

Professor nominated for bishop

By Aaron Duell
Staff reporter

Imagine this. You are a professor at a private college and an ordained United Methodist minister. You've done a fair share of work for your denomination, but you haven't ever held a significant leadership job. Then a committee nominates you to be a candidate for one of the highest positions in the United Methodist Church.

This happened to Steve Rankin, philosophy and religion professor and campus minister. "I'm surprised to be a candidate," he said. "I'm very honored to be considered." Rankin has been at Southwestern College for 13 years.

If he gets elected as bishop,

he will have to leave the college. He would be assigned to a conference in another state and would have to move. "I'm torn about that," said Rankin. "The weird thing about that is if I get elected in July, I won't come back."

He and Cheryl Bell, former district superintendent from Wichita, were nominated Oct. 17 to be candidates for the office of bishop in the United Methodist Church.

A United Methodist bishop is in charge of a large portion of a state which is called a conference. "The bishop is responsible for about 700 churches," said Pat Ault-Duell, pastor of Trinity United Methodist in Hutchinson.

She is a former district super-

intendent. "He's the chief representative and spokesperson for all of those churches." The bishop is also in charge of assigning pastors to churches in the conference area.

There are four openings for bishops and nine candidates. The church has a system to determine the number of bishop openings.

"When they turn 65, they finish out their four-year term," said Barry Dundas, pastor of Trinity UMC in Salina and SC alumni from 1989. "We know each year how many bishops are going to retire."

The bishop candidates must campaign. "This is a race, so it will get political," said Rankin.

"There's a competitive drive in us. You can get caught up in the game. None of us wants to feel that way. We want it to be something that we really feel like God is overseeing."

Rankin brings his own perspective to the table. Dundas said, "His real strengths have to do with being such a strong scholar in United Methodism and his passion for the church. He has a real love for the United Methodist Church."

Rankin is also known for his ability to connect with young people. Ault-Duell said, "He brings a real passion for working with young adults. Our church really needs some vision

and leadership in reaching out to the young adult generations." This might explain why he was nominated in the first place. Rankin said, "I think people have seen what I've done here, and they know my interest in young people and they think that's why I should be a candidate."

The odds are not in Rankin's favor since he hasn't worked in the higher levels of the denomination.

Dundas said, "It's somewhat of a long shot. Steve does not have a lot of experience in the things that a bishop would normally do."

The process of being a candidate is significant in and of itself. Rankin said, "I believe God called me to be a candidate.

I don't know if He's called me to be a bishop. If I can help the church in that regard I will do so gladly."

The candidacy process affects him on a daily basis. He said that he regrets not being able to give his classes his undivided attention. "There's a lot of logistical work that needs to be done, and that's taken time already," said Rankin. "I'm much busier sooner than I thought I'd be."

Ault-Duell said, "He might be elected. He might not. Regardless of what happens it will be a fruitful and growing process for him and for those he interacts with"

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Graduates benefit during job search

By Thomas Nelson
Staff reporter

As December kicks off, students look forward to Christmas break. However, before we can relish in the Christmas spirit, we must suffer the dreadful week that is finals. For many students, this is the last time they will face the enduring ordeal seeing as how they will graduate at the end of the semester.

Graduation may mean many things for students. Some will

go on to higher education by attending grad school, while others will join the working world. For the latter, there is good news.

A recent study conducted by the Collegiate Employment Research Institute at Michigan State University found that companies are hiring more graduates fresh out of college than in previous years.

While hiring practices among all degrees is expected to rise a modest 2 percent, overall it will

rise 7 percent.

The study breaks down hiring practices into three categories that companies fall into based on size. Small companies are those who have less than 100 employees. Medium companies have between 101 and 3900, while large corporations have more than 3900.

Small companies are expected to increase hiring by 12 percent, while large corporations are looking to increase by 9 percent.

However, medium-sized employers are cutting back on their hiring plans because of concerns about the economy. They are particularly worried about the availability of credit, the increasing costs of material and supplies, and the upward pressure on salaries and health care payments.

Computer science majors will enjoy the best labor market. They are the only ones that all companies, regardless of size, will be hiring. While the

increase of 4 percent in opportunities may seem modest, the supply of new graduates will be over shadowed by the demand. In fact, employers may have to cut back their expectations because of the unavailability of qualified candidates.

The study says that there are many positive attributes that young adults bring to the workplace. New graduates are expected to bring energy, enthusiasm and drive to their new employers, in addition to fresh

perspectives and computer skills. However, employers are worried about new hires' attitudes and lack of commitment to the company

Starting salaries for bachelor's graduates are also expected to increase by 4 to 5 percent, which is double the increase offered in each of the previous two years.

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Phi Delt help out

By Chase Kuchera
Staff reporter

Some families don't have the pleasure of eating big hearty meals and the giving of presents. They can't afford to give presents to their children. Phi Delta Theta will give presents to several families in the community. The plan is to give each child a gift and some stocking stuffers.

Cordairo Hanson, graduate student, said, "I really like dealing with kids. Being an underprivileged kid myself, it was as if it was an incomplete Christmas without presents underneath the tree. I would just like to give back to kids that are similar to me in that certain respect. I will put forth the effort to help them and to help them out."

To help fund this project, the fraternity held a raffle. They went throughout the community selling tickets for about 20 prizes.

The grand prize was a \$250 Mary Kay gift basket that was donated to them. Some of the alumni donated money to help with the funding.

The Phi Delt's plan to budget up to \$50 per child. When the children submit their wish lists to "Santa," they decide on a pretty decent gift for him or her. With the money left over, they will also provide some stocking stuffers for the children.

Tristan Walters, biochemistry freshman, said, "It is an important way for us to make an impact in the Winfield community and on some children's lives."

Phi Delta Theta will begin this event Dec. 12, continuing through Dec. 24. A representative with the Big Brothers and Big Sisters foundation is helping them get started. The first 12 children who reply to the program are accepted into it.

Jordy Train, secondary education math freshman, said, "It is a very good thing to do, in general, for the Christmas season. Hopefully with this, we can set a standard for the other students and organizations."

With help from the representative through Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Phi Delta Theta asked for 45 minutes to spend with the children and their families. This time will be spent talking about their Christmas traditions, to play a board game, and to present the children with a gift.

Hansen said, "This will be beneficial on all kinds of levels. It will reflect on the community for their support. It will benefit the name of this fine institution, seeing as what we are doing throughout this whole mission. And this is for a very good cause."

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Caroling



April McCormick/Collegian photographer

Chris Schmitz, assistant professor of music and director of bands, Budi Taniwan, music sophomore, Nathan Haefele, physics and music freshman, play *The First Noel* in Mossman Hall Dec. 3. The seven member ensemble went all over campus playing Christmas carols. Faculty, staff and students gathered to listen to the group. They played three songs in each building.

Education majors prepare to enter classrooms next semester



Peggy Williams/Collegian photographer

Tiffany Roth, math senior, prepares a lesson to present to her class while student teaching. Roth will be student teaching at Winfield High School next semester.

By Nick Wagner
Staff reporter

A school record will be broken next semester in the education department. There will be 40 student teachers in 15 different districts.

Richard Bicker, assistant professor of education, said, "I've been here since 1990 and have never seen a turnout like this."

Tiffany Roth, mathematics senior, is looking forward to her opportunity to teach.

"I'm a little nervous. I don't know how the kids will react to me, but I'm hoping things go well," said Roth.

Roth will be student teaching in math at Winfield High School

next semester. "I've been studying education for about five years now. I'm ready to make an impact on the kids," she said.

Trisha Roudybush, music education senior, said, "Music is something I love. I have such a great passion for it."

"Music can come in so many different ways and can be so exciting and fun. I want to share my knowledge and experiences with the kids."

Roudybush will be teaching grades K-12 at Sedan.

"I have already had a lot of teaching experience through the church and with this past semester teaching strings in Sedan, so I'm not nervous at all."

"I trust and love working with

my cooperating teacher," said Roudybush.

Along with the other student teachers, they will have the full responsibilities that normal teachers would.

They will have a supervisor or cooperating teacher. The classroom teacher will supervise when they plan their lessons. They will even lead Parent-Teacher conferences during the semester.

In order to get this far, education majors must complete all of the education-based classes, be admitted to the student teacher program and meet all their graduation requirements.

They also must maintain a 2.5 gpa in three different areas, ma-

major specific classes, professional studies, and their overall.

They have to pass student teacher interviews as well.

The student teacher interviews consist of the current teaching staff at the college interviewing the student teachers to see if they are prepared for the next step.

Bicker said, "They've worked hard to get where they are. It's a long road to being a teacher and they've all shown that they are devoted, and demonstrated a commitment to teaching and to kids."

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