
REACHING THROUGH TEACHING

A NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTING CLASSROOM PHILOSOPHY AND PRACTICE AMONG KENNESAW FACULTY
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THE EDITOR CONSIDERS . . .

THIRTY YEARS IN PERSPECTIVE

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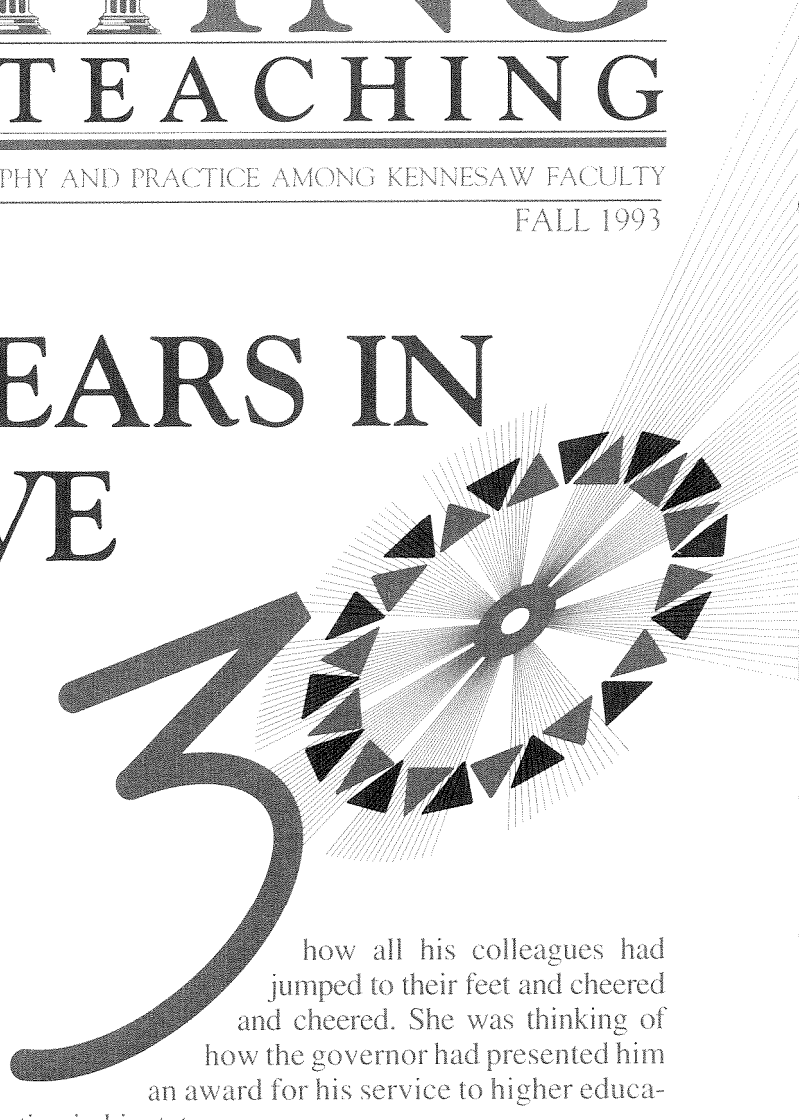
Thirty years is not very old for a college, but it is a considerable chunk of a professor's career. Indeed, many retire after thirty or so years of service. Kennesaw State, upon reaching this milestone, enters a new era. It is the era when fewer and fewer charter faculty remain. The founding faculty, the people who built the place, who loved it, nurtured it and guided it through its adolescence are, one by one, putting away their tattered caps and gowns, packing away decades of collected teaching paraphernalia and moving into a new phase of life.

What must they have experienced in their long careers at Kennesaw State? Change. Continuous, exciting, challenging, unsettling change. But in thirty years there is one thing that has not changed, and, hopefully, never will, and that is KSC's commitment to teaching.

"What is the greatest contribution you feel you've made during your career?" a young assistant professor asked a retiring colleague. She was thinking of the older professor's list of publications, his widely used textbook and the fact that he was always sought after as a presenter at professional meetings.

"Oh," he said to her surprise, "I would hope that my teaching is my greatest contribution."

"But surely," she pressed, "there must be some memorable recognition you have received. What would you say is your highest accolade?" She was thinking of the occasion when the president of the college placed the *Teacher of the Year* medallion about his neck, and



how all his colleagues had jumped to their feet and cheered and cheered. She was thinking of how the governor had presented him an award for his service to higher education in his state.

"My highest accolade," he finally answered, "came a few months back when a former student of mine, from... oh, several years ago, showed up at my office door. I remembered her well, because even though she was obviously bright, she was a poor student at first. I spent a little time with her, helped her discover her interests and helped her learn how to learn. She ended up being a very good student. Well, she just finished her Ph.D. She came by my office to tell me that I was partly responsible for that, and to say thanks. I can't remember being more deeply moved or more personally honored for anything I've done in my career."

This is a portrait of the Kennesaw faculty, a salute to those who are retiring, a standard to be met by those who are just beginning and a way of saying, "Happy birthday, KSC!" ●
