

# Journal presents a taste of local talent

**CHRIS COLLINS**  
MANAGING EDITOR

Wichita Falls has got talent. That's what Elizabeth Hawley, a 45-year-old Costa Rica native living in Wichita Falls, thinks. And she would know – the housewife with two MSU degrees is the founder, publisher and editor of the Wichita Falls Literature and Art Review, a biannual magazine showcasing regional artists and authors.

Two issues in, Hawley and her staff have dug up a plethora of unique short stories, poems and photos.

"There are artists here who are little-known that should be known," Hawley said. "It all fell into place by itself, because I think it was needed."

The soft-spoken stepmother of four published the first edition of the magazine in Aug. 2008.

The most recent hit shelves this spring.

"I thought we needed one publication that would show our community who we have in town," Hawley said. "I went to Switzerland once and saw an exhibit. Turns out the artist was from North Texas and I had never heard of him. Had I not come to Switzerland, I might not have ever known about him."

It's this line of logic that led Hawley to plan a diverse, eclectic collection of area art.

She spoke about it with Dr. Lynn Hoggard, professor of English at MSU, while she was pursuing a master's degree here in 2008. Together, Hawley said, the two founded the magazine.

Hoggard, who has published five of her own books, is now a consultant for the publication.

She calls *WFLAR* a watering hole for the arts.

"With this journal, we have

something that strings together all of the arts as they are being created in Wichita Falls," Hoggard said. "We're trying to give artists the voice they deserve."

Submissions for the journal are up, Hoggard said.

She expects even more contributors with the recent release of the latest issue.

"Artists are beginning to hear about it and realize what an opportunity it is to get their work out to a wider public," Hoggard said.

"Whether I have a financial question or a question about MLA style, Lynn always gives me a straight answer," Hawley said. "That's what makes her such a great person on our team."

Community members and MSU faculty make up the core group of contributors, though more international artists are being worked in, Hawley said.

Some MSU personnel that con-

tribute are Catherine Prose, assistant professor of art, Dr. Michael Collins, interim chair of history, Nancy Steele-Hamme, chair of art and Steve Hilton, assistant professor of art.

"We've accepted pieces from all over the world," Richard Carter, photographer and all-around editor for the magazine, said.

Submissions from France and Spain have already been chosen for the winter issue, he said.

"As we learn about all the spots on the Internet where people can find out about us, we're starting to have people come from outside to submit, which is wonderful," Carter said.

The age range of submitters is anywhere from 16 to 80.

"This allows people to be creative and to tackle subjects in a different way," Carter said.

"It can be a different way to get people interested and involved in

some of the things of the past of Wichita Falls."

About 1,000 copies of each *WFLAR* issue are printed. The magazine is sold at Hastings, the Wichita Falls Museum of Art at MSU, the Kemp Center for the Arts, Dance Etc., and The Littlest Skyscraper.

Each issue costs about \$10 - \$12.

Hawley doesn't expect the publication to make much money right now, though that doesn't bother her.

"It's not set up that way, but it can become that way," she said. "Right now, it just pays for the honoraria we give to authors and artists. Printing costs right now are pretty much prohibitive. We keep the price low on purpose so that everyone can buy it."

"We're trying to make this more accessible to Wichita Falls," Carter said. "Our audience right now is

largely people from Wichita Falls, and we want people to see what's around them. I would like people to realize that there's a lot more talent around here than they think there is."

Since moving to the U.S. from Costa Rica in 1984, Hawley still notices the differences in how art is displayed in both countries.

"In San Jose there is so much culture," Hawley said. "I knew it was the same thing here, it was just harder to find for whatever reason. I think it's more accessible there, too, like everything's in one place. Here it seems to be spread out and not known. That's my interest – to make it known."

Hawley hopes that the magazine will grow to a quarterly, published four times a year.

Also she hopes it will be distributed regionally instead of just locally.

## Required classes inform about debt

**KRISTIN MULLEN**  
FOR THE WICHITAN

After four (or five or six) years of work, a hold on a hard-earned diploma is the last thing a student wants to see.

Graduating seniors who have received student loans through financial aid have four more chances to attend an Exit Counseling Session before commencement. The sessions will be held at 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on May 5 and May 21.

About 225 students must attend one of these one-hour classes before they can graduate. If they do not attend one before graduation on May 16, a hold will be placed on their transcript and diploma.

The purpose of these classes is to prepare students to repay their lenders.

For the 10 years Michelle Wells has been a financial aid counselor at MSU, students have been required to do some sort of exit session.

Any school that participates in the Federal Student Loan program is required to hold an exit session for students.

In 2007, the average borrower indebtedness hit \$14,500, up from 2005 and 2006.

MSU's current default rate is 6.2 percent. According to Sue Nelson, associate director of financial aid, this rate is expected to increase because of rising unemployment.

"We make every effort to make sure that the students know they can apply for an unemployment defense or forbearance during those times that they aren't able to make payments," Nelson said. "When students run into problems with their payments, the most important thing they can do is stay in touch with their lender or services so they do not go into default."

MSU's financial aid office offers four different types of loans, including Guaranteed Student Loans, subsidized and unsubsidized, Parent Plus loans, College Access Loans and private loans for students.

"All of this could change for the future as President Obama looks at the student loan program," Nelson said. "We will know how to go forward in the next few months."

**JENNY GAYLOR**  
**BRITTANY NORMAN**  
FOR THE WICHITAN

Alcohol violations in MSU residence halls jumped nearly 20 percent in 2008 over the previous year. Twenty-one students were caught with marijuana in their rooms.

A total of 142 cases of alcohol violations were on file this school year, according to Wayne Schields, assistant director for housing and residence life for judicial affairs. This compares with 119 cases for 2007-2008.

MSU policy states that no alcohol is allowed in residence halls. However, a first offense for students who get caught is not the last straw. Students are given a warning and must meet with Schields.

Since January, 23 violations have been recorded.

Not all of these recorded violations are reported to the MSU police department, according to Danny Reddick, director of

housing and residence life.

"If we go into an apartment during a party and there are 20 people, everyone gets summoned to have a hearing," Reddick said. "Not all of them have actually violated any rules."

If a student is just present when RA's come in and discover alcohol in the room, they won't be written up for an official violation.

Schields said he sometimes requires students to write a two-page reflective paper about what they have learned from the experience and about Texas alcohol laws. They must also complete an online alcohol education program, which costs \$25.

Students who possess marijuana must take an online program, which costs \$75.

"Sometimes students don't like the cost of the program and then I remind them what a ticket from the Wichita Falls police would cost," Schields said.

## Profes use program to catch copycats

**MATT LEDESMA**  
FOR THE WICHITAN

With the final days of classes winding down and deadlines for term papers quickly approaching, MSU students may want to think twice before handing in unoriginal work.

That's because a set of electronic eyes may be scanning those works, searching for any traces of plagiarism.

Turnitin, an anti-plagiarism program first experimented with by the university in 2004, has been helping professors like Robert Redmon keep students in line when it comes to academic dishonesty.

"I've found that it's even more beneficial for its deterrent effect than actual policing," said Redmon, associate professor of education and reading. "Students are much less likely to gamble with plagiarizing somebody else's work if they know they will be checked over by this program."

The student handbook defines academic dishonesty as the act of using source material of other per-

sons, either published or unpublished, without following the accepted techniques of crediting or the submission for credit of work not the individual's to whom credit is given.

According to its company Web site, the program helps educators check students' work for proper citation or possible plagiarism by comparing it with three continually updated content bases. Those three areas include the ever-expanding World Wide Web, content from subscription-based publications (newspapers, magazines, scholarly journals) and a vast archive of student papers already submitted to Turnitin.

"Basically the program takes the text and compares it with a large repository of text that the Turnitin company has purchased the rights to, plus other work submitted by students," he said. "It looks for similarities in the texts in a side-by-side comparison and gives a score based on what it finds. The more alike the text is base on the stuff in the database, the higher the score."

Redmon, one of the first to utilize the service on campus, also pointed out that the software is just a tool. The final discretion falls on the observer to determine whether or not any plagiarism has taken place.

The professor was unaware if any official statistics existed regarding how much the program is used by MSU faculty. According to Michael Dye, director of Information Systems, the service is paid for on a yearly basis. Last year's bill totaled \$6,713.35. Dye said the fee varies from year to year.

Turnitin's Web site claims that it has led to a reduction of more than 80 percent of plagiarism cases over the first several years at various institutions.

Some instructors at MSU are still unversed in its practices.

Redmon said a discussion took place two years ago on whether or not to continue using the service.

"At the time I was chair of the faculty senate and was in communication with the provost over whether or not to renew our subscription," he said. "She polled people

from all the different departments at the university to see how much it was valued. Apparently it was very much in use and most people thought it was a valuable resource."

One year, Redmon used the program on a paper submitted by a graduate student. What had started out as initial suspicions of some plagiarism ended with much more shocking results.

"There was a grand total of three original sentences," Redmon said. "When we tested his paper we found that he had almost completely copied it from two different literary resources that were posted on the Internet."

Turnitin.com said the company is currently projected to attain more than 166 million student papers by 2010. It's now licensed to approximately 6,500 high schools and colleges in 106 different countries and processes nearly 130,000 student papers a day.

## New course teaches writing for digital world

**HEATHER PRIMAVERA**  
FOR THE WICHITAN

Digital and New Media Rhetoric is course MSU will offer for the first time this fall.

The upper level English class will give students the opportunity to explore and analyze a different style of writing.

Sally Henschel, English professor at MSU, will be the instructor of the course, which will be held Mondays and Wednesdays at 2 p.m..

"We will examine the canons of rhetoric (invention, arrangement,

style, memory and delivery) and discuss how and/or if these canons apply to the production, display, distribution, recall and storage of information in digital and networked environments," Henschel said.

In other words, how are rhetorical strategies affected by technologies that require the author to compose flexible, reusable content, that allow the reader to shape the message he or she wishes to receive?

"In an economy where information is abundant, overwhelmingly so, how does a writer compete for the attention of the audience?" Henschel asked.

The course will examine this and other challenges that today's writers encounter.

Students will also read some excellent works on digital and new media rhetoric and put their new knowledge into practice with group projects.

One of the main learning modules for the class will be the new software, Adobe Technical Communication Suite 2. The software will allow students to create, manage and public technical documentation to multiple channels.

## New athletics fee could free up cash for organizations

**MEREDITH HUMPHREYS**  
FOR THE WICHITAN

The Student Allocation Committee can't determine next year's budget for 25 campus organizations until the state legislature votes on the passage of the proposed athletic fee.

As a result, the committee meeting, originally set for April 22, has been rescheduled for June 14.

The Athletic Fee, which was passed by the students and the Student Government Association last fall, would require full-time students to pay a maximum of \$10 per credit hour into a fund solely designated for athletics. The MSU regents will decide what the final fee amount will be, but Dr. Farrell said it is unlikely that the board will agree on \$10.

"It could be as low as even five dollars," Dr. Farrell said.

Dr. Jesse Rogers, SGA president Ian Van Reenen, the student member of the Board of Regents and a student athlete presented the proposed fee to the Texas State Legislature in April.

The Board of Regents expects to hear from the legislature by May 31.

"We feel very confident it's going to pass," Dr. Farrell said.

If the proposal is passed in Austin, the MSU Board of Regents will determine the exact amount for the fee. Then by calculating how many students are enrolled for next year, they will have a budget for the Student Allocation Committee.

The 2008-2009 budget was \$2,287,371 and was divided among

25 campus organizations. Athletics received \$515,000 of that budget.

The Clark Student Center was given \$355,295, the Counseling Center \$267,323, the Vinson Health Center \$290,385, Disability Support Services \$119,099, and Recreational Sports \$117,217.

The rest of the budget was allocated to groups and events such as: Academic Honors Dinner, Artist-Lecture Series, Campus Card Services, Cheerleaders, Family Day, Homecoming, Music, New Student Orientation, Rugby team, Student Development, Student Government, Student I.D./Handbook, Student Leadership Banquet, Student Success Series, Team Arrow Cycling Club, University Programming Board, Voices, Wai-Kun and the Wichitan.

If the athletic fee goes into effect next semester and the budget stays relatively the same, \$515,000 will be left in available funds.

Dr. Farrell said that these funds will go to the other organizations on the list, since many don't always get the amount they have requested.

If there is money left after the Student Allocation Committee has given to each group, it will go to a few different areas that the SGA voted on when it approved the athletic fee.

The students voted that the money go toward more leadership opportunities on campus, enhancing the hours of the Vinson Health Center, possibly hiring another physician for the health center, and for student spirit groups to travel to out-of-town sporting events.