

English professor Gaffney to retire after 26 years

By Mary Kay Roth

At an office tucked in the corner of Andrews Hall, amidst momentos from years past and cluttered papers of the present, sits a 68-year-old English professor. His white flowing, fluffy hair swept back from his forehead, matches his shaped goatee and scraggly mustache.

But this spring, after 26 years, Wilbur G. Gaffney must leave UNL.

"I'm superannuated—overage," he chuckled. In other words, he must retire.

His office of 13 years will seem cruelly bare without his paintings, photographs and assortment of relics and treasures plastered on the walls.

"Each one means something special to me," he explained.

His wife's photograph faces his desk because, "she looks better than I do." He said they completely forgot their 45th anniversary this year.

Flying hippo

Among a variety of paintings is Gaffney's own artwork of a flying hippo and his wife's painting of "Things That Go Bump in the Night."

But all these memories must come down when he leaves at the end of second semester.

Gaffney plans on remaining in Nebraska, because he was brought up in Lincoln and has lived here for the past 26 years.

All of that time he has been at UNL and for the majority of that time he has taught his pet class, now labeled Advanced Expository Writing.

"I try to teach students to write plain English on technical subjects," he explained, "to make gobbledey into something understandable." His class has turned out engineers, mathematicians, lawyers, novelists and playwrights.

No 'word sense'

Over the years, Gaffney has seen students experience more problems with their general sense of the English language. He said most

have not developed a true word sense, which is evidenced in their spelling, punctuation, general carelessness and lack of precision.

Despite language problems, Gaffney said his students have won a satisfying number of awards. He has received positive feedback from former students about his classes and others have made noted accomplishments.

One former student, Marilyn Coffey, has written an article in this month's "Atlantic" magazine—"The Day the Town Panicked." Gail Rock, another student, authored several TV specials—"Thanksgiving Treasure" and "The House without a Christmas Tree."

Gaffney chose to return to a teaching career and his native Lincoln when he was 45 years old, after an array of occupations and experiences.

"I don't want to sound corny, but I felt I

would be more socially useful in teaching," he explained.

NU graduate

Gaffney grew up in Lincoln and took off for the east coast after receiving his diploma from UNL. In New York, he wrote circulation advertisements until he discovered he couldn't write them.

"I quit after six months before they found out," he said.

At New York University (NYU), he met his wife, a librarian. She later helped start the record collection at Bennett Martin Library.

"By 1948 New York was getting scruffy," he said, "dirty, noisy, polluted and even dangerous."

He returned to Lincoln, a teaching position at UNL, and inherited his present composition class.



Wilbur G. Gaffney, UNL professor of English, will retire this spring after 26 years.

WHAT: **OPEN FORUM
ON BYLAWS**

WHERE: **meeting room
will be posted**

WHEN: **BEGINS
6:15 p.m.
TODAY!**

HOW: **Alotting 30 minutes
for comments
by general
public.**

Winter Term

to begin

Jan. 6

**Work Study
and
Internship**

**Federal Loans
and
Federal Grants**

Please Send Information on

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Accounting | <input type="checkbox"/> Court Reporting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Administration | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Assistant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Accounting | <input type="checkbox"/> Word Processing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office Specialist | <input type="checkbox"/> Key Punch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stenographic | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Loans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Secretarial | <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Grants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Secretarial | <input type="checkbox"/> Work-Study |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Secretarial | <input type="checkbox"/> Internship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Secretarial | <input type="checkbox"/> Placement |

NAME _____
Street _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone Number _____

Call (402) 432-5315 or mail Coupon Today:

**Lincoln School
of Commerce**
1821 'K' St.,
Lincoln, NE 68501