

Distinguished Professor Awards 2004-2006

*In recognition of their sustained excellence in
teaching effectiveness and service.*

S. Page Cotton, Professor of Kinesiology—Page 2

Vergene Miller, Professor of Music—Page 3

Judith Raybern, Professor of Education—Page 4

S. Page Cotton joined DePauw in 1969 as a coach of basketball, soccer and tennis. He joined the faculty as an Instructor in 1972 and was promoted to Assistant Professor in 1977, to Associate Professor in 1985 and to Professor in 1996. He is also currently Director of Athletics and Recreational Sports and Men's Soccer Coach. In this role he oversees 21 intercollegiate sports, 20 intramural sports, 6 club sports, and a comprehensive informal sport and recreation program. His leadership as men's soccer coach is particularly notable, with NCAA tournament bids in eight different years. He is ranked 17th by number of victories as a soccer coach in Division III.

He earned his B.A. degree in 1969 from Springfield College and the M.A.T. degree from DePauw in 1971.

His teaching for the Department of Kinesiology has focused on coaching techniques, methods of teaching team sports, camp counseling and outdoor education, and physical education courses in tennis, golf, bowling, volleyball, racquetball, badminton, handball, soccer, and basketball. He has frequently taught a Winter Term course on Facility Management and Programming. He also takes a teacher's approach to coaching, and his success in that teaching is reflected not only in the winning records of his teams but the successful careers of his soccer players as teachers and coaches themselves. His teaching and coaching are notable for his emphasis on hard work, discipline, enjoyment, and fair play, words his students use to describe the lessons they learned under his tutelage.

In his service to DePauw and the profession, he has been a member of the Petitions and Scholastic Standing Committee, the International Education Committee, the Committee on Faculty, the Campus Priorities Committee, and the Health Services Committee. He has been recognized regionally and nationally for his service to the NCAA and regional sports associations. His fellow coaches and colleagues in the NCAA admire his leadership and his dedicated efforts on behalf of Division III sports. He was the project overseer for expansions of recreational and athletic facilities including for the exercise trail, weight room, Blackstock Stadium, and the Tennis and Track Center. He oversees these facilities and directs the staff and programs that fill them with an eye to serving the whole University community, a mission which he has fulfilled to the benefit of all.

Vergene Miller has taught at DePauw since 1977. Appointed as a full-time Assistant Professor in 1981, she was promoted to Associate Professor in 1987 and to Professor in 1995. She came to DePauw after a distinguished career, including long-term professional engagements with the Skylight Opera of Milwaukee, Chicago Opera Theatre, WGN-TV Artist Showcase Orchestra, Canterbury Summer Theater, and Shiek's Sextette of the Minneapolis Operetta Company. She has also been a frequent recitalist for the American Opera Society, The Chicago Symphony Club, the Lyric Opera Guild of Chicago and the Krannert Recital Series.

She earned her B.Mus. degree from the University of Missouri in 1968 and her M.Mus. degree from Northwestern University in 1972.

A devoted teacher of voice, vocal literature, opera literature, and vocal pedagogy, she has prepared many students for careers in opera companies. She also directed the DePauw Opera Theatre in 1990-91 and 1995-96. Her students have won major prizes, including frequent awards from the National Association of Teachers of Singing and major roles and prizes in opera productions and competitions including the Houston Grand Opera Auditions, The MacAllister Auditions, The Schmidt Auditions, the Miami Opera Auditions, and the Metropolitan Opera Regional Auditions. Her students continue a remarkable legacy of stellar performances and outstanding teaching careers. She has also frequently organized master classes and competitions. Her students regard her as an effective and supportive mentor, open-minded and well-informed, who guides them to finding strengths of performance they had not quite imagined were possible.

In her service to DePauw and the profession she has given performances at DePauw with the University Symphony and Choir, and she prepared an abbreviated adaptation of "The Daughter of the Regiment" by Donizetti for children's theatre what was performed at DePauw and at several other venues. She has also provided regional and national leadership for the National Association of Teachers of Singing, serving as president of the Indiana State chapter for four years. She served as resident director of DePauw's Eastern Europe program in 1989. She has also served on the Student Services Committee, the Divisional Nominating Committee, and the Petitions Committee. She has also served the School of Music recently on committees on accompanists, faculty loads, and the search committee for the Dean of the School. She is also known among her colleagues as both appreciative and supportive, a wise counselor and guide.

Judith Raybern joined the faculty at DePauw as an Assistant Professor of Education in 1974. She was promoted to Associate Professor in 1980 and to Professor in 1988. She served as chair of the Education Department and chair of the Teacher Education Committee from 1983 to 1997. She has also served as NCATE Exhibit Coordinator, helping to guide the department through successful national and state accreditation reviews.

She earned her B.S. degree from Butler University in Elementary Education in 1961, her M.S. from Butler in School Administration in 1965, and her Ed.D. degree from Indiana University in Elementary Education: Language Arts, Reading and Curriculum in 1974.

She has taught courses in elementary curriculum, developmental reading, corrective reading, reading diagnosis, foundations of education, introduction to exceptional children, curriculum and instruction, content literacy and learning, and language arts. She has also mentored and supervised many students as they have completed their student teaching and gained licensure (certification). Her students note how effectively she prepared them for careers as teacher/educators and how consistently she stays in touch, providing continuing mentoring and encouragement. They note her inspiration and her exemplary teaching which they still try to emulate.

In her service to DePauw, she chaired the Task Force to develop the Writing Competence Program in 1979, and served as Associate Director for Faculty Development for the Writing program in its first two years. She also twice served as resident director of the DePauw program in Freiburg, Germany. She also served as a member of the Committee on Faculty, the International Studies Committee, and the Committee on Management of Academic Operations (which she also chaired). In her professional service, she has also provided state and national leadership to the national education honorary Delta Kappa Gamma. She has served on the Editorial Board of the Indiana Reading Journal, the Indiana Professional Standards Board, and Indiana Association of Colleges of Teacher Education. She has also served on the NCATE Board of Examiners for accreditation visits to several other schools.