Congratulations go to...  

Dr. Richard Thompson (Physics), promoted to Professor  
Dr. Joe Christensen (Physics), granted tenure  
Dr. Mark Thornburg (Mathematics), granted tenure

Richard Thompson (Physics) has been named to the National Science Foundation “Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA)” Advisory Committee. The GPRA goal is to assess how well government appointments to federal agencies are spent and how much return is being obtained on the investment. This advisory committee will look into the operation of NSF, one of the principal providers of research funding for US science programs. Through the coming year, Thompson will work with other individuals from education and industry to study the programs funded by NSF to determine how effective they have been at fulfilling their missions in support of science progress in the US. As a representative from a small liberal arts university, Thompson will provide an effective voice for assessing the effectiveness of NSF in meeting the funding needs of science programs at primarily teaching institutions. This experience will be invaluable as McMurry faculty apply for NSF grants and the university seeks funding for facilities and instrumentation in the future.

Each year, Project Kaleidoscope asks the 800 members of its Faculty for the 21st Century to write an essay expressing their experience as a science educator and their vision for the future. Alicia Wyatt (Computer Science) has had her essay selected as one of only 14 to be prominently featured on the PKAL website (http://www.pkal.org/documents/pkal_selected-f21-statements.pdf) in a resource entitled “What Works - Selected F21 Statements: Institutional Leadership and Visions for Science for All.” Wyatt’s statement was the only one selected from a Texas, southwest or west coast university.

Bob Martin will retire from the Biology Department at the completion of the 2004-2005 academic year. Martin joined the faculty in 1989 following service in the Peace Corps, work at Chicago’s Field Museum of Natural History, and many years teaching at Mary Hardin Baylor University in Belton.

Over the years he has earned an international reputation as a mammalogist, through his authorship of the leading text for that subject and through his work with the Texas kangaroo rat.

He was the recipient of several grants in support of his research and has remained a consistent contributor to the literature. He has served as chair of two departments-Environmental Science and (most recently) Biology--and has been awarded Honorary Membership by the Texas Society of Mammalogists for his many years of leadership in that organization. He has brought many innovations to McMurry, including a focus on the use of GIS for habitat mapping and a biannual field course to Mexico. The search for his replacement will be undertaken this fall.

Bob Martin

Clark Beasley (Biology) was elected to a two-year term as a member-at-large of the Executive Committee for the Texas Association of Advisors for the Health Professions. TAAHP brings together health professions advisors and officers from the various health professions programs in Texas to discuss the policies and procedures involved in the selection of students for health-related programs at Texas professional schools, as well as their expectations for students entering these programs. As a TAAHP officer, Beasley will be involved in making recommendations to medical, dental, veterinary, and allied health programs across the state. He has been involved in health professions advising at McMurry for over 35 years.

Cindy Martin joined the McMurry Math faculty in 2003, fresh from a doctoral program in applied mathematics at Texas Tech. She is no stranger to small colleges, having obtained her bachelor’s degree from Howard Payne University. Besides being an outstanding teacher, she brings McMurry a new research dimension. Her work involves mathematical modeling of the behavior of static structures in the presence of turbulence, most notable seen in wing flutter of aircraft, vibration of bridges, and vibration of CDs and DVDs while being accessed by a computer. Most excited by her arrival was President Russell, who finally had someone on-board who can discuss the intricacies of aerodynamics.

Welcome, Cindy!

Tom Benoit will replace Robert Martin (Biology)  
Dick Schofield will replace Tom Benoit (Environmental Science)  
Mark Thornburg will replace Kelly McCoun (Mathematics)