure-time activities. Funded by the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities, the exhibit began March 24th and will run through mid-May. He also co-chairs the Committee on Children and Family Justice, a two-year project of the National Council of Churches, which has as its goal improvements in the quality of life for American children. He is also editor of the "Omaha Interethnic Newsletter."
Jim Thorson, who has served the Gerontology Program as coordinator of Academic Affairs and assistant professor, was recently selected as the new director of the program, subject to approval of the NU Board of Regents. Jim came to UNO in 1977 from the University of Georgia where he had been assistant professor of adult education. As academic coordinator, he has been responsible for the design of curriculum and scheduling of courses, and for recruiting, advising and counseling of students. He also directs the Career Training Grant which provides funds for teaching and for student stipends. This term, he teaches two courses on death and dying which, quips Jim, "is quite an undertaking." (Go ahead and moan, ed.) Professionally, he describes himself as an educator, specifically an educator involved in teaching about older people. Jim claims that pinball is his "sport" and quotes Mark Twain, "Exercise is loathsome." He likes to read everything from ancient history to mysteries, and especially novels. He is also a rose gardener and an amateur photographer.

Assistant Professor Gail Tremblay joined the staff of the Goodrich Scholarship Program in September 1977. Prior to that, she had taught composition and textile weaving for five years at Keene State College in New Hampshire. She also taught Native American studies and silversmithing as part of an "alternate education program" there. Gail teaches a segment of the Goodrich humanities course devoted to art history from the perspective of American sub-cultures, and this term teaches an Arts and Sciences humanities course focused on the Native American perspective. She also holds a joint appointment with the UNO Writer's Workshop, where she offers a poetry studio. Gail says she is "first a poet." Her professional and personal interests coincide in a love for literature and art, as both scholar and creator. She was recently featured in a TV Classroom series on Nebraska poets. The loom in her office bears witness to her continuing interest in the art of weaving, and she still does some silversmithing. Although not involved in the creation of music, she enjoys a variety of music—from "Bagel and Bach" to Native American drums and songs.

UNO graduate and associate professor of Criminal Justice is Bill Wakefield. Bill did his bachelor's and master's work at UNO and then received the PH.D. from South Dakota State. Before returning to UNO in 1974, he taught at Dana College in Blair for six years.

Bill's professional interests are primarily in the treatment of criminal offenders and in juvenile justice, however his sociology and psychology background has led to research and publication in those areas as well. He loves to teach and offers the
introductory course, and behavior and corrections
courses in the department. He is also adviser for
the CJ student organization, is an Improvement
of Instruction Advocate, and a UNO Faculty Senator.
A drummer at heart, Bill still has a band which
plays for private parties on weekends, and he
occasionally plays with the Omaha Symphony. Other
interests are theater (He and his wife met at the
Omaha Playhouse.) movies of all kinds, swimming,
and jogging.

## Department & Staff Activities

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<th>Staff Member</th>
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<td><strong>CAUR</strong></td>
<td>CAUR co-sponsored a workshop on Sanitary and Improvement Districts for Sarpy County, which was held March 10th in Papillion. Other sponsors were the City of Papillion, Chiles, Heider, and Company, and the Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA).</td>
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<td><strong>Public Administration</strong></td>
<td>Ethel Hill Williams, Stan Powers, Bob Buchanan, Harry Reynolds, and 11 Public Administration graduate students attended the annual conference of the American society for Public Administration (ASPA) March 28 through April 6 in Baltimore.</td>
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<td><strong>DON DEPPE</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Deppe has been appointed to the Nebraska Advisory Committee to the United States Civil Rights Commission, which is chaired by State Senator Shirley Marsh.</td>
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<td><strong>EZRA KOHN</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Kohn gave two papers at the Annual Program Meeting of the Council on Social Work Education, held in Boston March 4-7: &quot;Report on the State of the Art Conference on Comparative Social Development&quot; and &quot;Continuing Education in the Rural Context.&quot; He was also elected vice president of the Inter-University Consortium for International Social Development.</td>
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<td><strong>ETHEL HILL WILLIAMS</strong></td>
<td>Ms. Williams was a panel participant and led a workshop on building neighborhood capabilities as part of the Prairie Projects '79 program sponsored by the UNL College of Architecture.</td>
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<td><strong>JAMES THORSON</strong></td>
<td>&quot;Nursing Responsibilities in the Administration of Drugs to Older Patients&quot;, a book chapter co-authored by Dr. Thorson and his wife Judy Thorson, appears in Drugs and the Elderly: Social and Pharmacological Issues, recently published by Charles C. Thomas.</td>
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<td><strong>SAM WALKER</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Walker has been named to the board of directors of the Nebraska Civil Liberties Union. He recently testified before the Judiciary Committee of the Nebraska Legislature concerning LB 262 to eliminate the death penalty in Nebraska.</td>
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<td><strong>DONNA EDEN</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Eden spoke on &quot;Communication Skills&quot; at the Women in Management Seminar sponsored by UNO's College of Continuing Studies recently. &quot;Myths of Aging&quot; was her topic for the Congenial Couples Group at Dundee Presbyterian Church on March 11. &quot;Cognitive Style and the Older Learner&quot; co-authored by Dr. Eden and Dr. David Peterson, was the basis for Dr.</td>
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Peterson's presentation at the annual meeting of the Association of Gerontology in Higher Education.

JIM KANE
Criminal Justice

Mr. Kane has been a busy speaker recently. He spoke at a March 3rd workshop of the Omaha Catholic Deacons on "The Capital Punishment Question;" March 26th at a Creighton Prep seminar on moral values on "Capital Punishment and Morality;" and with Bill Wakefield and CJ students on KVNO's "Table Talk" where the topic was the recent study tour to England.

JANE WOODY
Social Work

At a February conference for Omaha area daycare workers, Dr. Woody spoke on "Helping Children and Families of Divorce." The conference was sponsored by the NU College of Home Economics.

LEO MISSINNE
Gerontology

Dr. Missinne has been notified that the Annotated Bibliography on Comparative Gerontology, co-authored with UNO Gerontology student Bonnie Seem, was accepted for publication by the International Federation on Aging. He recently spoke to the staff of the Tabitha Home in Lincoln about "Problems of the Elderly."

PAUL S.T. LEE
CAUR

"A Computerized Demonstration of the Central Limit Theorem in Statistics" by Dr. Lee had been accepted for inclusion in the proceedings of the sixth annual Indiana University Computing Network Conference on Academic Computing Applications.

CHUCK POWELL
Gerontology

Mr. Powell spoke on "Can Gerontology Programs Help Area Agencies on Aging?" at the Mid-American Conference on Aging in Kansas City February 20th.

SUNNY ANDREWS
Social Work

Dr. Andrews presented an all-day workshop on "Working with Families of Handicapped Children" in Scottsbluff February 16th. An article on "Respite Care for Parents of Handicapped Children: A Pilot Project" written with Ben Cacioppo of the Nebraska Psychiatric Institute, has been accepted for publication in the fall 1979 issue of Social Work in Health Care (volume V, No. 1).

BRUCE HORACEK
Gerontology

On February 28th, Dr. Horacek spoke on "Communication with the Dying and Their Families" as part of the in-service training for nurses and social workers at the Immanuel-Fontenelle Care Center.

MURRAY FROST
CAUR

Dr. Frost has been nominated as a candidate for the governing board of the Council of University Institutes for Urban Affairs. His article "The Jewish Community in Shanghai" appeared in the December 1978 issue of Judaica Philatelic Journal. Dr. Frost recently served as a consultant in the development of the Millard ninth grade curriculum unit on the Holocaust.
BILL BELL
Gerontology

As participant in the Helen Becker Conference on Rural Health Series, offered through UNL Cooperative Extension, Dr. Bell spoke on "Stress and the Retirement Years" in York, and on "Nursing Homes, Aging and the Terminally Ill" in Norfolk.

PETER SUZUKI
Urban Studies

"Structure and Themes of Nature and of the Family in Tanka (Classical Japanese Poetry of 17 Syllables)," by Dr. Suzuki has been accepted for publication by Literature East & West: Journal of Comparative and World Literature.

LAURENCE FRENCH
Criminal Justice

At the recent Academy of Criminal Justice Science meetings in Cincinnati Dr. French was a discussant on "Violence in Minority Communities"; presented two papers "A Multicultural Perspective on Minority Violence" and "A Comparison of Aboriginal and Contemporary Criminal Justice Among the Cherokee Indians"; and made a third presentation, with S. Neal Wailes of Jackson State University, on "Perceptions of Criminal Deviance."

At the Fifth Annual Third World Conference in Chicago in March, he presented "Comparative Neo-Colonialism and Dependency" (with Tom O'Toole, Western Carolina University) and was a discussant in the session "Problems of Emigration and Immigration."

During Black Heritage Month in February, he spoke with Jesse Payne, Director of Equal Education Opportunity for Nebraska on "Can the Campus Community Develop a Multicultural Environment."


His article "The Minority Perspective on Violence" has been accepted by the International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice.