

# Faculty Notes

In November, **George Aichele** from the philosophy and religion department presented at conferences in Athens and Frankfurt, as a result of his book "The Control of Biblical Meaning: Canon as Semiotic Mechanism" (2001). Aichele has been actively involved in publishing and editing for years.



**Diane Andrews Henningfeld '74**, professor of English, had an article published in the summer issue of "Thought and Action: The NEA Higher Education Journal." It was titled "Putting the Heart Before the Course: Passion vs. Planning." This past year she has also written

book reviews, short reviews, encyclopedia articles, and multiple chapters for books on drama, short stories and novels.

**Muqtedar Khan**, assistant professor of political science and a Nonresident Fellow at Brookings Institution, recently convened a conference with a colleague called "Bridging the Divide." Hosted by the U.S.-Islamic World Project at Brookings Saban Center for Middle East Policy, the conference brought together American Muslim scholars, activists and community leaders to discuss how to carve a role for American Muslims in policy making. A new initiative called American Muslim Group on Policy Planning (AMGPP) was launched during the event.

**Patrick Quinlan**, accountancy/business administration professor, recently published an article in "Quirk's Marketing Research Review." His article, "Begin With the Right Foundation: Analyzing Health Care Satisfaction Data," was the lead article in the June 2004 issue, which was devoted to health care research topics. Quinlan was also one of three researchers selected for an interdisciplinary team to evaluate the National Center for Patient Safety in Ann Arbor. The final evaluation will be provided to Undersecretary of Health, Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.



**Agnes Caldwell**, associate professor of sociology, social work, and criminal justice, published the teaching resource guide to "Critical Thinking in the Sociology Classroom" (2004) for the American Sociological Association. In addition, two syllabi for courses she teaches

were accepted for publication in other ASA teaching guides. Caldwell and her husband Tim announce the birth of their son, Owen Robert Wilson, on Nov. 12. He joins sister Abbie.

**Todd Hamilton**, associate professor of chemistry, recently authored a piece on the detection of new elements for the "Ask an Expert" section of Scientific American online. The magazine has requested to also publish it in their March print edition.

Librarian **Richard Geyer's** poem "The Chime" was published in the October 2004 issue of Candelabrum Poetry Magazine, Britain's longest-standing magazine devoted to formal poetry. It was inspired by the College's own Herrick Tower. Two more of his poems are scheduled to appear in upcoming issues.

## Know It All

### How are English and Spanish related?

Long before Ricky Martin told us about *Living' La Vida Loca*, before *salsa* outsold ketchup, even before the ubiquitous *taco vender* urged us to "run for the border," English has had previous encounters with Spanish. Depending on which scholars we consult, anywhere from several hundred to several thousand words have worked their way into English directly from Spanish.

Spanish speakers established St. Augustine, Fla., in 1565 and Santa Fe, N.M., in 1609. One of the first encounters of the two languages on our continent took place when Anglo-Americans reached the southwest and found a thriving cattle business with its own vocabulary in Spanish. The Spanish word for cow is *vaca* and those who work with cattle are called *vaqueros* – quickly adopted into English as buckaroos. On the ranch (*rancho*) the rancher (*ranchero*) was boss. From this same encounter come words such as cinch (*chinch*), lariat (*la riata*) and lasso (*lazo*).

American and English sailors in the 17th and 18th centuries traveled the ports of the Caribbean and Central and South America. They added to English words such as hurricane, tobacco and hammock – words that Spanish had already borrowed from inhabitants of the Caribbean. Add to their list *bonanza*, *cargo*, *El Niño*, *embargo*, *flotilla*, *armada*, *filibuster* (*filibustero*) and galleon (*galeón*).

English has also incorporated many food words from Spanish: *tamale*, *enchilada*, *fajita*, *frijoles*, *tortillas*, *quesadilla* and *burrito*. To this list we can add *chocolate* and *guacamole*, as well as herbs and spices such as *orégano*, *cilantro*, and *chile jalapeño*. How about *flan* for dessert and then a *siesta*?

How savvy (from *saber*, to know) are you already? Are the following words English or Spanish: *piñata*, *plaza*, *patio*, *poncho*, *pronto*? How about *cafetería*, *fiesta*, *sombrero*, *desperado*, *mosquito*, *machismo* or *nada*? Today they are both.

Despite concerns, monolingual speakers of English should not fear the future of English in the U.S. A recent study at SUNY-Albany showed English as the language of choice among the children and grandchildren of Spanish-speaking immigrants. Like earlier encounters with Spanish, English will continue to enrich itself with vocabulary from Spanish and from many other languages. In the on-going give and take among languages today, Spanish is currently absorbing hundreds of technical terms from English – just take a look at any Spanish website. *Haz clic aquí*.

-This Know It All was provided by Don Cellini, professor of modern languages and cultures.

**Did you know that the department of modern languages and cultures has celebrated World Languages Week each year since 1999? This year it is Feb. 7-11. Films in French, German, Japanese and Spanish will be offered as well as guest speakers, conversation tables in the dining hall, music and other activities.**