

Faculty Notes

Music Chair **Tom Hodgman** recently served as the guest choral clinician at the 2004 Fulton County Choral Festival in Ohio. During this three-day event, Dr. Hodgman provided commentary and evaluation to over 40 select choral ensembles from the region.

Associate Dean for Student Affairs **Mike Gillilan** published an article called "Student Affairs at the Small Private College: Testimony from the Converted" in the Fall 2003 issue of the Michigan Journal of College Student Development.

Craig Weatherby, biology professor, spent part of last year working with the University of the Western Cape to study the geometric tortoise in South Africa. The geometric is one of the most endangered tortoises in the world. Weatherby also traveled to an island off the coast of Africa to study the unusual bowsprit tortoise, which drinks water through its nose, and lays one, abnormally-large egg at a time. That specific area has the highest density of tortoises in the world, with 100 per acre.

Agnes Caldwell, professor of sociology, criminal justice and human services, was honored with a Michigan Campus Compact (MCC) Faculty/Staff Community Service-Learning Award in February. This prestigious annual award is the highest MCC bestows on faculty and staff in the state of Michigan, and recognizes the influence on or engagement of students to be involved in community service or service learning through modeling, instruction and/or special projects.

Bill Tregoe, assistant professor of sociology, criminal justice and human services, has written a chapter describing his 20 years of teaching prison college classes in 11 prisons, published this year in "Convict Criminology," a reader edited by Ross and Richards (Wadsworth).

Jim Borland, vice president and dean for academic affairs, was one of the presenters at the 109th Annual Meeting of the Higher Learning Commission, a commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. His session was called "Chaos and Consensus: Assessing Distributed General Education."



Know It All

What was the inspiration for the Wizard of Oz?

Frank Baum published "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" in 1900. Designed as a fairy tale for children, Baum's book was an allegory of Populism. Populism was a powerful political movement of farmers in the Great Plains and the South in the late 19th century. These farmers faced many problems, including low prices for their goods, very high storage and transportation fees, and an economic system that made it very difficult to pay off mounting debts. Beginning in the 1870s, farmers began to advocate substantive changes including government regulation of the railroads, a monetary policy that brought more money into circulation, and use of the initiative and referendum.

Baum's story was a call for common people to listen to the Populist message. Dorothy, who symbolized the essential goodness of commoners, joined up with the Scarecrow (the farmer often derided for not being intelligent or sophisticated), the Tin Man (the industrial worker worried he had lost his soul by becoming just another cog in the machine), and the Cowardly Lion (1896 Presidential Candidate William Jennings Bryan). They travel to Oz to get help from the Wizard, the politician who appeared strong and wise, but whose rule was based on myth and illusion. Baum wanted people to understand they were being deceived by powerful leaders, and that positive change could not happen until they realized their own strengths and banded together to make change. When the movie was made in 1939, this subtext of political consciousness was reduced, and many other symbols of the Populist political platform were eliminated, but the story's message of hope struck a deep cord with Depression-era audiences.

-This Know It All was provided by Dr. Sean Condon, assistant professor of history.

Looking Back



Sadie Hawkins Day, 1943

This American folk event debuted in Al Capp's Li'l Abner comic strip on Nov. 15, 1937. As the story goes, Sadie Hawkins, "the homeliest gal in the hills," grew tired of waiting for fellas to come a courtin', so her father, a prominent Dogpatch resident, declared the first annual Sadie Hawkins Day. On this day, unmarried gals pursued the town's bachelors on foot, and if caught, the men were forced to tie the knot.

By the late 1930s the event had swept the nation, becoming an empowering rite on college campuses. In 1939, Life magazine reported that over 200 colleges held Sadie Hawkins Day events. AC was among them. At left, **Rose Moine Wilsher '44** (on knees), **Mary Ellen Neuroth Porter '44** (with gun), **Marjorie Ethel Jones Wilton '47** (white sweater) and **Phyllis Jane Turner '45** (holding apple) capture **Lewis Green '44**. The only question is, who will be the lucky lady?