

Mary Fugleberg and Dale Williams work together Jan. 4 to compile statistics for the 2006 annual report. Fugleberg has assisted the associate dean in this and other tasks since 1987.



As I retire . . .

I was asked to write this article because this is my 20th year in the Dean's Office and my last issue of Dimensions. I retire June 30. Actually it has been rather a tall order, since similar to Walter Alston, who managed the Dodgers for 20 years on a one-year contract, my contract had to be renewed annually.

During my tenure at St. Cloud State University, I served under five presidents and four deans, worked with at least 55 different chairs and have been the lead editor for 30 newsletters. Part of my student-related duties included curricula, advisor assignments and exceptions. I have signed more than 7,000 major applications and more than 2,000 late/drop forms.

My office assistant all during my tenure has been Mary Fugleberg. She has been superb in all aspects and has helped me compile some of the statistics for this article.

Among my first duties was visiting Minnesota community colleges, articulating the programs in what was initially the College of Science and Technology (COST) with nine departments: Biological Sciences; Chemistry; Computer Science; Earth Science; Electrical Engineering; Industrial Studies; Mathematics and Statistics; Physics, Astronomy and Engineering Science; and Technology. In addition, I visited industries so current students could go back home to get internships.

COST offered 60 majors, 24 minors and 15 pre-professional programs in 1987. Presently there are 61 majors, 32 minors, 16 pre-professional and nine masters programs in twelve departments in the College of Science and Engineering (COSE).

As many in our college know, in my one-third time load, I taught beginning chemistry and quantitative analysis to approximately 2,000 students. In 1991, I received a Distinguished Teaching Award, as did several other COST faculty. It is gratifying to come upon a former student and be met with a smile and cheery, "Hello, Dr. Williams." This warms my heart and keeps me going.

The Student Research Colloquium and its predecessor emphasize the important research and design opportunities all students may engage in with their professors. The colloquium gives students opportunities to display their mainly junior/senior projects, and our college gives special recognition through the Denise M. McGuire Student Research Award. Student research efforts have resulted in first- and second-places in local, regional, and national competitions in aviation to engineering to physics and have led to doctorates from prestigious universities, e.g. Johns Hopkins. One of our manufacturing engineering graduates is finishing a post doc at Cambridge.

Judging the Grether Science Fair, arranging speakers for Professional Exchange Day (Pinky Nelson--NASA astronaut and professor and assistant provost at the University of Washington) and the COST Dean's Lecture Series (Roselyn S. Yalow, 1977 Noble Prize Laureate, who spoke on radiation and society), and attending scholarship ceremonies are rewarding in their own right. In all cases, students are honored and excellence is demonstrated. A feature that is nice to be a part of.

I am gratified with the progress made in committees I participated in or chaired: Chemical Hygiene, Institutional Animal Care, Excellence in Leadership, Homecoming and Recruitment and Retention. Working with people who want to get things done has always been a pleasure.

Another experience that has meant so much to so many is the four-year Title III project which started out for me as the Math/Science Education Development Center, then later undergraduate investigative studies. The nearly \$1 million grant allowed us to pay faculty to implement updated materials and equipment to support their areas. The students who benefited were those becoming math/science teachers, molecular biologists, and all levels of statistics, computer networking and environmental studies.

The faculty and staff of our college have always been about producing high-quality students who will represent themselves and SCSU well. The reality of this goal is an ongoing sense of accomplishment for me.