

## Retired faculty enjoy life in the fast lane

### WILLIAM TROWBRIDGE

Riding his motorcycle and working on the perfect sonnet is what Dr. William Trowbridge enjoys about his retirement. Since retiring in 1998 after 27 years of teaching in Northwest's English department, Trowbridge also has been teaching part-time in the University of Nebraska's MFA in writing program.

Trowbridge, a poet, has published four books, three chapbooks and is currently in the process of writing his latest book of poetry with the working title, "Fool."

"I enjoy the act of writing itself: the craftsmanship, the putting together of words to evoke thought and emotion," he said.

Trowbridge also keeps busy working in his Lee's Summit community at The Writer's Place.

"The Writer's Place is an old mansion that was remodeled and given to the Kansas City writer's community for literary readings, workshops, lectures and social events," he said. "I am on the board, and I also give readings there now and then."

Furthermore, Trowbridge is a part of the Raintree Lake Homeowners Association and is involved with the Unitarian Church.

In his spare time, he likes to relax by reading or doing yard work. He also enjoys traveling and hopes to someday return to England.

"I fell in love with England the first time I set foot there," Trowbridge said. "I guess part of the appeal was from being an English major. There were all the people and places I'd only read about before, and I very much enjoy the English culture."

As a writer, Trowbridge said his goal in retirement is to write the perfect sonnet. However, he admits that it's impossible for everyone to agree on the perfect sonnet.

"An artist always ought to aim at perfection, however impossible it is to attain," he said. ■



Retirement doesn't mean Dr. William Trowbridge is slowing down, thanks in part to his sleek Triumph Sprint ST.

### NANCY THOMSON

When Dr. Nancy Thomson '71, '80, who retired from teaching management information systems at Northwest in 2000, has time to relax, she loves riding her Harley Sportster, traveling, golfing and immersing herself in the Maryville community.

Since retirement, Thomson not only worked as the training and ISO coordinator at LMP Steel and Wire in Maryville, but she started her own consulting business and was executive director of the Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments for two years.

In addition, Thomson initiated work with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources on a water project called The Water Partnership in Northwest Missouri to help find solutions for the region's dwindling water supply.

"We have depleted our aquifers in this part of the region, and long term we don't have a good, strong water supply," Thomson said.

But no matter how busy Thomson becomes in her community, traveling is her true passion.

"I love to travel," she said, "and I would do it every other week if I could."

Thomson has been to 34 countries, including Italy, Switzerland, the Netherlands and China, but her favorite place was Austria.

"It's beautiful," she said. "There's a train ride from Innsbruck to Salzburg and back. When you go around a mountain side you'll see a valley open up and you'll think this is the most beautiful scene you've ever seen. Five minutes later I'll go around another curve and think this is the most beautiful thing I've ever seen."

Thomson and her husband, State Rep Mike Thomson '68, '71, continue to support the Bearcats by attending Northwest football games.

"Bearcat green runs in our blood," she said.

She encourages former students and colleagues to contact her at [nst360@embarqmail.com](mailto:nst360@embarqmail.com). ■



Dr. Nancy Thomson '71, '80 has traveled worldwide, including one trip to Alice Springs, Australia, where she was presented a gift from a member of an Aboriginal camp.