

Faculty and Staff Notes

Daniel J. Fleming, chairman of the mathematics department, has been named Rutherford Professor of Mathematics by action of the board of trustees at its January meeting. He succeeds professor **Francis D. Parker**, who retires at the end of the academic year.

The endowed professorship was established at St. Lawrence in 1968 by Dr. and Mrs. John Crane of Phoenix, Arizona, in memory of her parents, General and Mrs. Harry K. Rutherford, he a native of Waddington.

Fleming, who hails from Nantucket, has been a member of the SLU faculty since 1976 and department chairman since 1981. He holds the Ph.D. in mathematics from Lehigh University, and taught at Clarkson for eight years before moving west to St. Lawrence.

In addition to the aforementioned professor Parker, five other faculty members retire at the conclusion of the current year. They are professor of chemistry **Anthony J. Parlagreco MS'55**; professor of biology **Landon E. Bowers**; associate professor of mathematics **Robert C. Simpson**; assistant professor of modern languages **Marga S. Edwards**; and lecturer in mathematics **Ruth C. Strodt**.

Associate professor of history **William A. Hunt** is the recipient of the Thomas J. Wilson Prize of the Syndics of Harvard University Press, for submitting the best first manuscript in any field during 1982.

Hunt's award-winning manuscript, *The Puritan Movement: The Coming of a Revolution in an English County*, was published in March. It is a study of the social and religious origins of the English revolution of the 17th century, focusing on the county of Essex, northeast of London. "This was probably the most revolutionary of all the counties in England," Hunt explained.

Hunt came to St. Lawrence in 1981 after seven years at the University of Michigan.

Hunt was one of five faculty members

approved for tenure by the board of trustees in January. The others were associate professor of government **Lawrence P. Frank**; assistant professor of English **J. Kerry Grant**; associate professor of environmental studies **Glenn R. Harris**; and professor of music **Norman Hessert**. Their tenure begins September 1, 1984.

Gudrun Brokoph, professor of modern languages and literatures, is the editor of *Beitrag zur Müsil-Kritik*, a 345-page book in the German language about leading Austrian novelist Robert Müsil. The volume is a collection of criticism of Müsil's writings by scholars, among them Professor Brokoph, from several countries.

"Müsil is the most important German prose writer of the 20th century, next to Thomas Mann," Brokoph noted. She is also the author of a book-length manu-

script on Müsil, which she expects will be published later this year.

Floyd B. Lawrence has been appointed director of public relations, effective June 15. He will be in charge of St. Lawrence's publicity, publications, media relations and sports information.

Currently executive assistant to the chairman of the School of Cinema-Television at the University of Southern California in Pasadena, he has taught on the English faculty at the College of Wooster (Ohio) and Edinboro (Pa.) State College, and served as director of public relations and publicity at Edinboro State before going to California. He is a graduate of the University of Dubuque and earned an M.A. at Cornell with the support of fellowships from the Danforth and Woodrow Wilson Foundations.

In addition to his work as a scholar and administrator, Lawrence is a regular reviewer for several publications and an advisory editor for the scholarly quarterly *Film Criticism*.

Faculty Profile

Micere M. G. Mugo Visiting Lecturer in Government

By Elizabeth M. Purcell '83

Just days before she left Nairobi, Kenya for Canton, New York, Dr. Micere (Muh SHER ry) M. G. Mugo could have been thrown in jail. Mugo, visiting lecturer in government and former assistant professor of literature and dean of the faculty of arts at the University of Nairobi, came to St. Lawrence this year when political troubles in her country necessitated her departure.

Since 1976 Mugo had served St. Lawrence's program in Nairobi. She had met and taught many St. Lawrence students in Nairobi. Consequently, she had always had an open invitation to come to St. Lawrence to teach.

In tracing her steps to St. Lawrence's door, Mugo recalled events recently and sharply imprinted on her memory. She left Kenya when information was leaked that she and the dean of engineering were to be arrested. "Right now, the dean of engineering is in a cell for treason, but treason for doing what? No one knows," she said.

The events leading up to this incident, Mugo explained, began when the Academic Staff Union at the University of Nairobi unearthed corruption that touched on people in high governmental positions. The Academic Staff Union, as well as the Student Union, was immediately banned by the president of Kenya; "The people voiced criticism and the government reacted repressively," Mugo said. She added that massive arrests of students and lecturers resulted.

As dean of the faculty of the arts, Mugo was questioned repeatedly by the government for information on other professors and students. "My existence there became very threatened," she said. On hearing of the possibility of her arrest, Mugo decided to accept the offer to teach on the St. Lawrence campus. She arrived in Canton last August. Two months later, the president of Kenya dissolved the University of Nairobi. Mugo pointed out that he did this on October 20, the day Kenya celebrates its indepen-



dence.

Although she was in the United States at the time, Mugo said she felt the torture which her colleagues and her students in Nairobi were experiencing. In Kenya, the University of Nairobi is the only institution of higher learning, she said. Thus, no one can now get a college-level education. "This is very, very sad," she declared. In contrast with the situation in Kenya, Mugo has found her position at St. Lawrence refreshing. "It is a tremendous satisfaction to breathe academic freedom. That is very, very important," she said.

She is especially grateful for the smallness of the University. She feels she can get to know students better and utilize class time more efficiently through interaction and discussions impossible

in a large class. However, she does miss the kind of debate she enjoyed with her African students. Their hunger for knowledge and constant activity are absent in American students, she said. Yet at the same time, Mugo cherishes the quiet and friendly atmosphere of the St. Lawrence campus and the village of Canton. "Sometimes it's a bit too cut off but I need this quiet. It isn't negative silence but time for library research, creative writing, exchanging ideas and traveling to other colleges."

Mugo will finish the 1982-83 school year teaching at St. Lawrence. From then onward the future is uncertain. "I will return eventually to the continent of Africa, but I don't want to rush returning. I need to look around and contribute elsewhere," she said.

Returning to Nairobi, however, would be tantamount to making herself a martyr, said Mugo. "I don't compromise when it comes to speaking my mind. I stand for the rights of my colleagues, myself and the students. For this they would arrest me; I would serve no use there. I know this is the reality." It is this absence of academic freedom in her native country that Mugo laments. But realizing that she is powerless to change that situation, she concentrates on reaping the rewards of teaching on a campus where speaking one's own opinion is encouraged. ♠

The author was an intern in St. Lawrence's public relations office last fall, and completed an internship with the New York Times in January.